

Alumnus Named Taiwan Minister of Health

Wen Ta-Chiu is a neurosurgeon, medical researcher, academic leader, and public health advocate. PAGE 2

Goldstein to Head Environmental Center

Internationally known expert will lead Center for Healthy Environments and Communities. PAGE 17

Students Get Send-Off

Luncheon held to honor two Peace Corps Master's International Students. PAGE 22

The University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health • Spring 2011

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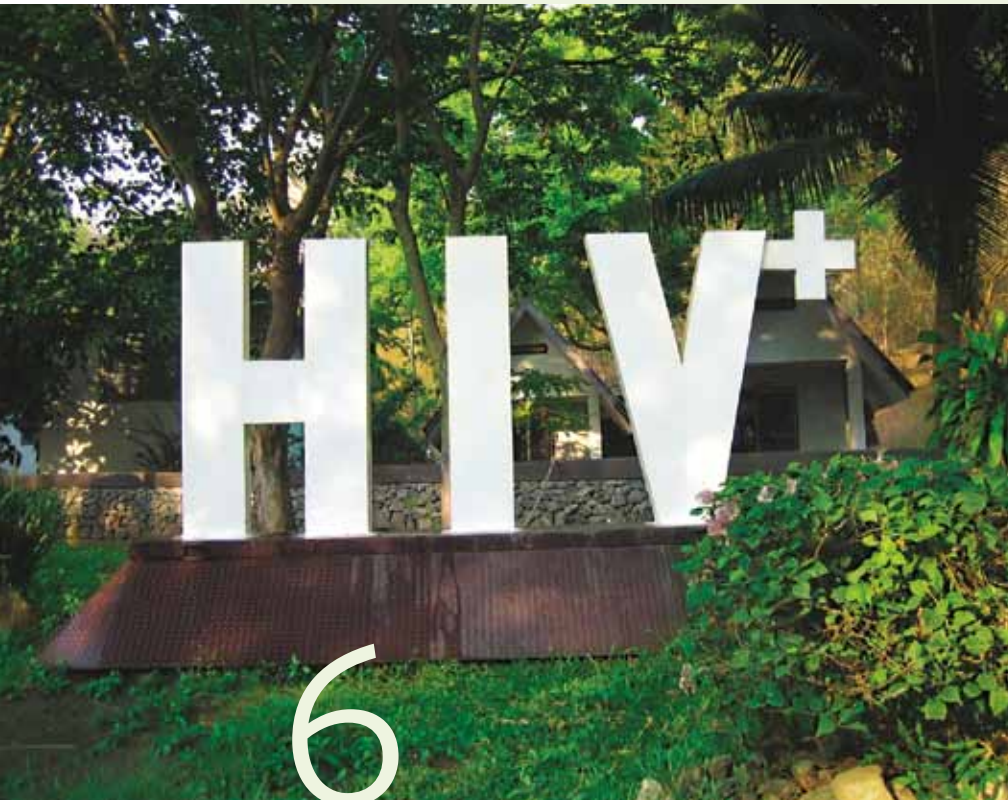
HIV+

hiv/aids

RESEARCH AT GSPH

Bench Science, Behavioral Breakthroughs
& Beyond Our Borders

in this **ISSUE**



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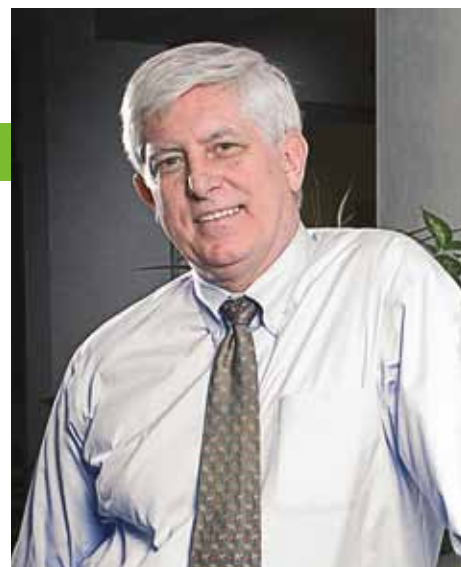
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On the cover: An HIV+ sculpture at Wat Prabat Nampu, a Buddhist temple and AIDS hospice in Lopburi Province, Thailand. Photo courtesy of Thomas Guadamuz.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN DONALD S. BURKE, MD

Soon we will award the Graduate School of Public Health 2011 Porter Prize to Françoise Barré-Sinoussi for her pioneering research contributions to the fight against HIV and AIDS. Thanks to the work of Dr. Barré-Sinoussi, we know that the cause of the disease is the transmissible human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and subsequent advances in research have led to the discovery and use of new anti-viral drugs that prolong life and health worldwide. Although the fight against HIV/AIDS is not yet fully won, the work of Dr. Barré-Sinoussi is a dramatic example of the critical role that biomedical research plays in protecting the public's health.

As an infectious disease epidemiologist involved in HIV research almost from the earliest days of the epidemic, I personally understand the importance of scientific advances in our struggle against HIV/AIDS. I was chief of the Department of Virus Diseases at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D.C., in 1984, when we began to see a great number of unusual cases referred to our hospital with swollen lymph glands and generalized illness. We devised tests to accurately diagnose who was and who was not infected. One of my major contributions was to devise a reliable confirmatory test called the Western Blot, by identifying an antibody binding pattern that was highly specific for HIV infection. Our method became adopted as an international standard method for diagnosing HIV/AIDS. Applying our new assays to test blood specimens from all incoming civilian applicants for military service in the United States, my team went on to develop the first nationwide maps of the prevalence of new infection, and showed that by 1985 the epidemic had already spread silently to hundreds of thousands of visibly healthy but asymptotically infected Americans. To this day, the most memorable—and sobering—day of my entire health research career was when I examined our first preliminary maps of the spread of the infection, and saw the extent of silent spread nationwide.



I spent most of the next 15 years working on HIV/AIDS. During that time, HIV/AIDS became transformed into a treatable, if not curable, medical condition. Much of my own personal effort was devoted to development and testing of candidate HIV vaccines to prevent the infection. The best news about HIV/AIDS vaccines was the announcement a year and a half ago about a vaccine trial in Rayong, Thailand, that showed modest but statistically significant protection. I was overjoyed, because I had been involved in setting up that trial years ago. One of the two vaccines used in that successful study was derived from a virus I had isolated years earlier from a recruit in northern Thailand and the investigators who conducted the trial were many of my former students and junior colleagues. The Rayong study gives us all new hope that an effective vaccine can yet be found.

So as dean of GSPH it gives me special pride that our faculty, students, and staff are doing truly outstanding work that continues the fight against HIV/AIDS. To salute the award of the Porter Prize to Dr. Barré-Sinoussi, we have written up some of those remarkable stories in this issue of PHQ. We will continue this struggle until AIDS is controlled.

The Porter Prize is named in honor of the Milton Porter, who, as CEO of the L.B. Foster Company, was a national leader in helping people achieve better health through personal behavior and access to wellness information and health care.

Donald S. Burke



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WEN-TA CHIU NAMED TAIWAN'S HEALTH MINISTER

Taiwan Premier Wu Den-yih appointed GSPH alumnus Wen-Ta Chiu as the new minister of Taiwan's Department of Health, effective February 1, according to the Taipei Times. Chiu, a 2009 Pitt Legacy Laureate, was one of four new ministerial appointments to the premier's cabinet.

Chiu is a highly distinguished neurosurgeon, medical researcher, academic leader, and public health advocate. He served as the president of Taipei Medical University from 2008 to 2011, stepping down earlier this month after being named to the premier's cabinet. Chiu received his master's and doctoral degrees in public health from GSPH in 1987 and 1989, respectively.

In 1999, Chiu was recognized by GSPH as one of the 50 most influential faculty members or students in the school's history. The Chiu family represents three generations of GSPH graduates: Yung-Tsong Chiu, Wen-Ta's father, received his Master of Public Health degree from the Department of Health Policy and Management in 1954 and Wen-Ta's son, Jason Chiu, graduated from the school's epidemiology program in December 2010.

As president of Taipei Medical University, Chiu led the successful growth of a world-class medical university and hospital system, doubling the size of the hospital system to 3,000 beds. During the same time, he served as superintendent of Shuang Ho Hospital and as a professor in the Taipei Medical University's College of Medicine and College of Public Health and Nutrition. In addition, he served as superintendent of Wan Fang Hospital, chief of neurosurgery, director of the Biomedical Informatics Center, and dean of the University's School of Public Health.

Widely regarded for his accomplishments as a head-injury researcher, Chiu developed the world's largest head-injury registry and promoted the adoption of helmet laws, which dramatically reduced the rate of motorcycle-related deaths in Taiwan.



Chiu has devoted himself to public service and public health practices in Taiwan as a primary investigator for the Center for Health Policy Research and Development of the National Health Research Institutes and as a consultant for the Department of Health. He has made significant leadership contributions in public health as president of the Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health, the Academy for Multidisciplinary Neurotraumatology, and the Taiwan Neurotrauma Society; and as president of the Asia Oceania Neurotrauma Society. Chiu's leadership in public health has garnered many awards, including a Contribution Award from the Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health in 2007.

Chiu earned, in addition to his Pitt degrees, a doctor of medical science degree in neuroscience from Nihon University School of Medicine, Tokyo, and a medical degree from Chung-Shan Medical College in Taiwan. He was a research fellow in neurosurgery at Stanford University.

LUCILE ADAMS-CAMPBELL NAMED LEGACY LAUREATE

Lucile Adams-Campbell, who earned her PhD in epidemiology from GSPH in 1983, was honored by University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg with the Legacy Laureate award. Adams-Campbell was the first African American woman in the United States to earn a PhD in epidemiology. She went on to become an internationally recognized expert in minority health and health disparities research, identifying and addressing public health issues in the United States, Africa, and the Caribbean.

The Legacy Laureate program was launched in 2000 to honor University of Pittsburgh alumni for their outstanding personal and professional accomplishments.

Adams-Campbell is a professor of oncology at Georgetown University Medical Center and associate director of minority health and health disparities research at the medical center's Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. She specializes in community health research, interventions, and outreach. With a focus on prevention, she studies issues that affect populations at the greatest risk for developing cancer. She has participated in and led several large cohort studies of African-American women and is a co-principal investigator of the Black Women's Health Study, the country's largest study of African-American women, headquartered at Boston University. Much of Adams-Campbell's research focuses on diet and exercise. An avid runner herself, she uses community-based interventions in the hope of decreasing obesity and mortality from related diseases.

Adams-Campbell has held a series of academic and administrative appointments at Howard University; served as director of the Howard University Cancer Center; and led several large cohort studies of African American women, including the Boston University Black Women's Health Study, considered to be the largest medical study to explore the disproportionately high rates of disease among African-American women.



GSPH Department of Epidemiology Chair Anne B. Newman (left) and Lucile Adams-Campbell

Among Adams-Campbell's many honors was her selection as a Fellow of the Institute of Medicine, the American College of Epidemiology, and the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program for Women. She also has served as an adjunct professor and guest lecturer at a number of prestigious universities. Adams-Campbell received the Distinguished Alumni Award from GSPH and the University of Pittsburgh Distinguished Alumni Award, both in 1995. While a student at Pitt, she received the Student Leadership Award. In 2008, she was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies.

While in Pittsburgh to accept the Legacy Laureate award, Adams-Campbell delivered a lecture titled, "Obesity, Physical Activity, and Breast Cancer Disparities." The lecture can be viewed at www.publichealth.pitt.edu/lecturearchive.

IN MEMORIAM

KAREN S. PETERSON



Karen S. Peterson, RN, MPH, of Pittsburgh, died peacefully at home on January 7, 2011. She was 79. She was both an alumna and faculty member at the Graduate School of Public Health, having earned her master's in health services administration in 1970. After working in the community as a public health nurse, she was an educator and administrator at GSPH for more than three decades, coordinating master's and doctoral programs, advising students, and teaching in the field of population studies.

During her time at GSPH, Peterson was honored at the school and University levels on several occasions. She was one of two inaugural recipients of the GSPH Margaret F. Gloninger Service Award in 1993. In 2000, she was recognized with the Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award. And in 2003, she was chosen by GSPH students to receive the James L. Craig Award for Teaching Excellence. She also served on GSPH's Senior Council advisory committee.

Her research and community service interests were international in scope, including maternal and child health, reproductive health policies, universal health care, and effective health and social service program planning. She was active professionally, serving a term as president of the Pennsylvania Public Health Association and building relationships among advocacy organizations. She engaged in community issues as a member of several groups: governing board, Early Head Start; board of directors, Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania; Allegheny County Homeless Alliance board; Health Resources and Service Delivery Committee; and board of directors, Community Human Services Corporation.

Peterson is survived by her daughters, sons, and their spouses: Elizabeth Peterson and Dave Eddy; Karrie Peterson and Robert Burton; Edward Peterson and Barbara Peterson and their children Melissa and Craig; and Barney Peterson and Amy West; and by her longtime companion, Dick Neller. A website has been established so that those who knew her could share their memories of her (<http://karenpeterson.wordpress.com/>). In addition, her family has established the Karen S. Peterson Memorial Research Award for Women's Health to support GSPH students. To make a gift, please send a check payable to University of Pittsburgh with Karen Peterson Award Fund in the memo line to University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, A631 Crabtree Hall, 130 DeSoto Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261. To make an online gift, visit www.giveto.pitt.edu and click on the "Donate Today" button in the upper right corner. Select Graduate School of Public Health and note Karen Peterson Award Fund in the special instructions box.

MELISSA WATSON BUGBEE

Melissa Watson Bugbee, who earned an MS in genetic counseling in 2008, passed away from breast cancer on February 1, 2011. Born in Reading, Pa., she graduated from Whitehall High School in 2001 and earned her BS from the University of Tampa in 2005. After graduating from GSPH, she moved to Tampa, Florida, to practice at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center. In July 2010, she married Mike Bugbee and honeymooned in England and Ireland.

She is survived by her mother Pauline Collins, wife of Mark Collins, and her father David Watson, husband of Ellen Watson. Along with her husband and parents, Melissa is also survived by brothers, Michael and Andrew Watson, sisters, Jessica Watson and Bethany Collins, stepbrothers Mark and James Collins, David Marcola and stepsister Amber Taylor. She is also survived by her maternal grandmother, Jean Powanda. She was the daughter in law of Connie and Jim Bugbee.

IN BRIEF



Coleen Boyle is the acting director of the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) of the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention. Boyle received advanced degrees in biostatistics (MSHyg) and in epidemiology (PhD) from GSPH. Boyle joined the CDC in 1984; she was appointed chief of the Surveillance and Epidemiology Section in the Developmental Disabilities Branch in 1991 and then branch chief four years later. In 2001, she was named the associate director for science and public health for then-new NCBDDD and was later appointed director of the Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, NCBDDD. She is a two-time recipient of the Charles C. Shepard Award for scientific excellence, has represented CDC on several interagency committees—especially related to newborn screening—and has played a key role in NCBDDD’s global work in China and Vietnam.



Bill Holman, president and CEO of the Baton Rouge General Medical Center was recognized by Workplace Partnerships for Life Division

of Transplantation, Healthcare Systems Bureau, for his dedication to the Donate Life Louisiana (DLL) Hospital Campaign and for helping to create a donation-friendly America. The DLL Registry allows Louisiana residents to give consent for organ and tissue donation for the purpose of transplantation, eliminating the need for family members to make this decision for their loved ones at their time of death. The tremendous success of the DLL Hospital Campaign continues to motivate organizations across the country to use Louisiana’s campaign as a model to help increase their states’ donor registries. Holman earned his MPH from GSPH in 1979.



Gary Lounsberry, who earned a joint MPH/PhD in social work, was the recipient of the Insley-Evans Social Worker of the Year Award at

the 2010 American Public Health Association Annual Conference in Denver. Currently a full professor in the Social and Behavioral Sciences at Alfred State College, Lounsberry was a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) for 22 years. In mid-career with the USPHS, he assumed directorship of mental health services at the Indian Health Service Unit at Haskell Indian Nations University and was a part-time faculty member in social and behavioral sciences in Lawrence, Kansas. After 11 years at Haskell, he transferred to the Health Resources and Services Administration (DHHS-HRSA), Community and Migrant Health division in Fort Myers, Fla. There he developed mental health and social service programs at community and migrant health clinics.

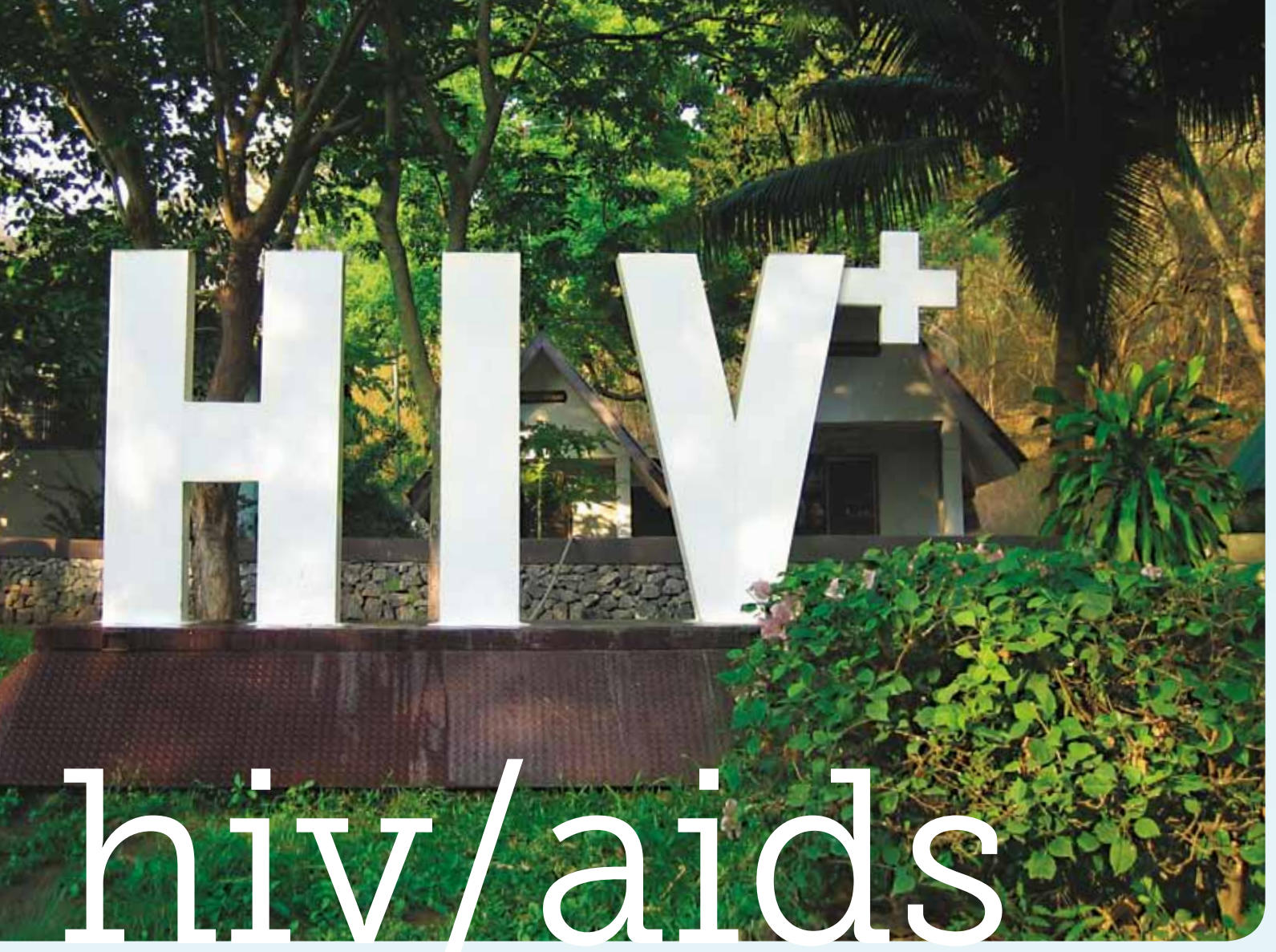
Laura E. Rosas, who earned a joint JD/MPH in 2004, recently joined the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Bureau of Primary Health Care, Office of Quality and Data, where she is the team lead of the Health Information Technology (HIT) Branch. The HIT Branch provides and programmatic oversight of Health Care Controlled Networks as well as policy and technical assistance to the Federally Qualified Health Centers. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary Federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable. Previously, Rosas was the project officer for the Office of the National Coordinator for HIT’s Regional Extension Center (REC) Program, overseeing RECs in the mid-Atlantic, including Pennsylvania.



Ronald O. Valdiserri (MPH 1988) was named the deputy assistant secretary for health, infectious diseases, in the U.S. Department of Health and Human

Services (DHHS). In this capacity, Valdiserri works closely with the assistant secretary for health to develop scientific and policy advice to ensure coordinated approaches within and across DHHS agencies to address infectious diseases of national public health significance. His office plays a major role in implementing the recently released National HIV/AIDS Strategy. Prior to joining DHHS, Valdiserri served for nearly four years as the chief consultant for public health in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Before his tenure at VA, Valdiserri spent 18 years at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Between 1996 and 2006 he was the deputy director of the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention where he played a key role in developing policies and programs for the prevention and control of HIV, other sexually transmitted diseases, and tuberculosis.

Do you have news to share with your fellow GSPH alumni? Visit www.publichealth.pitt.edu/update to tell us all about it. You can also use this form to update your mailing and e-mail addresses so we can continue to keep in touch with you.



research at GSPH

Bench Science, Behavioral Breakthroughs & Beyond Our Borders

On May 20, the 2011 Porter Prize was presented to **Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, PhD**, director of the Regulation of Retroviral Infections Unit at the Institute Pasteur in Paris and 2008 Nobel Laureate in Medicine, for her role in the discovery of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). In honor of that occasion, GSPH researchers who study HIV and AIDS were asked to summarize some of their past and current work in the field.





Bill Buchanan, manager of the Pitt Men's Study clinic, processes blood samples from volunteers.

In the 1980s, the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health was an early proponent of research following the appearance of mysterious clusters of pneumocystis and Kaposi's sarcoma cases — then considered rare — among homosexual men. GSPH has since emerged as a national leader in the science of HIV/AIDS.

It began with the Pitt Men's Study in 1983, the same year that the human immunodeficiency virus was isolated by Luc Montagnier and Barré-Sinoussi at the Institute Pasteur in Paris. Established by Charles R. Rinaldo Jr., PhD, who had earlier been recruited from Harvard Medical School, the Pitt study became part of the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS), joining sites in Baltimore, Chicago, and Los Angeles to determine the natural history of this new and deadly threat. Rinaldo became chair of GSPH's Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology (IDM) in 1997 and holds national leadership positions on NIH advisory committees for AIDS research.

With thousands of men enrolled, MACS is considered a lodestar of HIV research. Critical knowledge about disease pathogenesis and epidemiology provided by MACS—and documented in more than 1,100 publications to date — supports current investigations, including those to develop therapeutic vaccines and strategies to effectively support immune system function. In a 2008 article in *Science*, Anthony Fauci, MD, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, named MACS among NIH's top "gifts that keep on giving" to advance the field of AIDS knowledge.

As science continues to sort the new parameters of AIDS, GSPH researchers are not slowing down. Over the past 10 years, IDM faculty members have received more than \$93 million from the National Institutes of Health and other federal and state agencies

to fund their investigations, which span HIV virology and immunology, complications of antiretroviral therapy, mechanisms of HIV transmission, mechanisms of immunopathogenesis, genetics of the host response, vaccine and immunotherapy development, and AIDS education and prevention efforts.



One such faculty member is **Phalguni Gupta, PhD, IDM professor**, whose work includes studies of the molecular mechanism of sexual transmis-

sion of HIV-1, the origin and dynamics of HIV-1 in semen, HIV-1 suppression through CD8+ T cells, and development of anti-HIV-1 microbicides.

"Recently we undertook studies to determine how HIV-1 transmits through the epithelial cell layer of the genital tract," Gupta said. "Our results indicate that HIV-1 triggers an elaborate signal cascade to achieve phenotypic changes in the epithelial barrier that are conducive to its transmission. Our current goal is to elucidate the full spectrum of the molecular network exploited by HIV-1 to transmit through epithelium and initiate infection at the submucosal layer."

Gupta's studies have also revealed that HIV-1 in semen has different properties than the same virus found in the blood. In addition, HIV-1 is further sub-compartmentalized

between seminal cells and seminal fluid. By comparing sequences of HIV-1 in semen and male genital organ tissues from MACS subjects, the researchers found HIV-1 in the prostate responds differently to anti-retroviral therapy than HIV-1 in the testis. "This indicates that the dynamics of HIV-1 in these two closely interlinked body compartments are different," Gupta says.

In one of his other areas of inquiry, Gupta is attempting to discover exactly how—on a molecular level—CD8+ T cells suppress HIV-1. "Our results, for the first time, indicate the existence of an antiviral membrane-bound protein factor consistent with the hallmarks defining noncytotoxic CD8+ T cell suppression of HIV-1," he said. "Studies are underway to determine the mechanism of suppressive factor induced antiviral activity."

Finally, Gupta is working on development of anti-HIV-1 microbicides, which could block HIV-1 transmission and be non-toxic to humans. Two types of microbicide delivery mechanisms are being studied: a controlled-release ring and a self-dissolving film. Gupta's team is using a novel *ex vivo* organ culture to test toxicity, inflammation, and antiviral activity across cervicovaginal mucosa, and applies animal models to study toxicity and efficacy against viral infection. It is hoped that the studies will provide new tools and strategies for women to prevent HIV-1 transmission. ❖❖❖

Investigating Long-Term HIV Infection

Today, many GSPH HIV investigations focus on understanding and treating the complications of HIV/AIDS related to chronic disease and aging—questions no one could foresee 30 years ago, when AIDS routinely brought death within two years. “It is an ever-evolving and changing history,” said Rinaldo.

Among long-term AIDS survivors, challenges include cardiovascular, kidney, liver, and central nervous system damage. Additional concerns are the underlying genetics of chronic inflammation, debilitating side effects from the perpetual use of powerful antiviral medications, aging, and numerous psychological and social issues. GSPH-based research has strongly influenced the standard of care for AIDS. Pitt researchers continue to seek ways to improve treatments and diminish side effects, including cholesterol changes that can lead to heart disease, that have been associated with long-term use of anti-HIV cocktails.

“Our ultimate goal is to return someone with AIDS to the same level of cardiovascular risk as a member of the general population,” said Lawrence Kingsley, DrPH, IDM professor. “It’s the best we can do for anyone.”



One example is the work of Matthew Nicholaou, a doctor of public health candidate in IDM, who has been working the laboratory of Jeremy Martinson, DPhil, IDM assistant professor. Nicholaou is studying the cardiovascular side effects of long-term exposure to highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART). HAART is a combination of three or more drugs that target different steps in the HIV lifecycle.

HAART has been successful in delaying the progression to AIDS in HIV infected individuals but metabolic side effects in some of the patients who receive HAART appear to disturb the normal processes of fat storage (lipodystrophy) and lipid metabolism (dyslipidemia) in these patients. These lipid profiles are similar to those seen in people considered to be at high risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in the general population. There is concern that HAART increases the risk of CVD in HIV infected individuals suffering from these metabolic side effects. The fact that some men develop these side effects, while others do not, points to a genetic contribution.

“Our research focuses on studying the genetic contribution to HAART-associated dyslipidemia in HIV-infected men,” Nicholaou said. “We designed a DNA microarray that tests for genetic polymorphisms that have been previously associated with dyslipidemia and CVD risk in the general population.” Using this array, the study team genotyped almost 2,000 individuals from MACS. The mean serum levels of low-density lipoprotein

(LDL), high-density lipoprotein (HDL), total cholesterol, and triglycerides were used as their main outcome measures. All values were recorded on visits when patients reported not taking lipid-lowering medications such as statins.

Analysis was confined to the two largest ethnic groups in the study, Caucasians and African Americans. HIV infected men receiving HAART had statistically significant differences in the mean serum lipid levels when compared to HIV/HAART naïve controls. Additionally, these differences in mean serum lipids appeared to vary by ethnic group. The results of genetic association studies identified genes involved in the reverse cholesterol transport (RCT) pathway. This is the process by which cholesterol is transported from the peripheral tissues to the liver primarily by HDL. The study’s results show genetic polymorphisms in RCT genes, as well as ethnicity, play an important role in HAART-associated dyslipidemia.

“The next step in our research is to determine the plausible mechanism by which these genetic polymorphisms functionally affect their gene products and to correlate this genotype information with expression data that we recently generated in our laboratory for the MACS,” Nicholaou said. “It has been shown that cholesterol availability may influence HIV infection and so we also plan on investigating the possible effects that cholesterol metabolism genes have on HIV progression.”

Matt Nicholaou presents his poster during the 2011 Dean’s Day student research competition. His project, “The Contribution of Biogeographical Ancestry and Polymorphisms in the CETP and LIPC Genes to HAART-Associated Dyslipidemia,” won the doctoral category award from the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology.

Bridget Calhoun, DrPH, MPH, draws blood from a study volunteer in the Pitt Men's Study (PMS) clinic. The PMS has been continuously funded since 1983, the year the human immunodeficiency virus was identified.



Behavioral Research Pioneers

In addition to the groundbreaking work of the MACS, another GSPH faculty member was at the vanguard of behavioral HIV research. **Ron Stall, PhD, MPH, professor and chair of the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences (BCHS)**, began work on the AIDS epidemic in 1984 on the AIDS

Behavioral Research Project, one of the first longitudinal studies of AIDS risk-taking behaviors in the world. Since that time he has published more than 140 peer-reviewed scientific papers on many different aspects of the AIDS epidemic, including methodological research, research on determinants of risk-taking behaviors and HIV seroconversion, life-course issues important to AIDS risk-taking behavior, behavioral intervention research, research on care-seeking behavior for HIV infection, and a portfolio of international research on AIDS.

"I am particularly proud of my collaborative research conducted with AIDS community-based organizations, which include a broad range of organizations within the United States and abroad," Stall said. He is the 1999 recipient of the Chuck Frutchey Board of Directors Award from STOP AIDS/San Francisco, is listed as one of the most highly cited behavioral science researchers in the world in the ISI Most Highly Cited Web site, and received the 2005 CDC/ATSDR Honor Award for Public Health Epidemiology and Laboratory Research. His current research and teaching portfolio includes co-directorship of the GSPH Certificate in LGBT Health (the first such certificate offered in the nation), and principal or co-principal investigator status on a series of NIH grants on issues important to gay men's health.

Stall is also a mentor for other scientists investigating behavioral interventions in HIV. Mark S. Friedman, PhD, MSW, MPA, assistant professor, of behavioral and community health sciences is in the fourth year of a K01 Mentored Research Scientist Award from the National Institutes of Health. Stall is his primary mentor. As part of this award, Friedman is comparing the effectiveness of offline and online strategies to sample young gay and bisexual males. Friedman recently completed a meta-analysis and found large disparities in rates of sexual and physical abuse between lesbian/gay/bisexual and heterosexual teenagers. He is currently developing plans to implement an online intervention to help gay and bisexual young males cope with bullying to prevent HIV infection and other negative health outcomes, as well as a school-based intervention to compare the impact of a traditional anti-bullying program with one that includes sexual orientation and sexual harassment content.

Jessica Griffin Burke, PhD, MHS, assistant professor of behavioral and community health sciences, works to address the complex psychosocial and contextual factors affecting women at risk and living with HIV. Burke is particularly interested in the complex and multifaceted range of influencing factors affecting behaviors associated with the health and well-being of disadvantaged populations. One of her specific areas of public health interest is the intersection between HIV/AIDS and intimate partner violence among women. Beginning in 1998, Burke collaborated on Project WAVE (Women, AIDS and the Violence Epidemic) which was one of the first epidemiological assessments of the interrelated epidemics of HIV, intimate partner violence, and substance use among women. With additional funding from National Institute of Mental Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Burke and her colleagues developed and pilot-tested an intimate partner violence stage-based intervention for HIV-positive women.

Burke is particularly committed to improving community health through partnered and collaborative research. For example, as part of needs assessment commissioned by the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (PATF) she worked closely with PATF staff to develop, implement and analyze a survey of 320 people living with HIV in 11 counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland. "We found they have multiple challenges and unmet needs. Only one out three said their general health was good," said Burke, who presented the survey results to a gathering of local health and social service providers. ❖

Training the Health Professionals Who Deliver the Care

In addition to its impressive portfolio of HIV treatment and prevention research, GSPH also has a major role in training the health professionals who care for those with HIV/AIDS in this region. In 2010, a five-year, \$23 million grant was awarded to GSPH to support the continuing work of the Pennsylvania/MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC), headquartered at GSPH since 1988. AETC provides HIV/AIDS-related training to health professionals in Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. The center's purpose is to reduce barriers to HIV care by improving knowledge and skills through education, consultation, and technical assistance.

Led by principal investigator Linda Frank, PhD, MSN, IDM associate professor, the Pennsylvania/MidAtlantic AETC provides HIV/AIDS-related training to health professionals in Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. The center's purpose is to reduce barriers to HIV care by improving knowledge and skills through education, consultation and technical assistance.

"HIV/AIDS remains one of the most significant public health issues of our time," said Frank. "It is extremely challenging and rewarding to participate in improving access to quality HIV/AIDS care by assisting individual clinicians, agencies and programs throughout our region. Given the health disparities that exist within our care system, continued stigma associated with this disease and the need for more timely HIV testing and treatment intervention, I am pleased that this funding will allow us to continue this important work."

Training focuses on clinical treatment, prevention and support for people with HIV and emphasizes the medically underserved, including women, men who have sex with men, minorities, prisoners, youth, and substance users. Training is based on a continuous assessment of needs and is implemented through on-site, and Web-based and other distance-based training technologies. Topics covered include anti-retroviral treatment, drug resistance, comorbidities associated with hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, substance use, and the increasing impact of HIV on minority and vulnerable populations. A primary goal of the center is to increase the number of physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, and other health professionals who can competently provide care to HIV-infected patients.

The GSPH center is one of 11 AETC programs established around the country, representing a network of clinician educators and trainers with expertise in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of patients with HIV/AIDS and its related health conditions.



Global HIV Research

GSPH's HIV/AIDS efforts also extend beyond the borders of the United States. Faculty members and doctoral students in IDM and BCHS are working on HIV prevention projects several countries.

Thailand



Another BCHS researcher, **Thomas Guadamuz, PhD, MHS, assistant professor**, integrates epidemiology and the social sciences in order to understand and effectively respond to escalating HIV epidemics among high-risk men in Thailand and Southeast Asia. Guadamuz has been conducting research in Thailand for more than a decade, beginning with his first research study on HIV stigma at a Buddhist Temple AIDS hospice, while he was a 2001 Fulbright Scholar to Thailand. Since then, he has collaborated with Chiangmai University, the Thailand Ministry of Public Health, the World Health Organization, Family Health International, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to increase HIV prevention efforts in Thailand.

HIV prevalence in Bangkok among high-risk men is more than 30 percent, with incidence approaching 9 percent. Funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and the University of Pittsburgh, Guadamuz is working with Mahidol University, the Royal Thai government, and civil society to develop and pilot behavioral change interventions in provincial and urban communities as well as on-line communities throughout Thailand to prevent HIV infections. Recently, Guadamuz was invited by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations International Labor Organization, and the United Nations Development Program to work with the Thai government, local non-governmental organizations, and private businesses throughout Bangkok to develop a structural intervention to respond to the HIV crisis among high-risk men in Bangkok.

China

Chongyi Wei, DrPH ('09), MA, visiting assistant professor in BCHS, focuses on the epidemiology and prevention of HIV/AIDS among men who have sex with men (MSM), particularly among Asian/Pacific Islander MSM in the United States and Asia. Currently, he is principle investigator of a National Institute of Mental Health-funded intervention project to increase HIV testing uptake among MSM in Nanjing, China, where HIV incidence among MSM is estimated at 5 percent. In collaboration with Jiangsu provincial disease-prevention authority and a local MSM community-based organization, the project will pilot test a multi-media, community-based social marketing campaign to encourage MSM to get HIV tests. To evaluate the effects of the intervention, a cohort of 506 MSM will be recruited through time-location sampling and surveyed at baseline, and followed over the Internet at 6 and 12 months. This will be the first community-based intervention to increase HIV testing uptake among Chinese MSM. Wei has also worked with the Gates Foundation and the Global Fund in China to provide technical support for HIV prevention among Chinese MSM.

IDM's Gupta has also established a collaborative study with investigators at You An Hospital at Beijing, China, to characterize HIV-1 circulating among Chinese blood donors in central China. His group was the first to isolate HIV-1 from Chinese subjects at different stages of the disease and characterize their genetic and biologic properties. He is now evaluating a potent HIV-1 entry inhibitor from China in hopes of developing a topical microbicide to prevent HIV transmission in humans.

India

Gupta has also been involved in international studies of HIV-1 infection in India and China. His previous genetic studies of HIV-1 circulating at different parts of India indicate that the subtype C predominates in India with a small proportion of infection caused by subtype A or B. In investigating the mechanism for this asymmetric distribution of HIV-1 subtypes in India, his group found that subtype C is more readily able to replicate and has higher transmission efficiency across cervical mucosa than subtype A.



STUDENT RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTED AT REVAMPED DEAN'S DAY COMPETITION

From left, first place master's level winner Courtney Zych, Dean Donald Burke, and first place doctoral level winner Tina-Marie Assi

GSPH's 13th annual Dean's Day student research competition featured increased participation, and expanded schedule, with presentations given over two and a half days. The revamping of the program represented the first substantive change in format since the competition was established in 1999 by former Dean Herbert Rosenkranz. In addition, each department gave awards this year, and a new award was added: the Center for Public Health Practice Award for Translation and Application of Research to Public Health Policy and Practice. The Catherine Cartier Ulrich Memorial Award for Service to the Underserved, which has been an award at GSPH for several years, was made a Dean's Day award this year.

In order to showcase the full breadth of GSPH student research and practice, Associate Dean for Education Eleanor Feingold and Associate Dean for Student Affairs Cindy Bryce, as well as Student Affairs staff members Robin Leaf and Caitlin McCullough, instituted a new format in which every student who submitted an abstract presented a poster. Formerly, abstracts were evaluated and only certain students were invited to give either poster or oral presentations.

After the poster presentations were evaluated, six students with projects judged to be outstanding were invited to give oral presentations.

These presentations took place a week after the poster presentation. Departmental and special awards were also given at that time.

DEANS DAY AWARD WINNERS

FIRST PLACE, DOCTORAL

Tina-Marie Assi

DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

Impacts of Introducing the Influenza Vaccine through the Trang Province, Thailand, Routine Vaccine Supply Chain

SECOND PLACE, DOCTORAL

Jennifer Cooper

DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

Associations Between Allelic Variants in Platelet Receptor Genes, Carotid Intima-Media Thickness, and Circulating Platelet Activity in Overweight and Obese Adults

THIRD PLACE, DOCTORAL

Samantha Malone

DEPT. OF BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES

Implementation of FracTracker.org: A GeoWeb Platform to Manage and Communicate Shale Gas Information

FIRST PLACE, MASTER'S

Courtney Zych

DEPT. OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND MICROBIOLOGY

Development of a High Content Screening Assay for the Detection of Inhibitors of HIV-1 Vpr Oligomerization

SECOND PLACE, MASTER'S

Jessica Furnier

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY & MANAGEMENT

Impact of Education of Nursing Home Administrators on Quality

THIRD PLACE, MASTER'S

Kevin McCormick

DEPT. OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND MICROBIOLOGY

A Luciferase-Based High Throughput Screening Assay Identified Two Novel Dengue Inhibitory Compounds: Streptovitacin-A and Nagilactone-C

DEPARTMENTAL AND SPECIAL AWARDS

THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE AWARD FOR TRANSLATION AND APPLICATION OF RESEARCH TO PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY AND PRACTICE:

Tina-Marie Assi, EPI

(see title above)

THE HERBERT ROSENKRANZ PRIZE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SIGNIFICANCE

Samantha Malone, BCHS

(see title above)

THE CATHERINE CARTIER ULRICH MEMORIAL AWARD FOR SERVICE TO THE UNDERSERVED

Kimberly Rak, BCHS

Sexual Health and Positive Relationships: Perceptions of Urban Youth and Parents

BCHS MASTER'S

Kimberly Rak

(see title above)

Aaron Weir

Reported Uptake of The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Controlling High Blood Pressure and Controlling High Cholesterol Indicators among State Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Programs

BCHS DOCTORAL

Jason Flatt

Comorbid Chronic Diseases and Mental Health Disorders in Older Adults: Risk and Protective Factors

Amy Herrick

Conditions Mediate the Effect of Adversity on HIV Risk Behaviors

BIostatISTICS MASTER'S

Chang-Sook Hong

Studies of Association of Environmental Risk Factors in Down Syndrome

BIostatISTICS DOCTORAL

C. Akunna Emeremni

A Comparison of Psychometric Instruments

KELETI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

AWARDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Andrew Michanowicz

Temporal Trends and Spatial Distribution of Air Quality in Western Pennsylvania in the 2000s

DEPT. OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

R. Margaret Whelan

Using Calibration to Adjust for Heaping in Birth-Weight Data from Developing Countries

DEPT. OF HEALTH POLICY & MANAGEMENT

Jessica Furnier

(see title above)

HUMAN GENETICS MASTER'S

Deyana Lewis, first place

Using Ordered Subset Analysis to Detect and Adjust for Genetic Heterogeneity in the African American Hereditary Prostate Cancer (AAHPC) Study

Sara Chadwick, second place

Investigation of Existing Educational Content Regarding HIV-Positive Pregnant Women in Genetic Counseling Programs

HUMAN GENETICS DOCTORAL

Zhen Zeng, first place

Genome-wide Association Study of Childhood Tooth Decay

Madhav Sankunny, second place

A Biomarker for Radioresistance in Cancer Cells

IDM MASTER'S

Karolina Duskova

Comparative microRNA and mRNA Profiling During HIV-1 Disease Progression

IDM DOCTORAL

Matt Nicholaou

The Contribution of Biogeographical Ancestry and Polymorphisms in the CETP and LIPC Genes to HAART-Associated Dyslipidemia



HPM STUDENTS RECEIVE HONORABLE MENTION IN CASE COMPETITION

Students from the Department of Health Policy & Management competed for the first time this year in the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) Health Administration Case Competition and brought home an honorable mention. The team consisted of team captain Derek Ginos, Ryan Fix, and Melissa Lantz, and was advised by Wesley Rohrer, PhD, assistant professor and assistant chair of health management education.

The competition provides students from CAHME-accredited health administration programs an opportunity to put what they have learned into practice with a real-life, real-time case. It is designed to be a capstone experience for the graduate school experience. Three weeks prior to the competition, the participating teams received the case to analyze and form recommendations.

Teams submitted an executive summary, a PowerPoint presentation, and handout materials before traveling to Birmingham, Ala., to present their recommendations to a national team of judges. The competition consisted of a preliminary round scored by a three-judge panel according to a standardized scoring sheet. The top teams from the preliminary round competed in the final round. The top three teams won cash prizes and all participants received a certificate of participation.

GSPH's CAHME case competition team, from left: Ryan Fix, Melissa Lantz, Wesley Rohrer and Derek Ginos.

AWARDS & HONORS

GSPH CONVOCATION WEEKEND 2011

The following students were inducted into the Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society Omicron Chapter:

Jessica Brehm, IDM	Travis Bui-Klimke, EOH
Meagan Carnahan, BCHS	Sara Chadwick, HUGEN
Meagan Glance, BCHS	Colleen King, HP
Gina Londino, BCHS	Michelle Meyer, EPI
Joel Njah, MMPH	Amy Marie Perkins, BIOS
Anne Ritter, EPI	Stephanie Shook, BIOS
Amanda Smith, IDM	James Stark, EPI
Angelica Starkey, BCHS	Trang VoPham, EPI
Aaron Weir, BCHS	

Several students received awards from the Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society Omicron Chapter for their theses and dissertations:

MASTER'S THESIS AWARDS:

Katherine Buchman, BCHS	Elizabeth Cole, MMPH
Sarah Hughes, HUGEN	Brittany Lange-Maia, EPI
Wei-Hsuan (Jenny) Lo, BIOS	Amanda Smith, IDM
Charles Tomljanovic, EO	

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION AWARDS:

Jessica Brehm, IDM	Donna Almario Doebler, BCHS
Nagarjun Konduru, EOH	MinJae Lee, BIOS
Aaron Secrest, EPI	

Chosen by their departments for academic excellence:

OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS, MASTERS LEVEL:

Aileen M. Gariepy, MMPH	Derek Alan Ginos, HPM
Chang Sook Hong, BIOS	Elian A. Rosenfeld, BCH
Danielle A. Sharaga, HUGEN	Amanda Paige Smith, IDM
Matthew K. Stevenson, HPM	Brett Joseph Tunno, EOH
Trang M. VoPham, EPI	

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS AWARDS, DOCTORAL LEVEL:

Amy Laurel Herrick, BCHS	Jessica Ann Radzio, IDM
Aaron Michael Secrest, EPI	Xinhua Zhao, BIOS

For service to the school and community, Dean's Service Awards were presented to:

Elana Rachel Barkowitz, BCHS	Eden Huang, IDM
Shanna Bryanne Gay, IDM	Gina Rose Londino, BCHS
Marquis Hawkins, EPI	

Student Leadership Certificate for leadership that exceeds expectations, such as innovative responses to challenges or creation of new initiatives

Yan Du, HUGEN

MARTH ANN TERRY SELECTED AS 2011 CRAIG AWARD WINNER

Martha Ann Terry, PhD, was named the 2011 recipient of the James L. Craig Excellence in Teaching Award. Terry is an assistant professor in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences and director of the BCHS MPH program.

Established by GSPH alumnus James L. Craig, MD, MPH '63, this award recognizes GSPH faculty who have excelled in the teaching and mentoring of students. Craig awardees are nominated annually by GSPH students and selected by a committee of GSPH students and past Craig awardees.

Terry has three degrees in anthropology (BA and MA from Northern Illinois University, PhD from the University of Pittsburgh) and conducted dissertation fieldwork in the State of Tlaxcala, Mexico, on reproductive decision-making, a topic that continues to intrigue her. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and the alpha charter member of Pitt's chapter of Lambda Alpha, a National Collegiate Honors Society for Anthropology.

Terry has a long record of teaching, at NIU, Carlow University, and Clarion University, as well as at Pitt. Among her favorite classes are "Human Sexuality in Cross-Cultural Perspective," "Cultures in Conflict," "Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health," and "Community Development Approaches to Public Health." Her classes are highly participatory, building on her philosophy that students learn as much from each other as they do from her and that she learns as much from them as they learn from her.



PAST CRAIG AWARD WINNERS

Excellent teaching is both demanding and rewarding. We celebrate all these stellar teachers' contributions to the education of our students

Abdus Waheed

Associate Professor, BIOST, 2010

Dan Volz

Assistant Professor, EOH, 2009

Joel Weissfield

Associate Professor, EPI, 2008

Candace Kammerer

Associate Professor, HuGen, 2007

Joanne McVay

Assistant Professor, (retired) HAS, 2006

John Wilson

Assistant Professor, Biost, 2005

Todd Reinhart

Associate Professor, IDM, 2004

Karen Peterson

Assistant Professor, BCHS, 2003

David Rowe

Associate Professor, IDM, 2002



BERNARD GOLDSTEIN TO HEAD CENTER FOR HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS AND COMMUNITIES

Bernard D. Goldstein, MD, professor of Environmental and Occupational Health, was appointed interim director of the Center for Healthy Environments and Communities (CHEC) in April. Goldstein, the former dean of GSPH, is an environmental toxicologist and his research interests have focused largely on the concept of biological markers in the field of risk assessment.

Goldstein's past experience includes an appointment as assistant administrator for research and development at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the accomplishment of being the founding director of the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute, a state university program that responded to environmental issues in New Jersey. He is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. Goldstein has been president of the Society for Risk Analysis and a member or chairman of numerous federal and World Health Organization committees, including chairman of the National Institutes of Health Toxicology Study Section and EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee.

Founded in 2004 under a grant from the Heinz Endowments, CHEC aims to improve environmental health through research, collaboration, teaching, advocacy, and community service. The center provides better access to and encourages increased awareness of environmental health issues and information.

"As the author of more than 150 peer-reviewed publications related to environmental medicine, Dr. Goldstein will ensure the Center for Healthy Environments and Communities will continue its mission of improving the health of western Pennsylvania through community-based research," said GSPH Dean Donald S. Burke, MD. "He is the ideal person to direct CHEC activities while a search for a permanent director takes place."

IN MEMORIAM

JOSEPH SCHWERHA

Joseph Schwerha, MD, MPH, professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health (EOH) from 1998-2009, and director of Occupational Medicine Residency and the Certificate in Public Health Preparedness and Disaster Response, died suddenly on April 27, 2011, at age 72.

Most recently, he was adjunct professor of EOH; consultant in occupational and environmental medicine and clinical professor of community medicine at West Virginia University; and on the staff at Jefferson Hospital in the occupational medicine department. Schwerha was an international leading authority on the clinical practice and science of occupational medicine and was a well-recognized educator and mentor in this subspecialty.

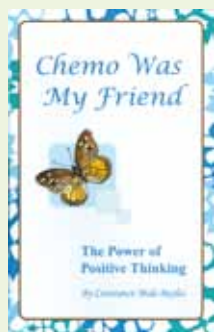
Schwerha earned his undergraduate degree in chemistry from University of Pittsburgh, MPH in environmental health and industrial hygiene from University of Michigan and MD from West Virginia University. He was board certified in occupational medicine. He served as general manager of health sciences and corporate medical director of U.S. Steel, having worldwide responsibility for medical, safety, industrial hygiene, worker's compensation, self insurance, employee assistance programs, and family medical centers.

After his retirement from U.S. Steel, he joined EOH and was the principal investigator of a long-standing training grant from National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health and an active collaborator in occupational and community-based environmental health studies. He served on international committees and boards including the National Academy Sciences, the International Iron Steel Institute, the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and the editorial board of the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

He was the 2005 recipient of the Knudsen Award from the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. With the help of numerous colleagues in Southwestern Pennsylvania, Schwerha ran and directed a long-standing, board-certified residency in occupational medicine that attracted medically trained individuals from a variety of specialties throughout the United States and internationally. He devoted

considerable effort and time in formal instruction and providing contemporary and relevant practical and medical experiences and had an enviable record of accomplishments in placing his trainees in academic, governmental, and private positions. His thoughtfulness and professionalism led to longstanding interactions with former trainees and colleagues. Schwerha readily shared his personal stories and his devotion to and pride in his large family. He interjected this major facet of his life in a motivating and collegial fashion in his training and administrative efforts.

IN BRIEF



Constance Mols Bayles, PhD, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology, recently published “Chemo Was My Friend” an account of her own battle with cancer, including her life before cancer, the

diagnosis and surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, life after chemotherapy, and helpful tips to stay positive. The booklet also includes information on keeping a personal journal and organizing medical care for doctors’ appointments. Bayles will send the book for free to those who request it, as long as they promise to pass it on to others who might benefit from reading her story. She can be reached at cbayles@pitt.edu.



Jane Cauley, DrPH, professor in the Department of Epidemiology, was recognized for her commitment to mentoring and her successes in working with doctoral students with the 2011 Provost’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring. The award includes a \$2,500 cash prize.



Samar R. El Khoudary, PhD, MPH, assistant professor of epidemiology, received the Trudy Bush Fellowship for Cardiovascular Research in Women’s Health. The award is given by the American Heart

Association Council on Epidemiology and Prevention to recognize the top three abstracts related to cardiovascular research in women’s health accepted to their annual conference. El Khoudary’s abstract was titled, “Endogenous Sex Hormones Impact the Progression of Subclinical Atherosclerosis in Women during the Menopausal Transition.”



Anne B. Newman, MD, MPH, professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology, was accepted as a member of the 2011-12 class of fellows in the Hedwig

can Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women. ELAM’s year-long program develops the professional and personal skills required to lead and manage in today’s complex health care environment, with special attention to the unique challenges facing women in leadership positions. Each fellow works on an action project addressing a need or priority of her institution.

Three GSPH faculty members were inducted into the Omicron Chapter of the Delta Omega public health honor society this spring:

Lawrence Kingsley, IDM, Jeremy Martinson, IDM, and Martha Ann Terry, BCHS.

EVENTS

JAY L. FOSTER SCIENTIFIC LECTURE IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

The 2010 Jay L. Foster Memorial Scientific Lecture in Alzheimer's disease featured **GSPH's Lewis H. Kuller, MD, DrPH**, distinguished university professor of public health. His talk, titled, "Dementia in the Aged: Inevitable, Postponable, or Preventable?" outlined extensive research he and colleagues have performed over the years to investigate the link between Alzheimer's disease and vascular disease.

Kuller's research team began following a cohort of 924 subjects in the early 1990s to try to discover if cardiovascular health has a link to dementia. At the beginning of the study, called the Cardiovascular Health Cognition Study - Pittsburgh 1992-2010, participants had a median age of 73. They were given a detailed cognition battery to determine if they were normal, had mild cognitive impairment, or had dementia. Over the years, they were given MRIs and additional cognition tests. After analyzing the data, the team found that those with poor ventricular health were at the highest risk for dementia.

"It is possible that vascular disease in the brain may be the most important determinant of injury and increased A-Beta production," Kuller said. A-Beta is an amyloid plaque that forms in the brain and is thought to be a cause of Alzheimer's disease.

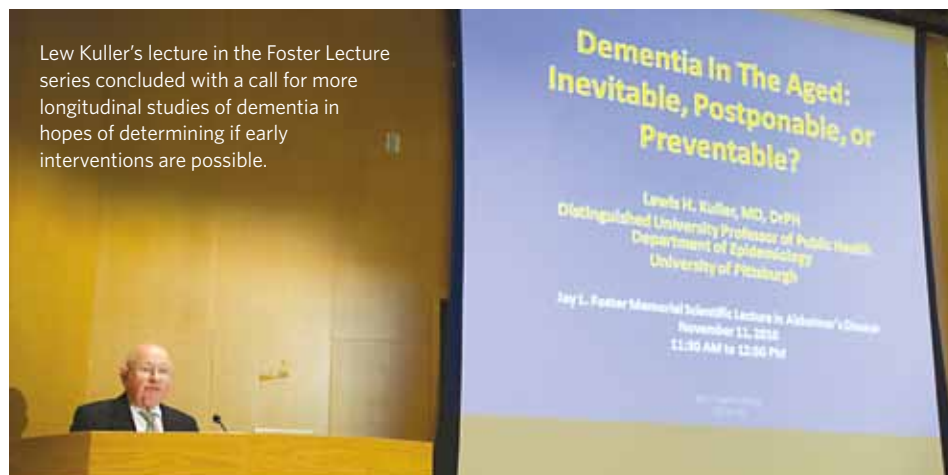
"Dementia research must focus on hypothesis testing and etiological research, not just better description of brain disease," Kuller concluded. "We need large cohort studies to evaluate early and progressive brain abnormalities and determinants. Maybe the process of late-life dementia begins at earlier age. Maybe it has a long incubation period like atherosclerosis and prevention might depend on earlier age interventions. We need longitudinal studies including detailed brain evaluation, including measures of amyloid, MRI, and function."

The Foster lecture series was established by the family of Jay L. Foster, who died of Alzheimer's disease in July 2000 at the age of 83. Foster was born in Pittsburgh on December 17, 1916. He attended Shady Side

Academy and Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster. He spent his entire career at what is now L.B. Foster Co., which was started by his father, Lee Byron Foster. Foster was a vice president with the company until he retired shortly after it was sold in 1977. He was a director of Montefiore Hospital as well as the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, Florida. He also was active in the United Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Center of Pittsburgh.

His family established the memorial lecture series to provide a scientific lecture and a community lecture each year. The Foster family's goal in supporting the series is to promote collaborations among researchers focused on Alzheimer's disease and to educate family members, caregivers, and others who are faced with the daily struggle of dealing with the illness.

Lewis H. Kuller, MD, DrPH, distinguished university professor of public health and past chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, has spent the past 30 years studying risk factors for individuals with heart disease and women going through menopause. Kuller has published more than 300 articles in peer-reviewed publications. His honors include the 1994 Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award, University of Pittsburgh; the Abraham Lilienfeld Award, American College of Epidemiology; the MERIT Award, National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute; and the Centennial Scholar, John Hopkins University. In 2009, he was named the American Heart Association Distinguished Scientist for major contributions to cardiovascular disease and stroke research.



Kuller's lecture in the Foster Lecture series concluded with a call for more longitudinal studies of dementia in hopes of determining if early interventions are possible.

Kuller's presentation and many others can be viewed at www.publichealth.pitt.edu/lecturearchive

Some of the presentations and informational materials mentioned below can be found at www.publichealth.pitt.edu/accepted

VISIT GSPH: A DAY FOR ACCEPTED APPLICANTS

Applicants who have been accepted to the school are invited each spring to visit GSPH. A full day of events introduces students not only to their potential new departments, but also to the Pitt campus, and to Pittsburgh. Applicants meet with faculty, students, and alumni to learn more about the public health education and career opportunities waiting at GSPH.

The day started with applicant check-in and a welcome from Cindy Bryce, PhD, associate dean for student affairs, and Eleanor Feingold, PhD, associate dean for education. Applicants then heard from Joan Anson, MsED, director of the Office of Career Services, about workshops, the annual career and internship fair, and counseling services for resume and CV writing.

Mary Derkach, JD, MSIS, assistant dean for student affairs, gave a brief presentation on financial aid at the school level and Janet McLaughlin, financial aid advisor from the University's Office of Admissions and Financial Aid, then spoke about student loans. Applicants then visited the Information Marketplace to meet with representatives from various GSPH, University, and Pittsburgh resources.

Next, applicants then from current students about why they choose GSPH and what excites them about their programs, and from alumni working in public health about how GSPH has benefited them in their careers. Applicants also met representatives from the eight student organizations and examined projects from some of GSPH's core courses.

For lunch, applicants split up to meet faculty, staff, students, and alumni from their specific departments and programs. After lunch, applicants had the option of visiting one of three GSPH research and practice centers—the Center for Minority Health, the Center for Public Health Practice, or the Epidemiology Data Center—or learning more about the Certificate in Global Health. Applicants also had the option of taking a trolley tour of some key campus locations and areas of Pittsburgh. The tour focused on livability, shopping, nightlife, and Pittsburgh history.



Potential students find out more about GSPH and Pitt programs and resources in the Information Marketplace.



From left: GSPH alumni John Shaffer (PhD '08 Human Genetics), Mike Evans (MPH '80 Health Administration), and Janet Catov (PhD '05 Epidemiology) tell potential GSPH students about their careers in public health.

"I was most impressed with the alumni panel," said one applicant on a post-event survey. "It was great being able to interact with alumni in the field and better understand how Pitt's SPH has impacted their careers."

"I had already accepted the offer of admission, but I was so impressed with the willingness of everyone, especially my future department, to help incoming students adjust and be comfortable," said another attendee. "Pitt's GSPH is a place where I truly feel like I will fit in and be welcome."

EVENTS



PEACE CORPS MASTER'S INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS RECEIVE SEND-OFF

Two students enrolled in GSPH's Peace Corps Master's International (PCMI) Track were given a send-off luncheon before they depart for their two years of Peace Corps service. Orrin Tiberi is going to Ecuador, and Adrienna Long is going to Mozambique.

The GSPH PCMI Track gives students the opportunity to learn and gain experience in public health in an international setting and fosters a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities within global health. Students participate in a Peace Corps field experience as part of the MPH program, completing their practicum and master's thesis or essay based on their Peace Corps field experience.

PCMI students first complete an intense academic year (two terms), from August through the end of April, during which they take a sequence of required courses to provide them with the critical competencies necessary for a Peace Corps Volunteer assignment in public health. During that period, PCMI students also participate in the Global Health Seminar and Peace Corps Seminar and work closely with the PCMI director and program coordinator to prepare for their Peace Corps assignment.

PCMI students Orrin Tiberi (left) and Adrienna Long (right) with Martha Ann Terry, GSPH assistant professor, BCHS (center).

At the end of their second term, PCMI students depart for their Peace Corps assignment, which includes three months of training followed by 24 months of field experience at their Peace Corps site. After completion of their Peace Corps service, PCMI students return to GSPH to complete a final year of study and write their thesis or master's essay.

There are two options within the PCMI Track, one in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences and one in the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology.

"Students of public health often seek educational experiences where they can be of service and make a lasting contribution to a community while learning how to excel in their chosen field," said Joanne Russell, MPPM, RN, who directs the PCMI program. "With today's emphasis on global health at the forefront of many students' minds, that community may be somewhere around the world. GSPH's PCMI Track aids students in gaining practical and relevant skills in the core disciplines of public health, problem solving and project management in resource poor settings, and in working with people from a culturally different background."



UPCOMING GSPH EVENTS

Porter Prize

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2011

The honoree is Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, PhD, co-discoverer of the human immunodeficiency virus and 2008 Nobel Laureate in Medicine

- **Scientific lecture:** *The Enigma of Diverse Host Responses to HIV/SIV Infection*, 10:30-11:30 a.m., University Club Ballroom A
- **Porter Prize presentation, lecture, and reception:** *HIV: A Discovery Highlighting the Global Benefit of Multidisciplinary Science* 2-4 p.m., University Club Ballroom B

Public Health and Aging Seminar

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2011, NOON - 1 P.M.

A115 Crabtree Hall

Amy C. Justice, MD, MSc, PhD, director of the Clinical and Health Services Research Core of the Yale University Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS will speak on *HIV and Aging: A Global Phenomena*.

Co-sponsored by the Center for Aging and Population Health (www.caph.pitt.edu); the CDC Prevention Research Center Program U48 DP01918-02, and the Center for Global Health (www.globalhealth.pitt.edu).

Anne C. Sonis Memorial Lecture

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2011, NOON-1 P.M.

S120 Biomedical Science Tower (BST)

Reception immediately following in Room S200A BST

Comparative Effectiveness Research: The Essentials
Presented by Harold C. Sox, MD, professor of medicine,
The Dartmouth Institute, Dartmouth Medical School.

Spring Sale to Benefit the Evelyn Wei Scholarship Fund

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2011, 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

GSPH DeSoto Street lobby

Memorial Service Celebrating the Life of Thomas Detre, MD

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2011, 1 P.M.

Heinz Memorial Chapel

Fifth and Bellefield Avenues, Pittsburgh, PA 15260

A reception will be held immediately following the service in the J. W. Connolly Ballroom of Alumni Hall, 4227 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. Memorial donations may be made to the Katherine Detre Scholarship Fund at GSPH. For additional information, please contact Apryl Eshelman, director of development, at 412-624-5639 or eshelman@pitt.edu.

GSPH Orientation

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25 - FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2011

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Exposition

OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 2, 2011

Washington, D.C.

Join us for GSPH's alumni and friends reception on Monday, October 31, 6:30-8 p.m., room TBA .



IN MEMORIAM

THOMAS P. DETRE, MD

Last fall, Thomas P. Detre, the academic leader whose ambition and determined efforts helped propel the University of Pittsburgh's schools of the health sciences to international prominence and the architect behind the transformation of the University's teaching hospitals into UPMC, an integrated global health enterprise, died at home after a long illness. Since 2004, he had held the titles of Emeritus Distinguished Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences and Emeritus Distinguished Service Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh. He was also interim dean of GSPH from 1987 to 1990 and was a member of the GSPH Board of Visitors.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held on Sunday, June 5, 2011, at 1 p.m., at the Heinz Memorial Chapel, Fifth and Bellefield Avenues, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. A reception will be held immediately following the service in the J. W. Connolly Ballroom of Alumni Hall, 4227 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.

Detre was born Tamas Feldmeier on May 17, 1924, in Budapest, Hungary, and decided to become a psychiatrist when he was 14. He was a 20-year-old student when he found out that his parents and 20 other relatives had been killed at Auschwitz. The following year, he renamed himself "Detre," a play on the French verb that means "to be," as a symbol of his will to continue living.

He held clinical and academic appointments at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Detre had been psychiatrist-in-chief there from 1968 to 1973, when he moved to Pittsburgh with his first wife, renowned epidemiologist Katherine M. Detre, MD, DrPH. She died in January 2006, almost 50 years after they married. Detre is survived by his second wife, Ellen Ormond; two sons, and their families.

Memorial gifts can be made to the Katherine Detre Scholarship Fund at GSPH. To make a gift, please send a check payable to University of Pittsburgh with Katherine Detre Fund in the memo line to University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, A631 Crabtree Hall, 130 DeSoto Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261. To make an online gift, visit www.giveto.pitt.edu and click on the Donate Today button in the upper right corner. Select Graduate School of Public Health and note Katherine Detre fund in the special instructions box. Or contact Apryl Eshelman, GSPH director of development, at 412-624-5639 or eshelman@pitt.edu.

Thank you for remembering this remarkable man in this very meaningful way.

For a complete remembrance of Detre's life and career, please see www.chronicle.pitt.edu/?p=6658

PHOTO OF THE QUARTER

GSPH Staffer Participates in Medical Mission



Rona de la Vega, a lab technician in the Department of Epidemiology, recently completed a medical mission to the Philippines with some of her family members, under the auspices of the Philippine Medical Society of Western Pennsylvania

"I was fortunate to have the opportunity to help those in medical need in the Philippines January 24 to February 11, 2011," said de la Vega, pictured at the far right. "It was my first mission trip experience, and I was able to assist on three separate surgical missions, each lasting one week. My sister, father, and I went to the Bicol region of the Philippines, including the cities of Sorsogon, Naga, and Daet. Since each city had a different hospital and new medical team, I was able to have a unique experience each week providing much-needed medical care.

"My jobs varied from counting and distributing prescriptions, preparing dressings for surgery, and even assisting in the operating room. My greatest memory of my trip was assisting with a hysterectomy. I never imagined that I would see an exposed internal abdomen! The struggling health care system cannot keep up with mounting demands, and I felt a desire and obligation to help. The meaning of compassion was taught to me by the many doctors, nurses and volunteers who selflessly dedicate countless hours and resources to the people of the Philippines. I feel humbled and grateful for the opportunity to work with these amazing people.

"My parents are both from the Philippines and have been active participants in medical missions for the past decade. My father is a newly retired anesthesiologist from Magee Women's Hospital and assists in multiple missions every winter."



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Join the GSPH subgroup on LinkedIn, a professional networking site where you can connect with your colleagues—past, present, and future. The group is moderated by Joan Anson, director of career services, and was established as a means to unite alumni and students and allow GSPH and all of our connections to share information about jobs and career development. To join the GSPH subgroup, you must first join the official University of Pittsburgh Alumni Group (it has the word "official" linked to it as an icon). Then, you can link to the GSPH subgroup by looking us up in the groups section.

If you don't already use LinkedIn, we encourage you to go to www.linkedin.com and establish a profile. There are plentiful tips on the site for setting up a profile and using LinkedIn to your advantage. Watch publichealth.pitt.edu for tips on LinkedIn, coming soon. E-mail Anson at anson@pitt.edu with questions.