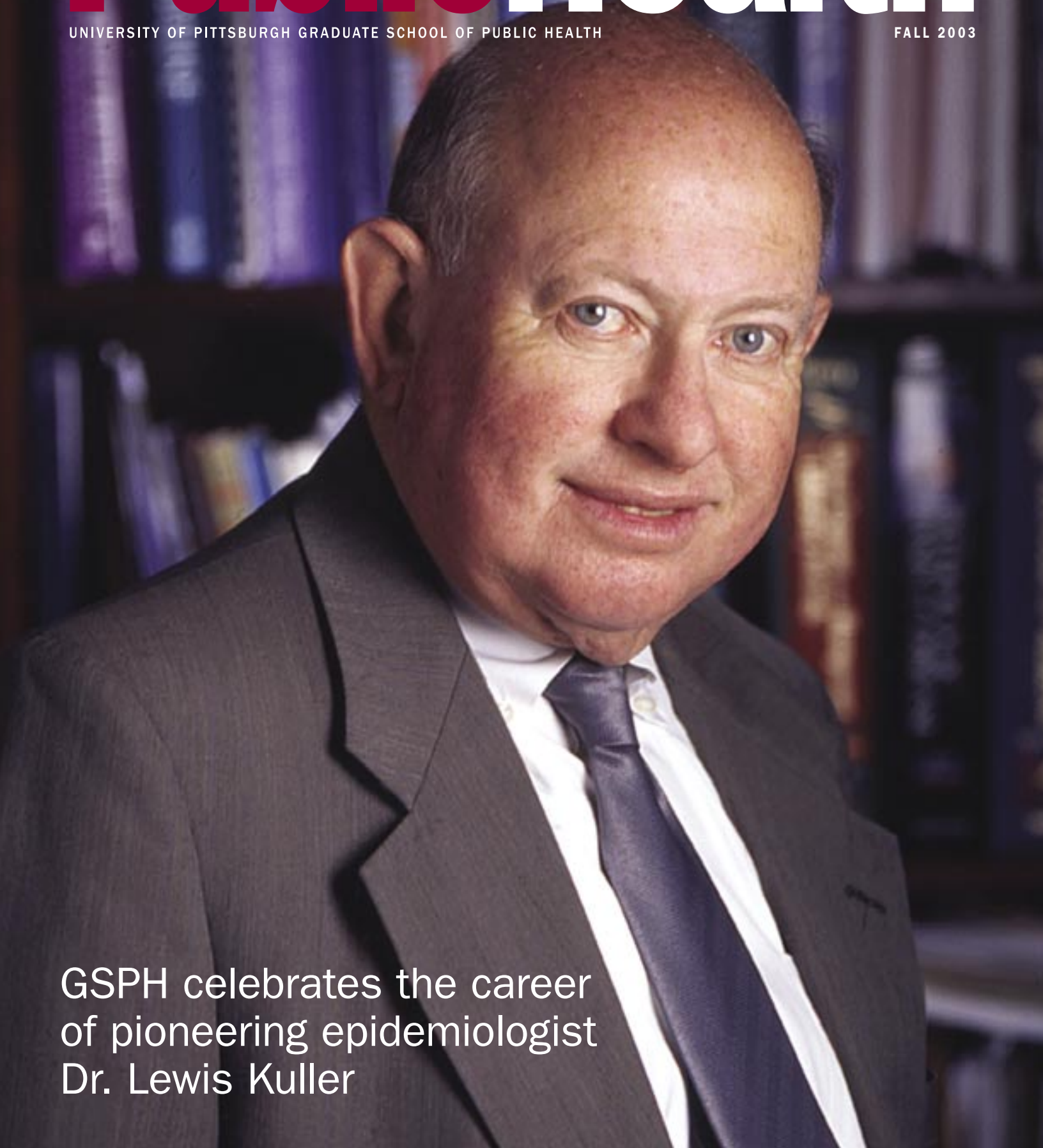


# PublicHealth

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

FALL 2003



GSPH celebrates the career  
of pioneering epidemiologist  
Dr. Lewis Kuller

## PublicHealth

University of Pittsburgh  
Graduate School of Public Health

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# PublicHealth

FALL 2003

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## Dean's Message



Bernard D. Goldstein

“The coming year promises to be just as eventful and dynamic for GSPH.”

As summer draws to a close, it seems natural to reflect on the past year while we prepare with enthusiasm for the challenges the new academic year will bring. It has certainly been an eventful 12 months, encompassing a two-day celebration of Lewis Kuller's career in epidemiology, the loss of our much-respected and admired colleagues John Cutler and Jan Sykora, and a string of special lectures and events centering around the environment and our aging population. There were challenges in the form of budget cuts, continued delays in renovations of Parran and Crabtree Halls, and space shortages that now have more than half of us in 21 locations around Oakland—but ground was broken for the planned expansion of the Epidemiology Data Center. Amid all of these happenings, our school has continued to flourish. We increased our student enrollment and our research funding. Our faculty's NIH research funding was up by \$5.6 million for fiscal year 2003, a 40 percent increase in the past two years that again made us the top state-related school in NIH competitive research funding and third overall. In addition, we more than doubled our non-NIH funding.

The coming year promises to be just as eventful and dynamic for GSPH. In an effort to reach out more directly to our alumni outside of the Pittsburgh area, I will be going “on the road” periodically, beginning this fall with a trip to Chicago on October 7, 8, and 9. We will incorporate into these trips a “meet and greet” reception in each city to give me an opportunity to connect with that area's alumni. More information about the Chicago reception will be mailed prior to the event. If you live in the Chicago area,

I hope to see you there. If you would be interested in hosting an alumni reception in your city, please contact me at bdgold@pitt.edu.

Our new certificate program in public health preparedness and disaster response is now official and accepting applicants, and a global health certificate program is soon to follow. We're looking forward to discussing these new programs, as well as the rest of our interdisciplinary curriculum, with prospective applicants at our second open house this October. Our first open house in January was an unarguable success (especially considering the weather), so expectations are high. If you know people considering a career in public health, encourage them to attend on October 13.

I'm pleased to announce that the Thomas Parran Lecture will be held on October 31, 2003, featuring guest speaker Bernard Fisher, MD, Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Pittsburgh and past chair and scientific director of the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project. This lecture series was established in 1964 in honor of the founding dean of GSPH and former Surgeon General Thomas J. Parran Jr. I hope you will mark your calendar and plan to join us for this fitting tribute to Parran's career.

As you can see, we're ramping up for another busy season. I hope you will take some time out of your schedule to join us for these and other events coming up this fall. And I hope you will continue to join with us in creating a healthier world.

Bernard D. Goldstein, Dean

# On the Cutting Edge

A Sampling of Innovative Research

## Estrogen and Progesterone Improve Lung Function and Asthma

Estrogen and progesterone play a role in lung function and asthma symptoms in women, according to a report published by GSPH researchers in the March 2003 issue of *Annals of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology*, the scientific journal of the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology. Premenstrual declines in the hormone levels cause a worsening of asthmatic symptoms, the study found. Conversely, when estrogen and progesterone are raised—whether naturally during the menstrual cycle or through oral contraceptives or hormone replacement therapy—pulmonary function and asthma symptoms improved.

“These studies suggest that estrogen and progesterone may increase relaxation of bronchial smooth muscle, thereby reducing the contractile response. The two hormones have also been shown to exhibit anti-inflammatory properties,” said **Catherine L. Haggerty**, PhD, MPH, first author of the report and GSPH postdoctoral fellow in epidemiology.

Estrogen and progesterone are highly elevated during pregnancy, reaching their greatest concentrations in the final trimester. Likewise, the study found that pregnant women reported improvements in asthma, including significantly reduced wheezing and less interference in sleep and activity throughout the course of the pregnancy, with the lowest rates of symptoms occurring in the final four weeks.



According to the authors, certain subgroups of women may be more susceptible to hormone cycles. Testosterone, estrogen, and progesterone may each independently affect pulmonary function to varying degrees.

“A further understanding of the role of hormones in asthma may better predict exacerbations and direct therapeutic strategies,” said Haggerty. “Such an understanding may help to improve the quality of life in women who suffer from this often-debilitating disease.”

Haggerty, Catherine L.; Roberta B. Ness; Sheryl Kelsey; and Grant W. Waterer. “The Impact of Estrogen and Progesterone on Asthma.” *Annals of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology* 90 (March 2003): 284–291.

## Seventy Percent of Thunderstorm-Related Deaths Occur in Men

An analysis of thunderstorm-related deaths in the United States revealed that men are more than twice as likely as women to die during a thunderstorm, according to **Thomas J. Songer**, PhD, assistant professor of epidemiology and assistant professor of neurological surgery, School of Medicine and Center for Injury Research and Control. Songer presented his findings at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) Safety in Numbers meeting in Atlanta, Ga., in April.

“We found that deaths from thunderstorm-related weather conditions center around flash floods and lightning strikes, and the victims are primarily male,” said Songer. “In deaths from flash floods and high winds, most of the victims were in a vehicle, usually engaged in an attempt to drive through the water. With regard to lightning strikes, most of the victims were involved in sports or recreational activities, or in work-related activities at the time of death.”

Songer examined records on thunderstorm-related deaths in the United States from 1994 through 2000, analyzing variables including circumstances of death, age and gender of the victim, activity, location, work relatedness, date, time, and the involvement of a vehicle. Weather elements included thunderstorm winds, flash floods, tornadoes, and lightning.



Seventy percent of the 1,442 deaths identified were male. Two-thirds of the deaths occurred outside the home. The highest percentage of deaths from flash floods (65 percent) involved driving or being in a car. The highest percentage of deaths from lightning involved sports and recreation (36 percent) and work (21.8 percent). The highest percentage of deaths from tornadoes involved outdoor activities (40 percent) and driving and transportation (23 percent). The highest percentage of deaths from high winds involved driving and transportation (35.6 percent) and boating and fishing (23 percent).

Manuscript under preparation.

## ‘Double Diabetes’ a Cause of Heart Disease for Type 1 Diabetics

Calling it “double diabetes,” GSPH researchers have determined that insulin resistance, commonly associated with type 2 diabetes, may be a major cause of heart disease in people with type 1 diabetes as well, according to a study published in the May 2003 issue of *Diabetes Care*, a journal of the American Diabetes Association. Type 1, or childhood-onset, diabetes results from the body’s failure to produce insulin. Type 2 diabetes, on the other hand, occurs when the body fails to use insulin properly to metabolize glucose. Insulin resistance is a known risk factor for heart disease.

“Many people have assumed that if you get type 1, and therefore already have diabetes, that you can’t get it again,” said **Trevor Orchard**, MD, principal investigator and professor of epidemiology. “What we’re saying is they can, because type 2 has to do with how insulin works in the tissues—in the fat and muscle in particular. Whether you produce insulin or not, you could have inherited the same problems with its actions in the tissues.”

The study analyzed data from the Pittsburgh Epidemiology of Diabetes Complications Study, a 10-year prospective investigation based on a cohort of adults with type 1 diabetes.

“The good news is that not all people with type 1 diabetes are insulin resistant,” Orchard pointed out. “For them, the risk of heart disease may not be as high. Clearly, reducing or preventing insulin resistance through exercise, weight loss, and possibly medication may help people with type 1 diabetes avoid heart disease.”

Orchard, Trevor J.; Jon C. Olson; John R. Erbey; Katherine Williams; Kimberly Y.-Z. Forrest; Leslie Smithline Kinder; Demetrius Ellis; and Dorothy J. Becker. “Insulin Resistance—Related Factors, but Not Glycemia, Predict Coronary Artery Disease in Type 1 Diabetes: 10-Year Follow-up Data from the Pittsburgh Epidemiology of Diabetes Complications Study.” *Diabetes Care* 26 (May 2003): 1374–1379.



## Exercise Pays Off for Women Over the Age of 65

Women who become or stay physically active after age 65 are less likely than their sedentary counterparts to die from cardiovascular disease, cancer, and other causes, according to a new report. The study, one of the first to indicate that increasing fitness level lengthens lifespan in older women, was published in the May 14, 2003, issue of *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The report was based on an analysis of information from women 65 and older who joined the Study of Osteoporotic Fractures conducted in Pittsburgh; Baltimore, Md.; Minneapolis, Minn.; and Portland, Ore. Participants completed a survey assessing how active they were at the beginning of the study and again four years later. Women were considered sedentary if their activity level was equivalent to walking less than two miles a week. They were then placed into four categories: those who were sedentary at both points; those who were sedentary but became active; those who were active and became sedentary; and those who were active at both times. In a seven-year follow-up, after adjusting for factors such as age, smoking, and diseases including high blood pressure and coronary artery disease, researchers determined that

women who increased their activity levels had about a 50 percent lower risk of dying than those who stayed sedentary.

“The data suggests that it’s never too late,” said investigator **Jane A. Cauley**, DrPH, associate professor of epidemiology. “Even when you’re 75 years old, if you try to increase your physical activity, there may be some health benefits associated with that activity.”

Gregg, Edward W.; Jane A. Cauley; Katie Stone; Theodore J. Thompson; Douglas C. Bauer; Steven R. Cummings; and Kristine E. Ensrud. “Relationship of Changes in Physical Activity and Mortality Among Older Women.” *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association* 289 (May 14, 2003): 2379–2386.

## Study Finds No Relationship between Soot and Sulfur Dioxide Levels and Hospital Admissions in Allegheny County

There is no indication that increased levels of two common air pollutants—particulate matter (soot) and sulfur dioxide—cause increases in the number of people admitted to area hospitals as reported in a recent study done for the Allegheny County Health Department. This is in contrast to findings in an earlier study when pollution levels were much higher than today. One of the study’s

investigators, **Vincent C. Arena**, PhD, associate professor of biostatistics, summarized the results of an 18-month study that reviewed hospital admissions for cardiopulmonary diseases as well as air quality data from 1995 through 2000 in Allegheny County.

Faculty and student researchers from three GSPH departments participated in the study, including **Joseph Schwerha**, MD, MPH, **Jay Harper**, MD, MPH, and **Lawrence Keller** from EOH; **Evelyn Talbott**, DrPH, **Jeanne Zborowski**, PhD, **Kathleen McHugh-Pemu**, **Priscah Mujuru**, and **Danielle Dell** from epidemiology; and **Sati Mazumdar**, PhD, from biostatistics.

Arena reported the study was limited in scope, looking only at two pollutants and air quality data obtained from already existing county monitoring sites rather than sites chosen by the researchers for the particular purposes of this undertaking.

“We were not able to review hospital emergency room visit statistics where people having a reaction to the effects of air pollution might seek initial treatment,” he said. Arena cautioned that although the report does not indicate a relationship between hospital admissions and the current levels of air pollutants, it does not rule out all health effects. Additional, as well as more targeted, studies are warranted.

Schwerha, Joseph J.; Evelyn O. Talbott; Jeanne V. Zborowski; Sati Mazumdar; Vincent C. Arena; Shui He; Kathleen P. McHugh-Pemu; Priscah Mujuru; Danielle M. Dell; Jay Harper; Lawrence W. Keller; and John Uribe. “Allegheny County Air Pollution Study (ACAPS): A Retrospective Investigation of Cardiopulmonary Outcomes and Exposure to Air Pollutants (1995–2000).” Presented to the Allegheny County Health Department Advisory Committee—Air Quality Program, Pittsburgh, Pa., May 7, 2003.



## Rural Home Health Agencies Financially Vulnerable

The University of Pittsburgh Center for Rural Health Practice (CRHP), housed at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, released a report on the financial vulnerability of home health agencies. **Michael Meit**, MA, MPH, and director of CRHP, served as the coordinator of the project. **Chyongchiou Jeng Lin**, PhD, assistant professor of health policy and management, was the lead researcher for the project and the lead author of the report.

The report is based on two complementary studies. The first study, funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, examined fiscal and utilization data collected from a sample of 10 rural agencies in northwestern Pennsylvania. The second study, conducted by the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health through a grant from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, was based on a statewide survey of home health agencies. These two studies complemented one another, with the results more compelling when analyzed together.

The report provides recommendations to improve the financial status of rural home health agencies in Pennsylvania, where 48 out of 67 counties are classified as rural, and across the nation. Although further research is needed, it is anticipated that results will also be able to be generalized to rural agencies across the nation.

“Rural agencies experience greater financial strains than their urban counterparts,” said Meit. “Payments to these agencies need to account for the higher costs of providing services in rural areas. Further, we believe that rural agencies would benefit from training and technical assistance that would help them to reduce their administrative costs, which significantly impact their financial well-being.”

The Center for Rural Health Practice is a cooperative effort with Pitt-Bradford, Pitt’s schools of the health sciences, and UPMC to identify and research healthcare and public health concerns throughout rural America.

Lin, Chyongchiou Jeng; Michael Meit; Myron Schwartz; Lisa Davis; Joel Leon; Joan Davitt; and Jonas Marainen. “The Impact of Interim and Prospective Payment Systems on Home Health Providers and Medicare Beneficiaries in Rural Pennsylvania.” Presented at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, Bradford, Pa., May 5, 2003.

## Combined Hormone Replacement Therapy Increases Risk of Dementia

New findings from the Women’s Health Initiative Memory Study (WHIMS) suggest that hormone replacement therapy does not ward off dementia in postmenopausal women. In fact, researchers found that older women

taking Prempro, a combined estrogen plus progestin therapy, had twice the rate of dementia, including Alzheimer’s disease, compared to women who did not take the medication.

The study, published in *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association* on May 28, 2003, also found that the combination therapy did not protect against the development of mild cognitive impairment, a form of cognitive decline less severe than dementia. More than 4,500 women 65 or older from 39 medical centers took part in the memory study, which started in 1995. **Lewis Kuller**, MD, DrPH, University Professor of Public Health and professor of epidemiology, is a principal investigator on the local arm of this multicenter study.

WHIMS is a substudy of the Women’s Health Initiative, a major 15-year research program to address cardiovascular disease, cancer, and osteoporosis—the most common causes of death, disability, and poor quality of life in postmenopausal women. Women in the estrogen-plus-progestin studies are no longer taking the combined therapy as part of the research trials. However, researchers stressed that while the increased risk of dementia is significant when calculated over a large population of women, the risk to any individual older woman is relatively small.

Shumaker, Sally A.; Claudine Legault; Stephen R. Rapp; Leon Thal; Robert B. Wallace; Judith K. Ockene; Susan L. Hendrix; Beverly N. Jones III; Annlouise R. Assaf; Rebecca D. Jackson; Jane Morley Kotchen; Sylvia Wassertheil-Smoller; and Jean Wactawski-Wende, for the WHIMS Investigators. “Estrogen Plus Progestin and the Incidence of Dementia and Mild Cognitive Impairment in Postmenopausal Women: The Women’s Health Initiative Memory Study: A Randomized Controlled Trial.” *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association* 289 (May 28, 2003): 2651-2662.

## Triple-Drug Therapy Does Not Appear to Elevate Total and LDL Cholesterol Levels in Men with HIV

A study by University of Pittsburgh researchers helps to clarify the relationship between a triple-drug therapy and cholesterol levels in HIV-positive men. Using data from the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS), the researchers determined that highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART) does not appear to raise total and LDL, or “bad” cholesterol, levels.

The MACS is an ongoing 19-year-old National Institutes of Health-funded study of homosexual and bisexual men, both HIV positive and HIV negative, in Pittsburgh at GSPH, and in Baltimore, Md.; Chicago, Ill.; and Los Angeles, Calif. The team of researchers included the study’s author **Sharon A. Riddler**, MD, assistant professor of medicine and infectious diseases and microbiology (IDM); **Lawrence Kingsley**, DrPH, associate professor of IDM and epidemiology; and **Rhobert W. Evans**, PhD, associate professor of epidemiology.



“Increases in blood lipid levels have been widely reported in HIV patients treated with HAART,” said Riddler. “But until now there were no studies that included patients’ lipid levels taken before they were infected with HIV.” The average total cholesterol value of the subjects before HIV infection was within the normal range and consistent with the general population of adult men. After HIV infection, but prior to administration of HAART, average cholesterol levels dropped. Once HAART was started, total and LDL cholesterol levels began to rise again.

“The results confirmed that, yes, total cholesterol does increase with HAART, but in most cases it increases back to or near the pre-infection level, and in that sense it represents a return to normal,” said Riddler. However, researchers observed that participants’ average triglyceride levels were higher, and HDL, or “good” cholesterol, levels were lower than those in similarly aged men in the general population, raising the concern of an increased risk of heart disease. In other studies, some HIV drugs have been associated with changes in glucose metabolism and the development of insulin resistance, a condition that may also contribute to heart disease risk.

“With the ongoing collection of data through MACS,” said Riddler, “we will be able to look further into the effects of long-term triple-drug therapy and continue to refine treatments for patients with HIV.” The study was published in the June 11, 2003, issue of *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Riddler, Sharon A.; Ellen Smit; Stephen R. Cole; Rui Li; Joan S. Chmiel; Adrian Dobs; Frank Palella; Barbara Visscher; Rhobert Evans; and Lawrence A. Kingsley. “Impact of HIV Infection and HAART on Serum Lipids in Men.” *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association* 289 (June 11, 2003): 2978–2982.

# Without Peer

## Lewis H. Kuller Steps Down after 30 Years at the Helm of the Department of Epidemiology

The explosion a few minutes into the 7 a.m. Albuquerque–Pittsburgh flight jolted everyone aboard out of early morning drowsiness. The passengers, many of them epidemiologists returning home from the annual meeting of the American Heart Association’s Council on Cardiovascular Epidemiology and Prevention, felt the plane drop out of the air, rocking back and forth before it leveled out. An engine, or what was left of it after pieces fell off, was on fire. More than one person held on to their armrests with white knuckles, thinking they were going to die.

Back on the ground after the pilot managed to turn the craft around and wrestle it onto an extra-long runway, the still-trembling travelers were told they’d have to find another way to Pittsburgh. There wasn’t a spare plane to replace the damaged jet, and the airport was crowded with spring breakers heading back to college. Flights were oversold. The timing couldn’t have been worse.

Lewis H. Kuller, MD, DrPH, was one of those on board. He didn’t have time to reflect on the near-death experience or enjoy the feeling of solid ground beneath his feet. All he could think about was that he had to be in Washington, D.C., for an important meeting the next morning. He grabbed Diane Ives, MPH, senior research associate and Kuller’s longtime right hand, and proceeded to go from airline counter to airline counter, demanding, beseeching, arguing for a ticket to he-didn’t-care-where. As long as it got him out of Albuquerque. He *had* to be in D.C. by morning.

Ives tells that story for the way it captures Kuller’s sense of purpose. While his fellow passengers were happy just to be breathing, Kuller had his eyes fixed firmly on where he had to go. He was—and is—a man on a mission, a man with work to do. Which is, incidentally, how he spent the two-day hiatus at the runway motel. One of his colleagues, seized by a renewed sense of life, booked a hot-air balloon for the next morning. Kuller, meanwhile, worked his way through the thick briefcase he carries with him on every trip.

“He works incredibly long hours,” says Ives. “He’s here; he works all the time. When he goes out of town, he takes a huge briefcase filled with enough work for two weeks. And he sits in his room and works. He’s always been a good example of how important it is to work really hard. It’s because he loves what he does that he’s able to do that—and motivate other people to do it, too.”

Cardiologist Adam Feldman, MD, MPH, a former epidemiology student, recalls meeting in Kuller’s office amid the cacophony of books, journals, and letters that were always threatening to burst out. “He can quote you just about any study,” says Feldman. “There are color marks on every article—he’s read everything that can be found in his office. It never ceases to fascinate any of his students or peers.”

Feldman still remembers one stretch of days during which Kuller taught his class, then flew to Germany and back, returning just in time to fly off to Baltimore for another meeting over the weekend. “By the time he came back on Sunday, he must have logged 10,000 air miles. And Monday morning he was still ready to go. All to teach and do what he needs to do to push the envelope.”

Make that many envelopes. Kuller is internationally renowned for his contributions to the understanding of not only cardiovascular disease, but stroke, diabetes, women’s health, cancer, and aging and dementia. He’s pioneered landmark studies, including the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial (MRFIT), the Cardiovascular Health Study, and the Women’s Health Initiative (WHI).

“One of the most poignant events at GSPH since my arrival two years ago was the two-day Festschrift celebration of Lew Kuller’s career. The attendance at the events, and the almost \$100,000 in contributions received for the Lewis H. Kuller Scholarship Fund as a result, are truly a powerful testament to how many lives have been touched by Lew’s teaching and mentorship over the years. It’s a reminder to all of us why teaching is so important to our mission. We are indeed fortunate that Lew will be continuing his influential work here at GSPH as he heads up the Center for Healthy Aging.”

—Dean Bernard D. Goldstein



Lewis Kuller holds his new Boxer puppy, Eppi, at the close of a day of scientific sessions in March at a Festschrift celebrating Kuller’s distinguished career.

One way to comprehend the phenomenal breadth of Kuller’s expertise is to note the journals who list him as associate editor—*American Journal of Epidemiology*; *Preventive Medicine*; and *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology*—and as a member of the editorial board—*Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*; *American Journal of Medicine*; *American Heart Association, Circulation*; *Stroke Journal*; *Journal of Chronic Diseases*; *Journal of Cardiac Rehabilitation*; *Hypertension*; *Preventive Cardiovascular Medicine*; and the *Clinical Journal of Women’s Health*. He’s also served as president of the Society for Epidemiologic Research, the American Epidemiological Society, and the American College of Epidemiology.



Kuller poses with a group of his former students at the end of a day of scientific sessions as part of the Lewis Kuller Festschrift in March.

He's currently a fellow of the American Heart Association and Councils on Nutrition, Epidemiology, Physical Activity, and Metabolism.

Kuller's entrance into the world of epidemiology had been his intense interest in the phenomenon of sudden cardiac death. As a resident at Maimonides Hospital in Brooklyn, N.Y., he was routinely assigned to ride in the ambulance when there was an acute medical emergency. "We saw a lot of people who had died suddenly outside the hospital," Kuller says. "It was obvious to me that we had far more people dying suddenly from a heart attack outside the hospital than deaths from heart disease in the hospital. I got very interested in why that was happening. There wasn't very much known about it except that it was a big problem."

After a two-year stint as a Navy medical officer, Kuller entered Johns Hopkins University for graduate work in public health. With the support of Abraham Lilienfeld, who was head of the chronic diseases department and quite enthusiastic about training physician epidemiologists, Kuller was able to do seminal studies in sudden cardiac death.

"We did the first major population studies of sudden cardiac death," says Kuller. "We looked at the pathology of the disease, at the frequency in the community. We looked at risk factors such as smoking and hypertension. We determined that most of these people, even though they died very suddenly, had really terrible atherosclerotic disease in their arteries."

““ Dr. Kuller is truly a polymath in our discipline, with boundless resourcefulness and energy in mentoring of junior colleagues and instruction of graduate students. ””

—David Schottenfeld, MD, MSc  
John G. Searle Professor and Interim Chair  
Department of Epidemiology  
University of Michigan School of Public Health

Over the years, the United States has seen a 50 percent reduction in heart disease and stroke rates, with Kuller's work in cardiovascular disease making substantial contributions to the field. It's one of the things of which he's most proud.

In 1972, then-GSPH dean Herschel E. Griffin, MD, recruited Kuller, by that time professor of epidemiology at Johns Hopkins, to chair the epidemiology department at GSPH. The department

was small, fewer than 10 full-time faculty, with an emphasis in infectious diseases. The dean gave Kuller a free hand and a charge to build the department. Build it Kuller did, shifting the focus to chronic diseases and growing it—often hiring from among the department's freshly-minted PhDs—to a powerhouse of 50 faculty and 246 staff. Through it all, Kuller has never abandoned his own commitment to research. He is an author of more than 600 publications.

"There's a misbelief that a department chairman spends most of his life doing administrative work," Kuller says. "My philosophy is that you get very good people to do the administrative stuff. Your job is to generate ideas and research and get people to work together to get projects going."

Kuller is a power generator, as far as ideas go. More than one of his colleagues tells the story of coming out of Kuller's office

with head spinning and enough ideas to account for the next several years of their professional lives.

"He's played such a critical role for my career," says Susan Manzi, MD, MPH, associate professor of medicine and epidemiology at Pitt. "As a physician who was breaking into the world of epidemiology and clinical research, his serving as my advisor, his guidance in generating meaningful hypotheses and in study design—it's catapulted my career."

““ I know of no one who can generate ideas and research questions on such a wide variety of topics. Lew is both stimulating and fun to work with. ””

—James Neaton, PhD  
Professor of Biostatistics  
University of Minnesota

Manzi, who has recently received a midcareer mentoring award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), says she's tried to learn from the way Kuller mentored her. She remembers going in to talk to Kuller about doing clinical epidemiological research in rheumatology. She mentioned her interest in the fact that women with lupus seem to have myocardial infarctions at young ages.

"He lit up," she recalls. "What followed was a stream of critical questions. 'What is the relative risk of heart attacks? How much greater is the risk compared to women without lupus? Is it related to an excess of traditional risk factors, premature menopause, medications used to treat lupus, or is it related to the underlying inflammatory process?' He takes observations and transforms them into successful grant applications. You throw an idea at him and what comes back are 15 other ideas along with 10 steps to successful publication of the observation or how to study it further."

(In Manzi's case, that conversation with Kuller led to a seminal study showing a 50-fold increased risk of heart disease in women with lupus. As a result, the NIH has recognized heart disease in lupus as a critical problem with many more investigators studying the problem.)

"Another critical ingredient for a good mentor is directing you to the right people," adds Manzi. "And Lew is incredibly good at that. As soon as you called someone and said, 'Dr. Kuller suggested I contact you,' you'd get a warm reception

and whatever you needed. Having Lew's name attached to anything was like having the red carpet laid out for you."

"He has his finger on the pulse of research on a national level that makes it a tremendous opportunity to bounce ideas off of him," says Anne Newman, MD, associate professor of medicine and epidemiology



Nathan Hershey, LLB, professor of health law (left), Monto Ho, MD, emeritus professor of infectious diseases and microbiology (center), and Dean Goldstein gathered with other colleagues and friends to honor Kuller at the Festschrift dinner in March. For more photos from the dinner, see the following pages.

at Pitt and co-investigator at the Center for Healthy Aging. "He not only gives you his opinion, but he knows what's going on in the research world—whatever it is, he seems to have the connection. I think a major reason for my own success has been the opportunity to get his opinion, which I do often, and value very much.

"The most amazing thing is his intense involvement in science at the level of being the primary author of important papers throughout his career," Newman says. "He loves so much to look at data. He's always sort of tooting around the hall, saying, 'Look at this. Look what we found.' He loves this stuff more than anybody. I don't think there's anybody like him for that reason. That intensity—it's so far beyond what you'll see in anybody probably past the tenure level. He doesn't quit."

And, as in the Albuquerque airport, he never loses sight of his goal. After 30 years, he's stepped down as chair of epidemiology to concentrate on his

own research, including a 30-year follow-up of the MRFIT study, and to lead GSPH's Center for Healthy Aging.

"I see the center as the translation of all of our research and application to the community," says Kuller. "Most of our healthcare dollars in the elderly are focused on end-stage disease. In Allegheny County, with its growing elderly

population, if we don't develop a rational plan for prevention in the elderly, we're going to bankrupt the whole community.

"We've done all this research to show we can control hypertension, we can control stroke, congestive heart failure, coronary heart disease, osteoporosis, depression, diabetes," he continues. "We spend a fortune taking care of people with congestive heart disease, coronary heart disease, stroke. We're not going to prevent every stroke. We're not going to make people live forever. But it's ridiculous how much money we spend on preventable disease."

In late March, nearly 240 colleagues, former students, family, and friends traveled from all over the country to celebrate Kuller's remarkable career. The Festschrift began with a Friday evening dinner and "roast," hosted by Thomas P. Detre, MD, University of Pittsburgh Distinguished Service Professor of Health Sciences. A full day of scientific sessions were offered on Saturday with prominent speakers presenting papers in the six areas—cardiovascular epidemiology, cancer, aging, cardiovascular disease prediction, women's health, and inflammation—to which Kuller has made significant contributions. In addition, nine former students, representing the long reach of Kuller's legacy, spoke on their current research efforts.

A black-tie party at The Andy Warhol Museum on Saturday evening raised \$97,000 for the Lewis H. Kuller Scholarship Fund, established to attract and support GSPH epidemiology students. In addition to numerous donations from alumni and friends, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation made a generous \$25,000 gift, and support was also received from the Merck Company Foundation. Sponsors for the Festschrift



included the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, the faculty of the Department of Epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences, Eli Lilly and Co., Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC, and the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing.

Several participants reported that the Festschrift was one of the few occasions they'd ever seen Kuller speechless. He did recover in time for one of the most touching moments of the weekend—the presentation to Kuller of a University of Pittsburgh chair, occupied by a six-week old boxer puppy. Kuller promptly named the puppy Eppi.

“A real legacy is his early involvement in pointing out the need to study things specifically in women. When he started in research, it was acceptable to say, ‘Men and women are different. Don't study women; it will just be confusing.’ He's also one of the first chairmen to promote the careers of women and be supportive of them if they've chosen to have families.”

—Anne Newman, MD, MPH  
Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology  
University of Pittsburgh



“He is a world-class epidemiologist and champion of women's health issues. There is no topic too controversial for Dr. Kuller to address. He personifies the very best of what public health is all about.”

—Evelyn Talbott, DrPH  
Professor of Epidemiology  
Professor of Communication  
Science and Disorders  
Graduate School of Public Health  
University of Pittsburgh

“Every year, Lew and Alice would open up their house for an evening dinner for all the graduate students, faculty, and staff in epidemiology at GSPH. One year there was a party in honor of Dr. Nemat Borhani. I found myself standing next to Lew and Nemat when Nemat challenged Lew: ‘Of all the things you do, what do you consider to be the most important?’ Lew—taken by surprise by the question, I think—replied honestly: ‘Teach.’”

—Gale Rutan, MD, MPH  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Staff Physician, Indiana University School of Medicine  
Indianapolis VA Medical Center



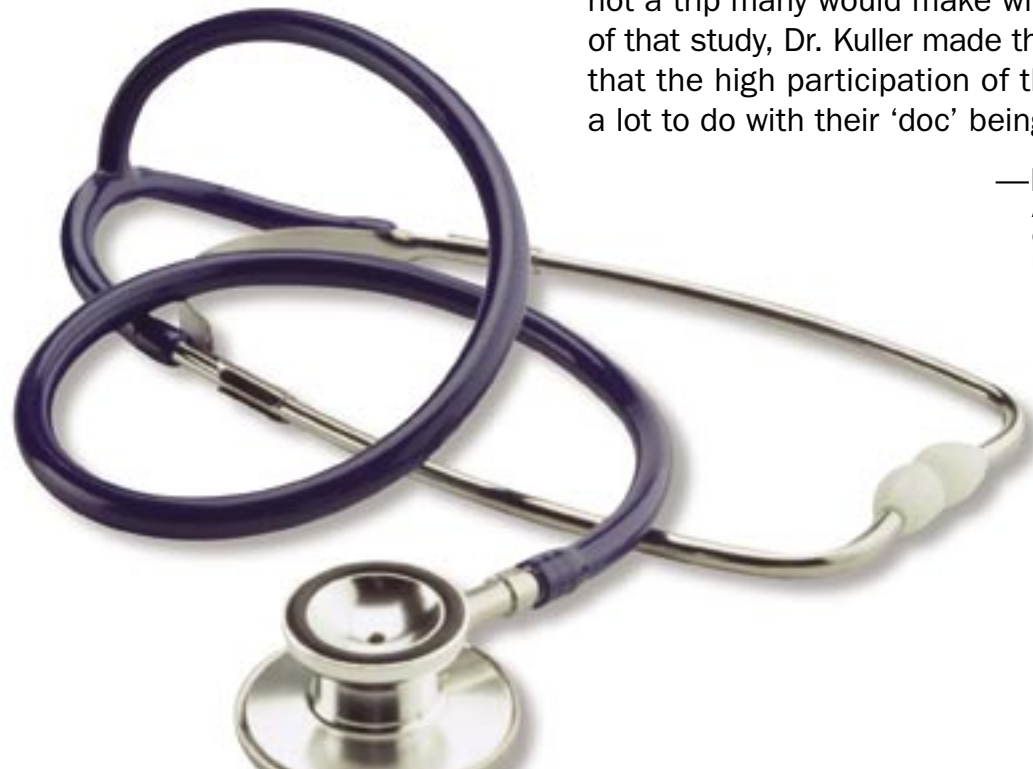
“ I met Dr. Kuller when I interviewed for a faculty position. My interview was quite unique. It was an hour of ideas that he had on psychosocial factors and risk for cardiovascular disease (my area). He was creative, fun, energetic, and brilliant. I had to nap afterwards to recover from the intensity of the discussion. Dr. Kuller is a generous mentor and teacher, as well as a world-class scientist. ”

—Karen Matthews, PhD  
 Professor of Psychiatry,  
 Epidemiology/Psychology  
 Western Psychiatric Institute  
 and Clinic  
 UPMC



“ He was not only the principal investigator for the first large clinical trial I worked on; he also served as the physician for a research clinic in the Mon Valley. That was during the 1970s, when the road to the Mon Valley was not only twisting and full of potholes, but also went past the steel mills as they belched out horrible-smelling yellow smoke—not a trip many would make willingly. Over the six years of that study, Dr. Kuller made that trip weekly. I’m convinced that the high participation of the men in that study had a lot to do with their ‘doc’ being there for them. ”

—Elaine Meilahn, MPH, DrPH  
 Assistant Professor of Epidemiology  
 Graduate School of Public Health  
 University of Pittsburgh



The culmination of the Festschrift celebration was a fundraiser cocktail party that raised \$97,000 for the Lewis H. Kuller Scholarship Fund and drew colleagues, former students, family, and friends to The Andy Warhol Museum on Pittsburgh’s North Side.



We welcome your contributions to the Lewis H. Kuller Scholarship Fund, which provides financial support to qualifying first-year students accepted into either a master’s or doctoral program in the GSPH Department of Epidemiology.

To make a contribution, please contact:  
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 Graduate School of Public Health  
 Karen Crenshaw  
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 Pittsburgh, PA 15261  
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# Aging Gracefully

The Public Health and Aging Certificate Program is no new kid on the block. Housed in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences (BCHS), the program has, since the mid-1980s, quietly gone about the work of understanding and communicating the needs and issues of older adults from a public health perspective. It has few counterparts. While many schools offer classes in public health and aging, few have developed programs with such breadth. The program addresses the topic from multiple vantage points—culture, epidemiology, biology, finance, and administration.

BCHS Professor Myrna Silverman, PhD, is director of the Public Health and Aging Certificate Program. A cultural anthropologist by training, she is the longtime force behind the program.

It was serendipity, Silverman says, that brought her to GSPH in the early 1980s. Hired as a research associate to design and conduct qualitative research studies, she found that she enjoyed public health as a field. She began to see ways that her new interest could dovetail with an already established interest in the older population.

(For her 1976 dissertation in anthropology, she had looked at family histories and interviewed older adults in Allegheny County, studying the dynamics of ethnicity, kinship, and family solidarity.)

As it turned out, Silverman was in the right place at the right time. There were already a few course offerings at GSPH in long-term care that trained professionals for licensure to work in nursing homes as well as research on the medical direction of nursing homes. But aging research was becoming a hot topic. The National Institute on Aging (NIA) had been established as recently as 1974.

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging was becoming extremely active, putting out many requests for applications (RFAs). Locally, the Heinz Endowments and the Pittsburgh Foundation were among those interested in aging initiatives.

“There was an environment encouraging people to be interested in doing research in aging,” says Silverman. “My research focus turned to issues in aging and health, long-term care, statewide aging services, and local community services that are offered to older adults.”

Silverman began to learn how little conversation there’d been historically between the practitioners of public health and the practitioners of aging services.

More and more, Silverman defined her work as a linking of the two areas—both in her own research as well as through the development of course offerings. With the support of Edmund M. Ricci, PhD, chair of BCHS (then health services administration) and professor of sociology in public health, Silverman developed a package of four courses.

“Then we looked around our school to see what else there was,” she says. “Epi[demology] had a course. There was a biology of aging course over in the medical school. Our counterparts at the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences were interested in long-term care. And I was training and information core director at the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, so I involved them.”

“We are a multi-university and a multidiscipline program. Most other schools of public health have not been as progressive and as receptive as ours to the development of a program.”  
—Myrna Silverman

The 15-credit certificate program has been offered successfully for the past 13 years. Recently, representatives from different areas within the University, including the health sciences, social work, law, and public health, have been meeting to develop a University certificate in aging that would provide a broader, but complementary, opportunity for students interested in the field. “We were finding there are a lot more people looking for courses in aging and long-term care, because that’s where future employment would be,” says Silverman.

The interplay between research and course work has given the program considerable power and depth. Silverman’s colleagues, each of whom directs research in the area of aging, include Judith R. Lave, PhD, chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management and professor of health economics; Jane A. Cauley, DrPH, professor of epidemiology; Marcie C. Nightingale, PhD, adjunct assistant professor of behavioral and community health sciences; and Valerie J. Watzlaf, PhD, associate professor of health information management at the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. In addition, Silverman’s research partner, Donald Musa, senior research associate at Pitt’s University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR), often teaches in the program as a guest lecturer.

“Course content is tied in with all of the research we’ve been doing,” says Silverman,



Professor Myrna Silverman, PhD, says it was serendipity that brought her to GSPH in the early 1980s. Silverman is director of the Public Health and Aging Certificate Program.

In the course of conducting the geriatric assessment project, Silverman and her colleagues were able to attract a large number of African American older adults to their research. That, in turn, led to a major initiative looking at the health-care responses and behaviors in older African American and White adults with chronic illness. That project, now in its second phase, has had almost continuous funding from the NIA for the past nine years. In addition, there are research collaborations with UPMC’s Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center; with nonprofit agencies such as the Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership for Aging and the Community/University Partnership for Successful Aging; with other universities, including Carnegie Mellon and Case Western Reserve; and with other centers within the University including UCSUR.

Silverman is proud of the program. “We are a multi-university and a multi-discipline program,” she says. “Most other schools of public health have not been as progressive and as receptive as ours to the development of a program.”

Silverman should know. She sits on a task force for public health gerontology at the American Public Health Association. She’s in a good position to recognize that what she’s built is an aging program that’s ahead of its time.

## GSPH a National Hub of Environmental Activity

As part of an open, participatory process by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to shape a national agenda on the environment and the aging, a public listening session was held in Pittsburgh on April 23, 2003. Cosponsored by the Graduate School of Public Health and the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging, the meeting was the fourth of six held in cities around the country, including Tampa, Fla.; San Antonio, Texas; Iowa City, Iowa; Los Angeles, Calif.; and Baltimore, Md. Comments from spirited participants ranged from concern about poor air quality and the effects of small-particulate pollution and ground-level ozone to issues of mining subsidence, safe housing, and indoor air quality. Many of the speakers made heated comments about the weakening of clean air regulations and the so-called “senior death discount,” an age-adjusted formula proposed by the Office of Management and Budget that would value the life of each person older than 70 at 63 percent of a younger person’s life. Members of the listening panel at the Pittsburgh event included Graduate School of Public Health Dean Bernard D. Goldstein; Mildred E. Morrison, administrator, Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging; Donald Welsh, regional administrator, EPA Region III; James Roddey, Allegheny County chief executive; William Johnston-Walsh, deputy secretary of aging, Pennsylvania Department of Aging; Holly Cairns, southwest region environmental advocate for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; Helen Burns, deputy secretary for health planning and assessment, Department of Health, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and Bruce Dixon, administrator, Allegheny County Health Department.



The EPA listening session marked GSPH’s third national meeting with an environmental focus in less than a year, reflecting the school’s growing stature and influence in that arena. In September 2002, the school was host to the Association of Schools of Public Health’s third annual Environmental Health Conference. The two-day conference, Responding to a New Environment, looked at the public health role in disaster preparedness and emergency management and included many speakers from the GSPH faculty. In addition, a day of preconference workshops examined bioterrorism and the skills and training needed in the public health workforce to deal with an attack. Samuel J. Watson, AB, MA, GSPH associate professor of public health practice and senior biodefense advisor to the Center for Public Health Preparedness, planned the preconference sessions.

Ensuring Environmental Health in Post-Industrial Cities was the title of a March 19, 2003, workshop cosponsored by the Institute of Medicine Environmental Health Sciences, Research and Medicine Roundtable (EHSRT), GSPH, and Carnegie Mellon University. GSPH’s Dean Goldstein is a roundtable member. The workshop brought together public health researchers, environmental



At a public listening session on April 23, 2003, members of the community, including some GSPH faculty members, aired concerns about the environment and the aging to a board of eight public officials, including representatives from the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging, the EPA, and the Pennsylvania Department of Aging.

scientists, healthcare providers, educators, business leaders, architects, urban planners, engineers, social scientists, and clergy to examine the health implications of the environment in postindustrial cities. Sessions addressed the challenges, such as the conversion of brownfields into usable spaces, aging infrastructure including sewers and storm water containments, the construction of green buildings, and the impact of the environment on physical activity levels.

“Pittsburgh has a great story to tell about cleaning up its environment—and many challenges that remain. We epitomize the problems faced now and in the future by postindustrial cities,” notes Goldstein. “The Graduate School of Public Health has been working with colleagues in the environmental, academic, smart growth, and public health communities to bring national and international meetings to Pittsburgh of those experts who both can learn from our activities and can help us meet the challenges we face. A major goal of these efforts has been to bring together the broad range of organizations and citizen groups that must work together to achieve success.”

## Adjunct Professor Tim Murphy Off to a Quick Start in U.S. Congress

First-term U.S. Congressman Tim Murphy, PhD, speaks with a low but passionate voice when he talks about education and public health issues. A staunch Republican who represents Pennsylvania’s 18th district, he points out that he is the only child psychologist in Congress. In fact, the professional perspective he thought he could bring is one of the reasons why Murphy decided to get into politics. The fire to hold public office, he says, had been burning for years.

“I remember even as a little kid watching the national conventions on TV with my parents, listening to the comments, and being fascinated with the whole process. And then I’ve been very interested my entire life in history and civics,” he says. “I tied those interests together in my work as a psychologist by working as an advocate for families and for health care. I remember many times going to talk to elected officials and realizing that they were well intended, well meaning, but many times didn’t understand.”

When an opening came up for a seat in the Pennsylvania state senate, Murphy recalls thinking, “This is the time.” Elected in 1997, Murphy didn’t waste any time getting into the thick of things. A mere 16 months into his first term, he was able to build consensus among divergent interests to pass Pennsylvania’s Patient Bill of Rights, a groundbreaking piece of legislation that returned healthcare decisions to providers and patients. It was one of Murphy’s proudest moments. As a state senator, he also chaired the Aging and Youth Committee and was vice chair of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare.

But the opportunity to serve in the U.S. Congress was one he couldn’t pass up.

“I thought it would be nice to have a broader reach on some of the issues I wanted to continue to work on—health care and insurance, early childhood education, special education, and issues affecting families,” he says.

Murphy is pleased with his initial congressional assignments. He is cochair of the Congressional Mental Health Caucus and serves on the government reform, financial services, and veterans’ affairs committees. He was also elected vice president of the 108th House Majority Freshman Class.

Murphy has put his expertise as a child psychologist to use both behind the scenes and on the floor of Congress in the passage of the recent Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Child Medication Safety Act, and as an original cosponsor of the Head Start reauthorization bill.

“Head Start is very much a public health concern,” says Murphy, who holds a PhD from Pitt in psychology and is an adjunct associate professor in GSPH’s behavioral and community health sciences department as well as the School of Medicine’s pediatrics department. “It is not just early childhood education. It’s child health. It’s child physical well-being. You’re establishing a number of things for these kids—such as seeing a doctor or screening them for developmental problems. This is a time that’s *critical* for brain development.

“The synapses, the neuronal development those first three years of life is critical. Those links don’t come back. What we find is that children who have good vocabulary development early on in their lives continue much better. Those who do not continue to be behind their peers forever.”



Tim Murphy

The excitement of being a member of the U.S. Congress has yet—if ever—to wear off. Murphy recalls his sense of awe sitting in the second row of the House chamber as President George W. Bush delivered this year’s “State of the Union” address.

“I turned toward the distinguished gentleman from eastern Pennsylvania and said, ‘I can’t believe I’m here.’” In response, Representative Todd Platts told him, “I say it every time.”

One late spring night, between votes on a bill that went well into wee hours, Murphy wandered into a deserted Capitol Rotunda.

“I just sat there awhile, looked around,” he says. “Think of the echoes that are in these halls. This is where Abraham Lincoln laid in state. This is where John Quincy Adams walked. That gives a real sense of humility. When you think of the men and women who have been in government and what they’ve done, it makes you humble real quick. But it also inspires you to get back up and go to work.”

## MHA Students Plant Seeds for Careers in Public Health

The thank-you letters April Taylor received following her visit to a Pittsburgh middle school to talk about careers were confident, warm, and generous. "I hope your dreams come true," wrote one student, referring to Taylor's wish as a youngster to be a singer. Another boasted, "When I become all famous and everything playing football you can have line seats. Another thing that you can have is one of my new cars I invent. You can have the first one." One note—short and sweet—was from a boy with a deep interest in sports who'd never heard the term sports medicine before: "Thanks for helping me choose my career. Sincerely, Jamar in Sports Medicine."

Taylor, along with Department of Health Policy & Management Assistant Professor Wesley M. Rohrer III, PhD, and fellow master of health administration (MHA) students Michael Walsh, Sameer Kokan, and Audra Reeves, spent a morning last semester at Schiller Classical Academy, a Pittsburgh middle school. The opportunity came about through a program sponsored by UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh's Partners in Education Consortium (PIEC), directed by GSPH alumnus Edgar Duncan (PhD, MSHyg '56) (PIEC and UPMC collaborate in a number of areas to interest school children in careers in the health sciences.) Rohrer planned a two-part program that introduced the eighth graders to the public health profession and then broke them into smaller groups for round-table sessions with the MHA students.

A career, Rohrer knew from helping his own three daughters navigate middle school, can seem an eternity away for an eighth-grader. His primary point, he says, was to acquaint students with alternatives to the more visible roles



of doctor and nurse. He talked to them about the kinds of problems that public health professionals might address, referring to epidemiologists as disease detectives. "I tried to make it not too ponderous," he says. "I tried to show we understood they had a lot of other priorities right now."

Walsh, in his breakout session with the students, explored how helpful a volunteer experience can be.

"I told them that it's just as important to discern things that you don't like to do as it is things that you like," recalls Walsh, who intends to work in hospital administration when he completes his MHA next spring. "If you were to volunteer at a hospital for the summer and decide that it's the worst experience you've ever had, it's still good because you found out that it's not a way that you wanted to go."

Taylor, who hopes to use her health administration degree to work on improving the healthcare system, was surprised by the degree of interest the students showed.

"A lot of them had never heard of public health before. They wanted to know how much math and science is required and how it's different from being a doctor. We talked about how you plan for your future and who are the people you can talk to—friends and family and counselors."

When the thank-yous arrived, Taylor was pleased to see that the students had thought a little more about their futures—and that a personal connection had been made.

"Some of the kids said, 'Hold onto your dreams,' and, 'You can still sing if you want to.' I don't know," she laughs. "We'll see how that career goes."

## Profile

### Teresa Beigay

As a graduate student in public affairs in the mid-1980s, Teresa Beigay, now finishing up her GSPH doctorate in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, had the opportunity to spend a summer at Cambridge University studying how the English care for their elderly. It was an eye-opening experience—one that drove home a gap that she had noticed here at home.

"They have so many options," she says of the English elderly population. "Whatever the level of function, there was a place for people."

Not so, she says, in the United States.

"In our society, if you're totally healthy, there's not a problem," she says. "And if you're very ill, there's not a problem. But there aren't a lot of services that are appropriate for people in the middle that are not medically oriented. So I'm particularly interested in services for the aging that deal with that middle-function group."

Which meant that for Beigay, the Community Initiatives Evaluation Project was a great match.

The Community Initiatives Evaluation Project, which will serve as the vehicle for Beigay's dissertation, is a GSPH research project directed by Wesley M. Rohrer III, PhD, assistant professor of health policy and management and associate director of health administration programs. The project is evaluating an on-site health service provision in subsidized housing for the elderly, taking place in conjunction with UPMC's Department of Community Initiatives and UPMC Braddock.

"It's an innovative program," says Beigay. A nurse, funded by UPMC Braddock, provides services such as blood pressure and glucose monitoring for residents at two senior high-rises, referring the residents to their primary care physicians as necessary.



Doctoral student Teresa Beigay says her GSPH education has given her a "broad perspective."

she says, she often drove up Oakland Avenue to bring organs for waiting recipients at UPMC. Many times, as the GSPH building came into sight with its distinctive Cantini sculpture, she would say to herself, "I'm going to go to school there some day."

"And here I am," she says.

But not for long. Beigay's sights are set on a December 2003 wrap-up for her dissertation.

"The academic experience at GSPH has been great," she says. "It's given me a broad perspective. Then having the opportunity to work on a real-world project like I am really cements what you learn in the classroom. I can't recommend GSPH highly enough."

"It's a stop for people to make in their own building," Beigay says. "A lot of this population have chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension, so the nurse provides education both formally and informally. The residents get to know her. The fact that the same person is there all the time is a really positive thing."

The project, which is collecting both quantitative and qualitative data, has a two-by-two matched pairs design with two sites that have the on-site medical care and two that do not. Quantitative data will include pre- and postintervention measurements of variables such as blood pressure and blood sugar as well as the number of educational interventions a subject has attended. For qualitative data, Beigay will conduct individual interviews to gather residents' perceptions: "We want to illustrate how the community plays a role in the residents' world as well as in their health-seeking behavior. We'll deal with their perceptions of the community and their quality of life, their subjective health, and their description and rationale for their health-seeking behavior. We want to see if having medical care on site improves the health of the residents, both clinically and subjectively. Does it make a difference?"

Beigay brings professional experience to the research. Beginning her career with a 14-year stint as an occupational therapist in an acute-care hospital, she's also developed fundraising and management skills as a field manager for the American Heart Association, policy experience with the federal Health Resources and Services Administration, and an understanding of the human side of the field as a transplant coordinator. In her work as an organ procurement coordinator,

# Spotlight

## Graduation 2003

On April 26 and 27, 2003, GSPH celebrated both its alumni and its students at the annual Alumni Dinner and 53rd Convocation ceremonies. Graduates, families, and friends gathered at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association on Saturday the 26th for cocktails, dinner, and the presentation of student and alumni awards. The next afternoon, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Hall on Pittsburgh's South Side played host to the graduates and their families for convocation. Speaker Mary E. Northridge, PhD, MPH, spoke on "Partnering to Advance Public Health: Making a Difference through Government, Community, Business, and Academic Vocations." Northridge is associate professor of sociomedical sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, and editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Public Health*. She dedicated the August 2003 issue of the journal "to the 2003 graduating class of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, and by extension to all who devote themselves to improving the health and lives of people throughout the world."

"In the graduating class of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health," she writes, "I see the hope and the future of the public health profession... No matter where you serve, remember that you can be a public health advocate, and work toward realizing a collective future of freedom from suffering, pain, and oppression, with health and health care for all." Northridge's editorial can be viewed in its entirety at [www.publichealth.pitt.edu/news/northridge.htm](http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/news/northridge.htm).

### Student Awards

#### Outstanding Student Awards

Neyal J. Ammary, MPH  
Michael N. Cantwell, MPH  
Amit Duggal, MPH  
Robin E. Grubs, PhD  
Wei Li, PhD  
Raynah Marie Lobo, MS  
Tomoko Nukui, PhD  
Audra Argia Reeves, MHA  
Surojit Sarkar, PhD  
Rachel P. Wildman, PhD  
Catherine E. Wright, MPH  
Fan Zhou, MPH

#### Catherine Cartier-Ulrich Award

Vanessa Papalazaros, MPH

#### Dean's Service Award

Melissa B. Halgas, MHA  
Rosemarie G. Ramos, MPH, PhD

### Alumni Awards

#### Dean's Distinguished Public Health Service Award

Karen S. Peterson, MPH '70

#### Distinguished Alumni Awards

Galen E. Cole, MPH '87  
James M. Klingensmith, MPH '77, ScD '87  
Patricia W. Potrzebowski, PhD '74

#### Margaret F. Gloninger Award

Kimberlee Evert, MPH '88

#### Women's Health Scholar Award

Catherine Haggerty, PhD '01

### Delta Omega

#### Master's Thesis/Essay Awards

Kathleen Hulton, MPH  
Mary Patricia McKay, MPH  
Audra Reeves, MHA  
Carena Winters-Hart, MPH  
Zhiying Xu, PhD

#### Doctoral Dissertation Awards

Qi Chen, PhD  
Larry Harshyne, PhD  
Cristina Hofer, PhD  
Lucas Musewe, DrPH  
Zdenek Valenta, PhD



### 2003 Student Initiates

Michael N. Cantwell, MPH  
Joanne E. Edwards, MPH  
Rana Ezzeddine, DrPH  
Laura N. Fisch, MPH  
Deborah Friedman, PhD  
Larry Harshyne, PhD  
Cristina Hofer, PhD  
Raynah Lobo, MS  
Tierlo Modie-Moroka, PhD  
Keith C. Palm, MHPE  
Audra A. Reeves, MHA  
Sharon Riddler, MPH

### 2003 Alumni Initiates

Mary Louise Bost, DrPH '94  
Barry L. Farkas, MPH '00  
Craig S. Fryer, MPH '97  
Rose Hammond, DrPH '00  
Faina Linkov, MPH '01  
Lucas Musewe, DrPH '02  
Paul M. Winkler, MPH '81

### 2003 Faculty Initiate

Daniel Weeks, PhD



Top: Students participate in the 53rd GSPH Convocation ceremony. Bottom: Alumni Society President Michael D. Shankle got the ball rolling at the Alumni Dinner with an entertaining opening presentation chronicling his years as president.



Top and bottom: Alumni, students, and friends had the opportunity to mingle and share memories of GSPH at the Alumni Dinner April 26.

## Dean's Day 2003

Forty-four students participated in Dean's Day 2003 on March 17 at GSPH. This year's celebration of student research included two poster sessions, oral presentations, and a reception, followed by an awards ceremony during which nine students were honored for their work.

Dean's Day was instituted in 1999 by then-Interim Dean Herbert Rosenkranz to recognize the role of GSPH students in contributing to the school's reputation for innovative research.

### 2003 Dean's Day Award Winners

#### Doctoral Students

- 1st prize: William Pewen—IDM
- 2nd prize: Anna Noller—IDM
- 3rd prize: Mazen Zenati—Epidemiology

#### Master's Degree Students

- 1st prize: Neyal Ammary—BCHS
- 2nd prize: Caterina Rosano—Epidemiology
- 3rd prize: Chad Rittle—EOH

#### Keleti Prize for Excellence in Environmental Health

Allison Robinson—EOH

#### Rosenkranz Award

*Awarded to the presentation with the greatest public health relevance*  
Benjamin Nti—IDM

#### Delta Omega Poster Award

Ami Patel—Epidemiology



Award winners Ami Patel (top left, center), Benjamin Nti (bottom left, right), Allison Robinson (top right, center), and Anna Noller (bottom right, left) discuss their presentations with Dean's Day attendees.

## William D. Novelli, Executive Director and CEO of AARP, Awarded 2003 Porter Prize

William D. Novelli, executive director and CEO of AARP, delivered the 2003 Porter Prize Lecture on April 7, 2003, at the Graduate School of Public Health. Novelli's lecture was titled, "2011: A New Vision for a Healthy America."

As cofounder and president of Porter Novelli, an international marketing communications corporation, Novelli pioneered the concept of social marketing—using marketing techniques to change behavior for the common good. In 1990 he retired from Porter Novelli to pursue a second career in public service. He served as president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and as executive vice president of CARE, the world's largest private relief and development organization. In 2000, he joined AARP, the 35-million member group devoted to people age 50 and older, as associate executive director of public affairs. The following year, he was named executive director. He took over the helm at a critical moment in AARP's history as the membership population changed—more and more baby boomers were reaching membership age, and half of the organization's members were working rather than retired.

In his talk, Novelli addressed the opportunities and challenges brought about by the aging of our population. The year 2011 is when the first members of the baby-boomer generation will turn 65. He noted that America must change substantially from a healthcare delivery system with an acute-care focus to one of preventive care.



AARP Executive Director and CEO William D. Novelli (center) received the 2003 Porter Prize on April 7, 2003. Pictured with Novelli are GSPH Dean Bernard D. Goldstein (left) and Lee B. Foster, nephew of the late Milton Porter and trustee of the Adrienne & Milton Porter Charitable Foundation, which supports the annual award and lecture.

"There must be a national sense of urgency. We're only eight years—or four U.S. Congressional election cycles—from 2011."

Novelli also pointed out that 80 percent of Americans 65 or older have no limitations on their daily activities.

"We should be looking at the majority as capable of contributing to society, as those who want to volunteer their knowledge and experience and skills," he said. "In other words, we should strive for our aging society not only to be healthy, but to age with dignity and purpose."

Novelli donated his \$10,000 prize money to the Allegheny Trail Alliance, a coalition of regional rails-to-trails organizations. The Porter Prize was established in 1983 through a gift from the Adrienne and Milton Porter Charitable Foundation to recognize "outstanding and exemplary performance in the field of health promotion." Since 1999, the Porter Prize has been administered by GSPH and reflects the school's mission to promote health and prevent disease in individuals and their communities.

**Development Director Message  
—Karen Crenshaw**

Your contributions to the Graduate School of Public Health make a difference. Thanks to the generous support of alumni and friends, there are now critical dollars for student scholarships, lecture series and public health outreach, increased student and faculty awards, and the growth of the school's centers and other initiatives. More than \$168,000 was contributed to the GSPH Annual Fund in fiscal year 2003—an increase of 32 percent over last year! Foundations and corporations also play a significant role in supporting GSPH programs and research.

We are pleased to publish the annual GSPH "Honor Roll of Donors" in this issue. If you are a current contributor—thank you! If you wish to add your name to the GSPH Honor Roll, please contact me at 412-624-5639 or via e-mail at crenshaw@pitt.edu.

**Dean and Alumni Establish  
GSPH Scholarship Fund**

Although many things have changed at GSPH since 1948, the need for student scholarship support has remained constant. The GSPH Scholarship Endowment: Campaign for the Next 5,000 has been established to provide financial support to deserving students at both the master's and doctoral levels. The fund name commemorates the graduation of the 5,000th student in 2002, and it will help us meet the needs of future students by building an endowment. GSPH Alumni Society Immediate Past President Michael D. Shankle ('96) has agreed to chair this effort, in conjunction with Lois G. Michaels ('63) and other concerned alumni. Won't you join them in giving back to GSPH by making a pledge or contribution to the Campaign for the Next 5,000?



Clareann Bunker, adjunct faculty member Alan Patrick of Tobago, Barrett Eby, and Dean Goldstein met in June to thank Eby for his company's contribution of 9,600 lycopene capsules to a study of prostate cancer in Tobago.

Gift giving can be as simple as calling in a donation with a credit card, writing a check, or sending an e-mail. You can make a pledge over multiple years or consider a gift of stocks or other securities. Please take a moment and consider making one of the best investments possible—an investment in our students and in the future of GSPH.

**Gift of Supplement Capsules  
Benefits Prostate Cancer Study**

Barrett Eby, president of Pittsburgh-based Healthy Origins, has joined Clareann Bunker, PhD, associate professor of epidemiology, and her colleagues in the fight against prostate cancer through the donation of 9,600 lycopene supplement capsules needed for a prostate cancer study on the Caribbean island of Tobago.

The prevalence and incidence of prostate cancer in Tobago are the highest reported in the world.

"Our underlying promise to the men of Tobago, and their families, is to try find a way to prevent or slow the progression of prostate cancer," Bunker said.

There is some evidence that lycopene, a vitamin-like substance responsible for the red color in tomatoes, may reduce the risk of prostate cancer or slow its progression. Last September, the National Cancer Institute funded a pilot trial of the supplement in Tobago men with biopsy-detected lesions that may have a high risk of progressing to prostate cancer.

"This [donation] is an enormous boost for our research because the funding for this pilot study is slim," Bunker said.

Work on the study began in June of this year. If this trial suggests that lycopene lowers the risk, Bunker hopes to do a population-wide trial of the supplement.



Above: Mary Ganguli delivers the third lecture in the Jay L. Foster Memorial Lecture Series in Alzheimer's Disease.

**Foster Lecture**

At a lecture on May 15, 2003, Mary Ganguli, MD, MPH, boiled the complex subject of Alzheimer's disease down to the basics for an audience of family members and caregivers with her presentation of "Alzheimer's Disease in the Community" as part of the Jay L. Foster Memorial Lecture Series in Alzheimer's Disease.



Ganguli's down-to-earth, and sometimes amusing, manner had the crowd peppering her with questions afterward about situations pertaining to their loved ones. Ganguli, professor of epidemiology and psychiatry at Pitt and director of psychiatric services at the UPMC Benedum Geriatrics Center, spoke to a community audience at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Hall on Pittsburgh's South Side early in the afternoon. She later spoke to a group of her peers in medicine and academia at GSPH about her research on this devastating disease.

The family of the late Jay L. Foster established this memorial lecture series to educate family members, caregivers, and others faced with the daily struggle of dealing with Alzheimer's disease. These bi-annual lectures bring experts in the field to Pittsburgh to share their knowledge with our community. The next Foster Lecture will be presented on November 13, 2003, by Mary Sano, PhD, director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and professor of psychiatry at Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Below: After her lecture, Ganguli fields individual questions from audience members about their loved ones' struggles with Alzheimer's.

**Karen Peterson Receives  
Second Annual Craig Award**

The Dr. James L. Craig Endowed Excellence in Education Award was presented at GSPH convocation in April. This year's recipient was Karen Peterson, MPH, assistant professor, coordinator of the MPH and DrPH programs, and associate chair of educational programs in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences. Peterson also holds a secondary appointment in the University of Pittsburgh Women's Studies Program.



Karen Peterson accepts the Craig Award at GSPH Convocation on April 27.

James Craig (MPH '63), a distinguished alumnus of GSPH, and his wife, Roberta, established the Craig Award through a generous endowment of \$50,000. The award is presented annually to recognize teaching excellence at the school and is presented to a faculty member nominated by GSPH students and alumni and approved by a committee of faculty and students.

# Roundup

Check Out the Latest GSPH News

**Mike Rick** has joined GSPH's staff as the director of external affairs. In this new position he will coordinate the school's outreach efforts to prospective students, alumni, and the public. With previous experience in both college admissions and public relations, Rick will also focus a portion of his time on student recruitment issues. Rick most recently served as manager of media relations for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in Rockville, Md.

April 25, 2003, marked the 50th anniversary of the publication of Watson and Crick's landmark paper on the structure of DNA. To celebrate, GSPH sponsored a **DNA Day** symposium and poster session titled "The Impact of DNA on Public Health." The symposium was kicked off by Susanne Gollin's reading of Watson and Crick's paper, "Molecular Structure of Nucleic Acids: A Structure for Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid," originally published in the April 25, 1953, edition of *Nature*. Gollin's reading was followed by a series of talks presented by GSPH faculty members on the impact of the discovery of DNA on the various public health disciplines. The day ended with a reception and poster session featuring the research of GSPH students and post-doctoral fellows illustrating the impact of DNA on public health.



## Department of Biostatistics

Pennsylvania Partners awarded **Regina Logan** the 2003 Governor's Achievement Award for outstanding performance in job training at its 19th annual conference in King of Prussia, Pa. Pennsylvania Partners is a statewide association that promotes, enhances, and serves the interests of local workforce development partnerships in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Logan holds an administrative support position in the Department of Biostatistics.

## Department of Epidemiology

**Roberta Ness, MD, MPH**, has been named chair of the Department of Epidemiology. Ness is professor of epidemiology with secondary appointments in medicine and obstetrics and gynecology at the School of Medicine. She is director of the women's health program at GSPH, director of the cancer epidemiology program at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, and a member of the Magee-Womens Research Institute. She also served briefly as associate dean for research at GSPH before assuming her new position. She replaces former chair **Lewis Kuller, MD, DrPH**, who stepped down last year to head the Center for Healthy Aging.

**Jan Dorman, PhD**, has been named associate dean for research at GSPH. In this capacity she will nurture, build, and facilitate research at the school and work to increase multidisciplinary research and interactions among departments. In addition to her appointment as professor of epidemiology, Dorman has secondary appointments in the Department of Human Genetics at GSPH and in the Department of Pediatrics in the School of Medicine.



The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute awarded **Michelle Danielson, PhD**, **Deborah Aaron, PhD**, and **Nina Markovic, PhD**, from the School of Dental Medicine, a \$2.5 million grant to study risk factors for coronary heart disease (CHD) in lesbians. The three researchers, all members of the Center for Research on Health and Sexual Orientation, will focus on the physiological, behavioral, and psychosocial factors related to the development of CHD. The project is the first of its kind and will be conducted over a four-year period.

## Department of Environmental and Occupational Health

**Jay Harper, MD, MPH**, has been appointed to serve as a member of the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Smallpox Vaccination Program Implementation. The committee was established to advise the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and vaccine program managers on selected aspects of pre-event smallpox vaccination program implementation.

## Department of Health Policy & Management

**Judith Lave, PhD**, has been named chair of the Department of Health Policy & Management. Lave has been professor of health economics at GSPH since 1982 and served as vice chair of the Department of Health Services Administration until the department split in July 2002. She then served as interim chair of the new health policy and management department until being named chair in May 2003. Lave has secondary appointments as professor of economics, professor of business administration, and professor of psychiatry.

University Senate President James Cassing and Provost James Maher presented **Nathan Hershey, LLB**, an award "for outstanding contributions to the University of Pittsburgh through service in the University Senate" at the April 7, 2003, Senate Council meeting. Over the years, Hershey has served as both president and vice president of the University Senate, in addition to serving on various senate committees.

Faculty, staff, and students gathered on May 22, 2003, to celebrate the career of one of GSPH's most accomplished faculty at a retirement party for Professor Emeritus **Gordon MacLeod, MD**. MacLeod has been a Pitt faculty member since 1974. He is currently professor of health services administration at GSPH and clinical professor of medicine at the School of Medicine, and he is a former department chair of health services administration at GSPH. In 1979, MacLeod was appointed Secretary of Health for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where he organized a massive immunization campaign to put an end to the polio outbreak among the Amish. He also managed the health aspects of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident.



Gordon MacLeod (right) celebrates his retirement with Dean Goldstein and Judith Lave at a retirement party held at GSPH on May 22.

MacLeod has served as the Semester at Sea academic dean (1999) and professor (2001), teaching the course Health and Illness: A Cross-Cultural Approach. MacLeod will continue to be active in the MMPH program at GSPH.

## Department of Human Genetics

**M. Ilyas Kamboh, PhD**, is principal investigator on a genetic study of heart disease in women with lupus. This five-year study, funded by a \$1.8 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, will examine how genetic variations modify the risk of coronary heart disease among women with lupus. The study will be conducted in collaboration with Susan Manzi, codirector of Pitt's Lupus Diagnostic and Treatment Center.

**Susanne Gollin, PhD**, received a grant for her project "Dissection and Characterization of the Mechanism of 11q13 Gene Amplification in Breast Cancer Cells." The grant is part of an award split between six Pennsylvania scientists for research centered on breast and cervical cancers. The awards were funded through donations to the state income tax's Breast and Cervical Cancer Research Fund and through personal donations to the fund through the Pennsylvania Department of Health.



## Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology

Investigators at the CDC proposed the name *Paracoccus yeeii* for a group of clinical isolates in honor of Professor Emeritus **Robert B. Yee**. The tribute is in recognition of Yee's contributions to the characterization of the ecology of *Legionella* species, which are the agents of Legionnaires' disease, and *Shigella* species, which are important agents of diarrhea. *Paracoccus yeeii* has been associated with peritonitis, wound infection, biliary tract obstruction, and otitis media. The naming of *Paracoccus yeeii* is a fitting honor to Yee, who is respected by the microbiology community for his research on pathogenic bacteria, his training of graduate students, and his passion for teaching.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has awarded **Douglas Perkins**, PhD, a \$1,962,237 grant for his study "Genetic Basis of Severe Malarial Anemia." This award is affiliated with Perkins' Fogarty Training Grant award for \$399,480 titled "Training and Research on Severe Malarial Anemia" for research being conducted in conjunction with Kenyattei University in Nairobi, Kenya.

**Phalguni Gupta**, PhD, will conduct preclinical studies to determine the toxicity and efficacy of UC781 on HIV transmission rates. This project is part of a National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases award of nearly \$8 million to Pitt and Magee-Womens Research Institute (MWRI) to fund

research aimed at developing a microbicide barrier to HIV. As part of the grant, several simultaneous projects will be conducted that involve UC781, a tight-binding molecule discovered by coprincipal investigator Michael Parniak of Pitt's Division of Infectious Diseases. Other investigators on the grant include principal investigator Sharon Hillier, School of Medicine; Lisa Rohan, School of Pharmacy; Harold Wiesenfeld, School of Medicine; Marijane Krohn, School of Medicine and assistant investigator at MWRI; Bernard Moncla, School of Dental Medicine; Charles Isaacs, New York Institute for Basic Research on Staten Island; and Dorothy Patton of the University of Washington in Seattle.

Gupta, along with **Yue Chen**, MD, PhD, received another grant from the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) to develop a novel *Clostridia perfringens*-based vaccine against Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV), which causes a disease similar to HIV in monkeys. The long-term goal is to extend this strategy to HIV for use in humans. The proposed vaccine strategy holds great promise for a practical vaccine against HIV/SIV due to its safety, affordability, and ease of administration.

**Linda Frank**, PhD, MSN, ACRN, was invited to a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on May 27, 2003, during which President Bush signed into law a \$15 billion plan to fight AIDS. The law will make AIDS treatment available to HIV-infected individuals in Africa and the Caribbean. Frank is principal investigator and project director of the Pennsylvania/MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center.



## Centers

The **Center for Rural Health Practice** has received a \$300,000 grant to study the rural health care workforce in Pennsylvania. This study will assess the impact of health professional shortages on rural communities, identify specific health professional shortages, and recommend alternative training programs aimed at filling identified service gaps. GSPH alumnus **Michael Meit** (MPH '94) is director of the center and principal investigator on the study.

At a luncheon held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center on May 21, 2003, the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh presented **Angela Ford**, associate director of the **Center for Minority Health**, with the 2003 A Tribute to Women Leadership Award for education. Ford was one of 10 women in the community honored at the ceremony. The awards, presented annually by the YWCA for the past 21 years, recognize the accomplishments of women in the Pittsburgh community in a variety of areas, including education, communications, health care, and government.

The **Center for Public Health Practice**, along with GSPH faculty, staff, and students, joined with the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) in planning the most well-attended and publicized Public Health Week yet to promote awareness of a healthy lifestyle and to celebrate the GSPH/ACHD community's contributions to public health. Project Coordinator **Molly Eggleston**, MPH, CHES, spearheaded the planning of this year's events. The week kicked off with a lecture on the benefits of physical activity, a self-defense class, and the 2003 Porter Prize lecture by William D. Novelli, director and CEO of AARP. Other highlights of the week were a film festival and "The State of Public Health in Allegheny County"

GSPH/ACHD joint press conference. Educational events included a healthy lifestyles and eating fair, a "One Day in the Life of an Urban Health Department" roundtable discussion, a Fred Friendly "Epidemic" seminar, and a health careers and information session. The Walking Health Bus ran for three days walking a 30-minute loop through campus and Schenley Park. More than 50 shopping bags of clothes were collected to benefit Bethlehem Haven, East End Cooperative, and Dress for Success as part of the event.

The **Center for Healthy Aging** added a third satellite office to its locations in Oakland and McKeesport at the end of May. The new office, located at the Asbury Heights long-term care community in Mt. Lebanon, Pa., will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It will act as a resource center for residents and work in conjunction with the Asbury Heights Wellness Program. Asbury Heights is operated by United Methodist Services for the Aging, headed by GSPH alumnus and executive-in-residence for the Department of Health Policy & Management, **John Zanardelli** (MPH '79).



Martial arts instructors demonstrate simple tactics for self-defense during Public Health Week.



The Walking Health Bus makes its rounds during Public Health Week.

The **Pennsylvania/MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center (PA/MA AETC)** has recently expanded to include Ohio along with Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. PA/MA AETC provides education and training on HIV disease to primary healthcare professionals in Region III of the U.S. Public Health Service. Under the direction of **Linda Frank**, PhD, MSN, ACRN, the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology leads the region's consortium and serves as center headquarters. During the past year, the PA/MA AETC has sponsored programs for the transgender community; a minority conference focusing on African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos, and Native Americans; and programs for case managers, Department of Corrections, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The PA/MA AETC is part of a national program funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, and the Ryan White Comprehensive Care Act.



# Profile

## Judith M. Davenport

“Never say you’re retiring,” Judith M. Davenport, MPH, DMD, warns with a laugh when asked about her many civic commitments. Davenport, who retired from her private downtown Pittsburgh dental practice in 2000, had just been named to the prestigious board of the Howard Heinz Endowment. She modestly adds that she serves on a few boards. But, indeed, the list is quite long—The Carnegie Museums, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh Public Theater, the Birmingham Foundation in Pittsburgh, and the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater Foundation in New York. Davenport is a member of the GSPH Board of Visitors. And last, but not least, she is chair of the board at Pittsburgh’s Carlow College. “That keeps me very, very busy,” she says. “It’s a great experience.”

Being busy is nothing new for Davenport. In 1972, with three children under the age of 9 and her husband, Ronald R. Davenport, serving as dean of Duquesne University’s law school, she enrolled at GSPH in the maternal and child health program. For her thesis, she studied an innovative dental clinic for children from low-income families.

“I was always interested in dentistry,” she says. “My master’s degree was my entrée into my chosen career eventually.”

Her career as a dentist led to one other claim to fame: Countless children would recognize her as the female dentist in Fred Rogers’ *Going to the Dentist* book from his award-winning First Experiences series.

Davenport is cofounder and director of Sheridan Broadcasting Corp. (Her husband is Sheridan’s CEO and chair.) They started the company in 1973 with the purchase of four radio stations, including Pittsburgh’s WAMO-AM/FM. The corporation’s holdings include the American Urban Radio Network with 400 affiliates across the country.

“We’re very small when you look at other networks,” she says. “But we are private and strictly family owned. We’re the only Black owned and operated radio network in America.”

Time is not the only thing with which Davenport is generous. A recent gift of \$100,000 to the University will support two programs close to her heart—an orthodontic program in the dental school for at-risk youth and the Lay Advisor program in GSPH’s Center for Minority Health.

“You have to reach people where they are: beauty shops, barber shops, and churches,” she says. “I think the direction the Center for Minority Health is taking to reach people will have a significant impact on the health of African Americans.”



Judith M. Davenport, MPH, DMD, may have retired from her Pittsburgh dental practice, but she still keeps very busy serving on the board of the Howard Heinz Endowment, The Carnegie Museums, and the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, among others.

# Notebook

## GSPH Grads Share News and Notes

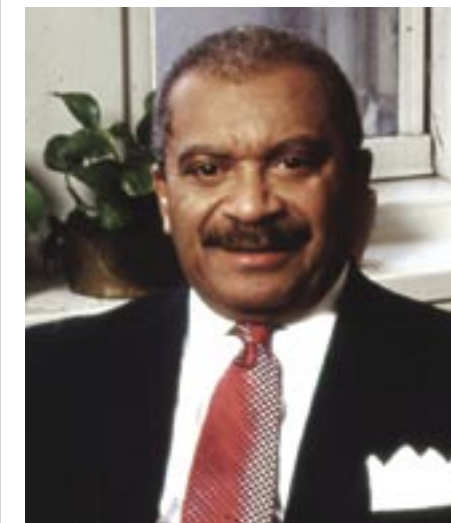
New graduate **Nayal Ammary** (MPH '03) has received a one-year Technology Transfer Fellowship in the Office of Education and Special Initiatives, Patient and Family Education Branch of the National Cancer Institute. She will be working on publications related to children and cancer.

**Edgar Duncan** (PhD, MSHyg '56) delivered the commencement address “Keeping Your Wheel of Life in Balance” to the Duquesne University Mylan School of Pharmacy class of 2003 at the A.J. Palumbo Center in Pittsburgh on May 17. Duncan is director of the Partners in Education Consortium at the GSPH Center for Minority Health.

**Margaret C. McDonald** (PhD '93) has accepted a position as director of research and development with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation in Pittsburgh. In this capacity she will raise funds from foundations and government groups and seek partnerships with other foundations, as well as conceptualize new programs at the foundation. McDonald formerly served as assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs for the health sciences at Pitt. She will continue to maintain her faculty position as an assistant professor of epidemiology at GSPH.

**Marcia Persin (Needleman)** (MPH '74) was recently named director of product development and implementation at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

**Shavonne Ramsey** (MD, MPH '03) was the top award recipient at the 20th Annual Dr. Chester E. Harris Fund Medical Student Awards, presented at Scaife Hall in May. Ramsey, who received her MMPH this spring, will go on to a medical residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the Ohio State University Medical Center. The Dr. Chester E. Harris Award recognizes African American medical students at Pitt who exemplify academic excellence, community leadership, and service to humanity.



**Grady H. Roberts Jr.** (PhD, MSHyg '71) retired as associate dean emeritus for admissions and student affairs in Pitt’s School of Social Work on June 1, 2003, after 35 years of service to the University. Roberts, who also retired from the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps after 30 years of service in 1993, has been selected to receive the Gertrude Labowitz Lifetime Achievement Award at the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation’s 11th Annual Community Hero Awards dinner at the Westin Convention Center in Pittsburgh on September 24, 2003.

**Megan H. Sandhu (Harris)** (MHA '94), of the El Paso VA Health Care System in El Paso, Texas, recently earned board certification in healthcare management and has been named a diplomat of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).

**Shirley Yoder** (MPH '77) is vice president for enrollment and marketing for Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va.

### Keep In Touch!

Have you changed jobs? Earned another degree or special award? Did you get married or have a baby? Did you relocate? Keep your alma mater and fellow graduates informed of the changes in your life. Simply return the enclosed reply card; visit the alumni information section of the Web site, [www.publichealth.pitt.edu](http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu); or send us an e-mail at [contact@gsph.dean.gsph.pitt.edu](mailto:contact@gsph.dean.gsph.pitt.edu). We’ll publish your updates in the next issue of *PublicHealth*.

# In Memoriam

## Jan L. Sykora, ScD

Jan L. Sykora, ScD, professor emeritus in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, died on June 25, 2003, following a series of strokes. He was 71.

Dr. Sykora was born in 1932 in what was then Czechoslovakia. After earning a doctorate at Prague's Charles University, he and his wife immigrated to the United States in 1967. Shortly thereafter, through mutual acquaintances, he met Maurice Shapiro, now an emeritus professor in GSPH, who recruited Dr. Sykora to the school. Dr. Sykora began his career at GSPH later that year and headed the Aquatic Biology Program in the Department of Industrial Environmental

Health Sciences that subsequently became the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health (EOH).

Throughout his career, Dr. Sykora made a significant impact on a number of areas of environmental health, studying iron toxicity in brook trout, researching *Legionella* bacteria and the giardia lamblia parasite, and studying the effects of acid drainage from mines on species diversity in Western Pennsylvania. Following a giardiasis outbreak in McKeesport during the 1980s, he helped that city monitor its water treatment plant, and as a consultant with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, he studied diversity

**Robert E. Bolles**, MPH '72

**John W. Clem**, MSHyg '69

**Norris L. Davis**, DrPH '02

**Jan L. Sykora**, ScD, faculty

of organisms in the Ohio River. But Dr. Sykora's true research passion was studying caddisflies, four-winged insects found near lakes and streams. After 31 years as a professor at GSPH, Dr. Sykora retired from the University in 1999.

A memorial service and reception was held for Dr. Sykora on July 13 at the Carnegie Museum and Café. A Jan Sykora Memorial Fund has been established through The Carnegie's Department of Invertebrate Zoology. Memorial contributions in his name may be made to Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, Development Office, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

## Norris L. Davis, DrPH '02

Norris L. Davis, DrPH, died suddenly of a heart attack on April 22, 2003, at age 41, leaving a wife and two children. At the time of his death, Dr. Davis was employed at Pittsburgh's Institute for Research, Education, and Training in Addictions (IRETA), where he was working on a faith-based initiative program to address drug abuse in minority communities.

Thomas Songer of the Department of Epidemiology, who hooded Dr. Davis at the 2002 graduation ceremony, said, "Norris believed passionately in public

health and what it could do to reduce the problem of drug abuse, especially in the minority community. He spoke often about family and the value of family structure in preventing kids from getting into drugs." Dr. Davis' doctoral thesis at GSPH examined drug overdose deaths in Allegheny County, particularly among African Americans males.

Dean Bernard D. Goldstein noted that Dr. Davis was one of the first students he met after arriving at GSPH in 2001. "I asked him why he wanted to bother doing all of the work to get a doctoral

degree," Goldstein remembers. "He already had an MPH, was employed in what seemed to be a fascinating job with the National Center for Juvenile Justice, had an active family life, and was involved in the community. I wish I had written down his answer. It was a fervent statement of the value of what he was learning from his degree work and from his mentors to the accomplishment of his goals to make a difference in the community. His death is a tremendous loss to all of us in public health and to all who knew him at the GSPH."

# 40 Years Ago ... A Look Back



Graduate School of Public Health Class of 1962-63: (First Row) Elizabeth Smith, H.M. Saeeda, Sumana Suthiwart-Narueput, Albert Podkin, Willa Lowery, Dean Crabtree, Manuel Torres-Parra, Elenor Fleming, William Lloyd, Patricia Collins, Najat Al Saigh (Second Row) Patricia Breslin, Anas El Attar, Bosko Postic, Marvin Durell, Betty Heyser, Deolinda Martins, Carol Sibert, Shirley Johnson, William Collett, Petar Jovanovic, Marguerite Schaefer (Third Row) Lois Michaels, George French, Andrew Mammarelli, Eugene Kraut, Ernesto Rothery, James L. Craig, Raymond Wallace, David Doncszc, Osman H. Osman, Mohan Garg (Fourth Row) Hans Bruch, Jack Thompson, Frank Reid, Gary Adams, Richard Sobota, Eli Egert, James DeLozier, Charles Miller, Robert Geyer, James Clise, Russell Rycheck, Madbuli Noweir

# NIH Funding to GSPH Increases by \$5.6 Million

For the second straight year, GSPH is ranked third among the nation's 45 schools of public health in total National Institutes of Health (NIH) competitive research grant funding, making it the leading state-related public health school on the list once again.

"We are very proud of this ranking," says Dean Bernard D. Goldstein. "It is a testament to the world-class researchers at the Graduate School of Public Health and to the importance of the work they do in bettering the health of people all over the globe."

For fiscal year 2002, GSPH received 62 NIH research grants totaling \$43,959,563, which represents a \$5.6 million increase over NIH research funds received in fiscal year 2001.

"During the past two years, the Graduate School of Public Health has had an impressive 41 percent increase in NIH research funding. None of the other top six schools have had more than a 12 percent increase during this period," says Goldstein.

However, NIH funding is only part of the story, according to Goldstein.

"It is crucial to understand that our NIH funding level only reflects one part of the overall mission and activities of the GSPH."

Goldstein notes that considerable awards from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) during the past couple years have helped establish the Center for Healthy Aging and Center for Public Health Preparedness and that many GSPH researchers are making great strides in their fields independent of NIH funding.

# Mark Your Calendar!

*October 7–9, 2003*

## **Dean on the Road, Chicago, IL.**

Location and time TBD

Invitations to be sent to Chicago-area alumni in September with details.

*October 13, 2003*

## **Open House for Prospective Students**

Graduate School of Public Health

Contact: Diane Kline, 412-624-5200

or [dkline@gsphdean.gsph.pitt.edu](mailto:dkline@gsphdean.gsph.pitt.edu)

*October 23–25, 2003*

## **Pitt Homecoming Weekend**

Student/Alumni Career Networking reception, Thursday, October 23, 6–8 p.m., Alumni Hall Ballroom

Fireworks/Laser Show, Friday, October 24, 9 p.m., Bigelow Boulevard

Pitt Alumni Association Pre-Game Tent /Monte Carlo Party, Saturday, October 25, time TBD, Heinz Field

Pitt vs. Syracuse, Saturday, October 25, time TBD, Heinz Field

*October 28, 2003*

## **A Celebration for Edgar Duncan**

For more information, contact

Lauren Wally at 412-624-3001

or [lwally@gsphdean.gsph.pitt.edu](mailto:lwally@gsphdean.gsph.pitt.edu).

*October 31, 2003*

## **Parran Lecture—Bernard Fisher**

Parran Hall Auditorium, G23, 3 p.m.

Reception to follow in first floor lounge

Contact: Elizabeth Kim, 412-624-3001

or [ekim@gsphdean.gsph.pitt.edu](mailto:ekim@gsphdean.gsph.pitt.edu)

*November 13, 2003*

## **Jay L. Foster Memorial Lecture Series in Alzheimer's Disease**

Mary Sano, director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and professor of psychiatry, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, N.Y.

Community Lecture, 1 p.m.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Hall

5 Hot Metal Street, Pittsburgh (South Side)

Scientific Lecture, 4:30 p.m.

Graduate School of Public Health

Contact: Sue Carr, 412-648-1294

or [scarr@gsphdean.gsph.pitt.edu](mailto:scarr@gsphdean.gsph.pitt.edu)

*November 15–19, 2003*

## **American Public Health Association (APHA) 131st Annual Meeting and Exposition**

San Francisco, Calif.

*November 17, 2003*

## **Reception for Alumni and Friends at APHA**

6:30–8 p.m., Franciscan III room, Argent Hotel San Francisco  
50 Third Street, San Francisco, CA  
Contact: Sue Carr, 412-648-1294  
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