

Public Health Happenings

The official electronic newsletter of the
University of Connecticut Graduate
Programs in Public Health

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“Imagine if where you live was making you sick—and you didn’t even know it.

Our communities should build a foundation for good health by providing clean air and water, healthy housing, safe streets, access to nutritious foods, quality education and jobs with a livable wage. The glue that holds it all together is a strong public health system that weaves prevention of illness and injury into all city services, and is prepared to respond to emerging health threats.”

Susan Polan, PhD, Assoc. Executive Director, Public Affairs & Advocacy, APHA

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OUR UCONN PUBLIC HEALTH CODE OF ETHICS

Academic institutions and programs are known for their individual traditions, and this is nowhere more true than in professional programs and schools. For the UConn Public Health Program, one tradition that presents itself at our annual graduate dinner relates to our Code of Ethics. In an evening of joy and collegiality, a highlight is always the voluntary signing of our code of ethics by each of the graduating students who wishes to participate. Each of these graduating students volunteers to sign the code of ethics and places it in our program notebook so that we now have signed codes of ethics from over 180 UConn public health graduates.

The code is as meaningful today as it was when we initiated this tradition 5 years ago, as such debacles as the current Flint, Michigan lead poisoning case has revealed. So we think it is appropriate at this time of year that all of us review the Code of Ethics and apply it to all that we do.

University of Connecticut Public Health Program Code of Ethics

Having earned a Public Health Degree, I understand my duty to protect and support policy that benefits the public's health and well-being. I further understand my obligation to earn and maintain the respect of the public and other health professionals. This code of ethics, to which I commit my signature, expresses values and principles essential to that end.

Public health addresses fundamental causes of disease. As such,

I will seek to promote community health in ways that respect and protect the rights of individuals and communities.

I will attempt to improve community health in ways that are sensitive to diverse values, beliefs, and cultures of people.

I will seek opportunities for input from persons affected by my initiative when developing or implementing specific policies, programs or priorities.

I will work to empower disenfranchised community members to ensure that basic resources and conditions necessary for health are accessible to all.

I will maintain competencies and skills developed through my education and practice so that I can effectively acquire and disseminate information necessary to implementing sound policies and programs.

I will act in concert with other health professionals to encourage comprehensive resolutions to community health concerns, and

I will strive to implement public health practices in a manner that most enhances the physical and social environment.

Morgan H. Spencer, MPH, MPA, Program Coordinator

Joan Segal, MA, MS, Editor

2016 UCONN PUBLIC HEALTH CELEBRATION & AWARDS CEREMONY
Join alumni, faculty and leadership from the Master of Public Health program for delightful hors d'oeuvres at Max Downtown to celebrate the program, network with other public health



professionals, and view the presentation of the annual UConn Distinguished Master of Public Health Alumni and Faculty Award. The 2016 award recipients include alumni **Karen Spargo** and **Raul Pino**. The faculty recipient is **Helen Swede**.

The 2016 UConn Public Health celebration will take place on **Saturday, April 9, 2016, 5:30-8:00 p.m. at Max Downtown**, 185 Asylum Street, Hartford. Registration is \$35. To register online, please go to: https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=168666&&utm_source=Luminate&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=03.22.Email. Click "New Registration" in the top left-hand corner of the page and fill out the registration form by **April 5, 2016**. If you have questions, please contact Liz

Krueger, Director of Alumni Relations, UConn Health, at krueger@foundation.uconn.edu or call the Office of Alumni Relations toll-free at (888) 822-5861. This event is an excellent opportunity for alumni to reconnect with friends, colleagues and faculty, and for students to network with alumni and other practicing public health professionals. Let's make this a great turnout for our three 2016 honorees!

PHSO CELEBRATES TEN YEARS

By: Samia Hussein, President

The Public Health Student Organization was founded in 2006 to "strengthen students' experience in the program through relationship building and networking." Throughout the spring 2016 semester, the organization will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of this mission by organizing and participating in a variety of professional, educational, and community events. On March 19, PHSO members took some time out of their Spring Break to join UConn faculty member Dr. Wetstone in proctoring and grading the Disease Detectives section of the CT Science Olympiad at Irving Middle School in Farmington. It was a great experience for all of us and we had the opportunity to meet the Director of the Science Olympiad, enjoyed free shirts and food, and received a certificate of appreciation. We'd like to thank Dr. Wetstone for this opportunity. The next CT Science Olympiad will take place in Storrs on April 2nd. See below for the rest of our semester plans!



From Left to Right: Dr. Scott Wetstone, Jonathan Basso, Samia Hussein, Melissa Feulner, and Fawatih Mohamed.

Further events for the Spring Semester:

- **PHSO Presents: NPHW Free Events**
 - **Saturday, April 2, 10:30-2:30 PM:** PHSO Walks for Haiti (St. Peters Claver Church, West Hartford)
 - **Tuesday, April 5, 4:00-6:00 PM:**

"What is Public Health?" (UCHC Academic Lobby)

- **Wednesday, April 6, 4:30-5:30 PM:** BLAST Lyme Presentation (UCHC Patterson Auditorium)
- **Friday, April 8, 2:00- 4:00 PM:** Fed Up Movie Showing (UCHC Student Lounge)
- **Saturday, April 9, 1:00-3:00 PM:** Community Garden Clean-Up (20 Lawlor Street, New Britain)

Join us for PHSO's NPHW Challenge: If you attend each event listed above in its entirety, you will be entered in a drawing to win a **\$25 Dunkin Donuts** gift card just in time for finals week!

- **Other Upcoming Events:** Save the Date!
 - **Friday, April 22 or 29 @1:30-2:15 PM:** PHSO members present at the Medical Professions and Teachers Preparation Academy (MPTPA) on public health to high school students.
 - PHSO 2016-2017 Elections at our last meeting, **Tuesday, April 26**
 - **Friday, May 6 @ 6:00 PM:** PHSO End of Year Party
 - Boston Trip planning

To RSVP for one or all of NPHW events by April 1st or to find out more about our upcoming events, please email us PHSO@uchc.edu. Good luck with the semester!

UConn PUBLIC HEALTH OPEN HOUSE

On Wednesday, April 13, the UConn Graduate Programs in Public Health will hold an Open House primarily for applicants for fall 2016 or for candidates whose applications are still pending. Registration is from 1:00-1:10 pm., followed by welcoming remarks; a presentation by student Jonathan Basso on "Health and Needs Assessment of Marangu, Tanzania," based on his work there; a talk about projects in Haiti by Professor Judy Lewis and MPH student Jennifer Lardner; and a Faculty and Alumni Panel. The program concludes with a reception from 3:00-4:00 to meet the current students. The event will take place at the Exchange, Suite 173. For further information contact mhspencer@uchc.edu.



FALL 2016 REGISTRATION OPENS

Fall 2016 Graduate School Registration has opened. Classes begin Monday, August 29, 2016. Please take a few minutes to review the catalog and register for your classes now. The link to the catalog is:
<http://studentservices.uchc.edu/registrar/gradschool/index.html>.

The weekly schedule of courses and their location includes:

Monday

Public Health Research Methods--Farmington
Questionnaire Design & Data Analysis--Farmington
Environmental Impacts on Children's Hlth—Farmington
Critical Issues in Health Promotion**--Storrs

Tuesday

Health Administration—Farmington
Food, Health and Politics—Farmington
Ethics of Public Health—Farmington
Intro to Community Hlth Issues—Farmington
Program Planning & Eval for Hlth Professionals**--Storrs

Wednesday

Law & Public Health—Farmington
SAS Programming & Data Mgmt—Farmington
Topics in Intermediate Biostatistics—Farmington
Infectious Disease Epidemiology—Farmington

Thursday

Epidemiology/Biostatistics I—Farmington
Public Health Issues in Genetics--Farmington
Psychiatric Epidemiology--Farmington

There are also two **online courses** being offered:

- Foundations of Public Health & Disability
- Disability Law, Policy, Ethics & Advocacy

Check the fall 2016 Catalog for course descriptions and scheduling details and register early. (NOTE:**indicates doctoral level courses.)



DELTA OMEGA CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Beta Rho Chapter of Delta Omega, the National Public Health Honor Society, seeks nominations for Membership in four categories: Students, Faculty, Alumni, and Honorary. The mission of the Delta Omega Society and the Beta Rho Chapter is to encourage and recognize scholarship and research among students undertaking graduate

study; and to acknowledge alumni, faculty, and public health professionals who have truly distinguished themselves through academic achievement, advancement of public health research, excellence in public health practice and leadership in the field.

Graduates from the 2015-2016 academic year (August 2015, December 2015 and May 2016) will be considered for *student membership*. Membership is based on a number of qualifications, including: class rank, leadership, and career plans. New members will be voted on during Delta Omega's annual membership meeting in late April. Students are eligible to apply for membership if they have completed their coursework (except for spring 2016 courses) and their written capstone project/thesis by **Friday, April 8, 2016** and have registered to graduate in May 2016. *Please note: Students anticipating a May 2016 conferral must submit a signed copy of their approval page with the rest of the application.* Students earning a dual degree (e.g., MD, DMD, MSW, etc.), and who will not complete the second degree for May conferral, may apply for student membership at the time that they graduate with their second degree.

Faculty members will be considered based on outstanding public health performance in scholarship, teaching, research and the quality of publications.

Alumni from the UConn MPH program who are currently working in the practice of public health and whose work serves as a model for future graduates will be considered.

Honorary membership will be limited and conferred only upon persons possessing exceptional public health-related qualifications.

The deadline for submitting Faculty, Alumni and Honorary nominations is Monday, May 4, 2016. The deadline for a Nominee to submit his/her application and Curriculum Vitae is 5:00 p.m. on April 8.

Forms for nominations are available from mhspencer@uchc.edu. Completed forms should be submitted by the deadlines to Katherine Kuzmeskas at Katherine.kuzmeskas@gmail.com.

CPHA CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



The Connecticut Public Health Association (CPHA) Program Planning Committee is accepting abstracts for presentations for CPHA's 2016 Centennial Conference. The centennial conference, marking 100 years since the founding of Connecticut's affiliate of the American Public Health Association (APHA), will be held on **November 10, 2016** at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven with the theme "*Back to the Future - 100 years of Public Health in CT and Beyond.*"

The guidelines for abstract submission are below:

- Abstracts may be submitted in one of these formats: Oral Session, Roundtable Breakout Session, Panel Discussion, or Rapid Fire/ Ignite Presentation.
- Submission deadline is **May 13, 2016**. Notification will be by May 26.
- Abstracts must be submitted electronically; go to www.cpha.info.
- All components of the submission form must be completed in their entirety.
- Abstracts must include at least 3 learning objectives.
- Presentation topics should be pertinent to the theme of the conference ("*Back to the Future - 100 years of Public Health in CT and Beyond*"). Some ideas include: History of Public Health in CT, Public Health Successes and Challenges, Future of Public Health in CT, Future Public Health Innovations, Recognized Public Health Professionals & How They Are Making a Difference, Current Topics Affecting our State and Nation such as Opioid Addiction and TBI/Concussions, Public Health Diversity, Policy and Public Health
- Abstracts must not include trade or brand names.

For further information on preparation of abstracts in each of the formats and abstract submission

form, go to <http://www.cpha.info/?page=AnnualConference>.



ALUMNUS TOM MEEHAN
RECEIVES CPHA'S
HUNTINGTON AWARD

Each year CPHA presents *The Charles G. Huntington III Award* to a Connecticut health care practitioner who has demonstrated public health leadership and a commitment to the health and well-being of populations. The 2016 recipient is UConn alumnus **Thomas P. Meehan, MD, MPH (1992)**, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care in Hartford.

Dr. Meehan is a committed primary care provider, leader, researcher, and teacher dedicated to improving CT's health care system and to supporting those working within it. He began his career in primary care, working for seven years in the Waterbury area caring for patients of all socioeconomic backgrounds. Between 1998 and 2013, he served in Yale-New Haven Hospital's hypertension clinic, in which he cared for referred patients, many underinsured, with refractory hypertension. Throughout his entire 15 years working in Yale's hypertension clinic, Dr. Meehan was a volunteer.

Motivated by his passion for public health and quality improvement, Dr. Meehan earned his MPH degree from UConn in 1992 and became involved in leadership, with noteworthy positions including Chief Medical Officer of Qualidigm (non-profit quality improvement organization) and more recently, Associate Medical Director of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (not-for-profit health plan). As a leader, Dr. Meehan has sought opportunities to improve safety net programs (Medicare and Medicaid) and to eliminate health disparities across all settings of care.

Dr. Meehan has taught at UConn, Yale, and Quinnipiac over the last 26 years, working with students in medicine, nursing, and public health, and continues to work with UConn MPH students as an instructor and preceptor. In addition, he has published 69 original research papers regarding quality improvement in health care. Dr. Meehan's career objective is to make a meaningful contribution to society by facilitating improvements in healthcare quality, safety, and cost-effectiveness.

Join students, faculty, and public health professionals from throughout the state in celebrating National Public Health Week and honoring Dr. Meehan and the other award recipients at the CPHA Awards Ceremony and Breakfast on **Friday, April 8, 8:00-10:00 a.m.** at the Energize CT Center in North Haven, CT. Register at <https://cpha.site-ym.com/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=771751>, Registration is \$10 for students and \$12 for everyone else.

The award Dr. Meehan is receiving honors **Charles G. Huntington III**, a leader, role model, dedicated humanist, steadfast public health advocate and caregiver of the first order. Charles Huntington was a leader in the physician assistant profession, a leader of the Connecticut Public Health Association for many years, and at the time of his death, was Associate Dean and Associate Professor at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. His faculty appointment was in the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care. For several years he taught an MPH elective in strategic planning and was also a major or associate advisor to several MPH students.

JOBS IN OUTCOMES RESEARCH

The Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE), Yale University/Yale-New Haven Hospital, is a leading national outcomes research center working on high impact projects designed to assess healthcare quality and evaluate clinical decision making and comparative effectiveness of critical healthcare interventions. Its mission is to improve health and health care through targeted research and evaluation projects that combine scholarship and service to have a positive impact on policy and people's lives. The Center is comprised of a fast-paced multidisciplinary team working at the intersection of science, health care quality and policy. All applicants should have both strong analytical skills and communication skills and experience working with clinical or health care data. The Center is currently recruiting for the following full-time research position:

Project Manager--responsible for the planning and successful implementation of multifaceted research and government/nongovernment contracts and projects for CORE. The project manager develops timelines, resource needs, standard procedures,

protocols, training documents and quality control systems to ensure adherence to scientific methods /protocols, regulatory and contract requirements, and production of high quality deliverables on time to meet sponsor needs. He/she researches, analyzes and compiles information; composes high quality status reports, technical reports and publications; effectively communicates and facilitates teams in a multidisciplinary matrixed environment; and continually seeks opportunities to increase customer satisfaction and improve quality and efficiency of project operations

Candidates should have a Master's degree, preferably in public health, business administration or a related healthcare field, and a minimum of five years of experience as project manager/coordinator of complex projects in healthcare research, health care quality, or other related area.

Senior Project Manager--The Senior Project Manager has the responsibility for managing CORE government and nongovernment contracts and grants. This high-level position requires substantive knowledge and experience directing health services research, quality measurement development or related work in healthcare. He/she will ensure that all project activities are carried out according to project timelines, that deliverables are met and that resources are within the established budget. In addition, this individual will have a clear understanding of the overall grant and contract, and will effectively communicate the project/contract status to CORE administrative staff and funding agency. The senior project manager will possess a clear understanding of the management of CORE federal and non -federal contracts including technical and business contractual requirements.

The position requires a Master's Degree in public health, nursing, healthcare management/ administration, business administration (MPH, MHA, MBA) or related field. (Project Management Professional Certification is preferred.) CORE also seeks someone with a minimum of three years' experience in a research capacity and a minimum of three years in a managerial/project management capacity or related experience indicating ability to communicate with people, to work with minimal supervision, to conduct and coordinate research studies, to prepare for and conduct team/staff meetings, to work with a variety of computer software programs, and to be receptive to a variety

of duties to support projects and to manage multiple tasks simultaneously.

Research Scientist-- The Research Scientist, Quality Measurement Programs (QMP) leads in the development, maintenance, and implementation of national health care quality measures and advances measurement methods. Reporting to the Director of QMP, the primary role is to serve as Technical Lead for specific deliverables for a large Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) funded multi-year contract developing and maintaining hospital quality measures for national public reporting and tracking quality trends. The research scientist provides technical leadership and content expertise for the development of deliverables under the guidance of the Director, QMP working with a diverse team of consultants, statisticians, clinicians, health services researchers, and project support staff to meet contract deliverables.

Statistician I-- Working under the direction of the Director of Data Management and Analytics, the Statistician I develops statistical analytic plans and programming in support of research projects for multiple clinical and epidemiology studies of cardiovascular outcomes research; and investigates, analyzes and evaluates complex statistical and programming problems.

The position requires a Master's degree in Statistics, Biostatistics, Epidemiology or related field, and a minimum of six months to one year of experience in conducting analysis; experience conducting analysis of health outcomes and quality of care is preferred.

Statistician II-- Working under the direction of the Director of Data Management and Analytics, the Statistician II provides comprehensive statistical support for quality of care and outcomes research studies, including managing and integrating data from various sources, developing analytic plans for research projects, conducting analyses, presenting the results, and preparing the results for publication. The Center is looking for someone who desires to contribute to the design and analysis of CORE's research projects and seeks substantive scientific and statistical responsibilities and contributions. Applicants will have the opportunity to apply data analytics directly to real-world problems that are important for patients and policy

makers. Successful applicants will have the opportunity to contribute towards a growing field that is likely to shape the delivery of health care in the future. There will also be opportunity to work with experts from the US and other countries and to publish high-quality work in technical reports and peer-reviewed journals.

A Master's degree with experience in public health, biostatistics, or related field is required, while a PhD degree is preferred. The position also requires three to five years' experience in data management and analysis including database design, statistical data analysis and reporting of clinical research studies and/or quality improvement projects; and experience in managing and integrating large datasets using a variety of software packages, including SAS, EXCEL, STATA, JMP, and MS ACCESS. Clinical experience is desired.

For more information on CORE and career opportunities please visit:

<http://medicine.yale.edu/core/careers>. To apply for a position, send resume and cover letter to Kathryn Czarkowski at kathryn.czarkowski@yale.edu. If you have questions, call her at 203-764-5700

POPULATION HEALTH COUNCIL MEMBER SOLICITATION

The State Innovation Model (SIM) is seeking applicants to serve on its new Population Health Council. The number of type of openings include:

- 1 municipal leadership member
- 2 Advanced Network or ACO Representatives
- 1 Large Employer
- 1 Small Employer
- 5 Consumers and/or Advocates
- 1 Health Data Analytics Expert
- 1 Health Economist
- 1 FQHC Representative
- 1 Urban or Rural School District Representative
- 1 Behavioral Health Agency Representative
- 1 Local Public Health Agency Representative

If you are interested in serving on this council, please go to <http://www.healthreform.ct.gov/ohri/cwp/view.asp?a=2765&q=336146> for further information and an application. Applications are due by **Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.**

APHA WEBCASTS DURING NPHW
To help celebrate National Public Health Week, APHA is offering a web-based event from Monday through Friday. The events and their dates include:

Monday NPHW opening forum: Creating the Healthiest Nation by 2030

April 4, 1:00 p.m. EDT

APHA President Camara Phyllis Jones, Aetna Foundation President Garth Graham, and Magi Linscott, 2014 Advocate of the Year, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, will have a lively discussion on how we can become the healthiest nation by 2030. [Register for the live webcast.](#)

Tuesday Webinar: Public Health Authority over Drinking Water Quality

April 5, 1:00 p.m. EDT

This webinar will feature Dr. Hanna-Attisha, the pediatrician who helped expose the Flint lead poisoning, examine the regulation of drinking water quality as a health equity issue and identify some potential ways public health practitioners can address the problem. Presenters will describe the Flint water crisis from a scientific, legal and local public health department perspective, and then explain what role public health can help play in maintaining the quality of drinking water.

[Register today!](#)

Wednesday Twitter chat

April 6, 2:00 p.m. EDT

Join more than 1,400 Twitter participants including leaders from federal agencies, health departments, non-profits and more in a dynamic discussion. We'll cover the health impacts of the environment, gun violence, high school graduation and other social determinants of health.

[RSVP today!](#)

Friday Student Hangout with the Surgeon General

April 8, 2:00 p.m. EDT

APHA will celebrate Public Health Student Day by hosting a Google Hangout featuring U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy. Don't miss your chance to chat with the nation's top doc and brainstorm on how to improve the health of our country. APHA Student Assembly Chair Suparna Navale, a doctoral student at Kent State University Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, will provide opening remarks, and Tamar Klaiman, PhD, MPH, former APHA Student Assembly Chair, will moderate the discussion.

[RSVP today](#) and students are invited to submit a video of your questions!



GLOBAL HEALTH/HUMAN RIGHTS EVENT

“Can We Stop Talking About Birth Control Yet? ‘Gypsy Bodies’ As European Problems” is the title of a Global Health and Human Rights lecture being presented by Elana Resnick, PhD Candidate in Anthropology, University of Michigan on **Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 4:00 p.m.**, in Room 162, Thomas J. Dodd Center, Storrs Campus. Drawing on participant-observation with Romani women street sweepers and local NGO representatives, the author discusses how Romani women interpret European Union health policies, especially in light of recent anti-Roma protests that emphasize “saving” the Bulgarian state from “Gypsy overpopulation.” This event is sponsored by the UConn Human Rights Institute’s Research Program on Global Health & Human Rights, with co-sponsorship from the Department of Anthropology and the Program in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Light refreshments will be served.

ALUMNI NEWS



Maritza Bond, MPH (2012), executive director of Eastern Area Health Education Center (AHEC), was honored during Eastern AHEC’s annual meeting earlier this month for her long-term

commitment to community service. At the event she received citations from Connecticut legislators as well as an honorary proclamation from Gov. Dannel P. Malloy acknowledging Eastern AHEC’s 20th anniversary.

Congratulations to **Kelly Rago, MPH (2013)** and



her husband Paul on the birth of a son, Nicholas Wayne Rago, on February 2. Kelly is grants manager and program coordinator for the CT Health Foundation.

Joan Segal, Editor

Production: Barbara Case, Morgan Hollenbeck
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CALENDAR

April 4-11—National Public Health Week 2016

April 4—Deadline for submitting Delta Omega nominations for Faculty, Alumni and Honorary membership.

April 8, 5:00 p.m.—Deadline for Delta Omega nominees to submit their applications and other required materials.

April 8—Deadline for submitting posters for graduating students who want the Program to print their posters using a color printer the Public Health Program has recently purchased. The fee for printing the poster is \$10.00. The poster must be submitted in PowerPoint or PDF format.

April 13—UConn Public Health Open House

April 15—Deadline for completion of written capstone paper signed by advisory committee to be eligible for consideration for program awards (Mulvihill Medal and Susan S. Addiss Award) or election to Delta Omega. Please note: Signed approval page or final exam form must be submitted to Barbara Case on or before April 15.

April 19—Poster Session for graduating public health students, 4:00-5:30 p.m., Academic Lobby

April 22—All graduating students (Plan A or Plan B) must defend by April 22. Student participation in the Poster Session is in lieu of an oral defense.

May 2—All graduating Plan B (Project) students must submit **original** signed final exam forms to Barbara Case.

May 2—Deadline for submitting your thesis and final exam form to the UConn Health registrar if you want the Office to send them to the Graduate School for you.

May 3—Graduation Dinner for alumni who graduated in August and December 2015 and students graduating in May 2015.

May 6--All Plan A (Thesis) students must submit a copy of their final exam form to Barbara Case.

May 6-- Last day to submit thesis final copies to Digital Commons and related paperwork to The Graduate School on the Storrs campus.

May 9—UConn Health Commencement Ceremony, Storrs Campus

August 29—Fall 2016 classes begin.