

Public Health Happenings

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

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Happy Holidays to all and a Happy, Healthy, Safe New Year!

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ALUMNI BOARD ESTABLISHES AWARD

Each of us has an internal passion for public health as our tireless efforts improve our communities for today and the future. Change is sparked by individuals and fueled by collaborations with peers who realize the importance of public health. At a recent meeting, the MPH Alumni Board voted to establish an annual **UConn Distinguished Master of Public Health Alumni and/or Faculty Award** to honor a graduate of the program or faculty member who exemplifies the following characteristics:

- Recognized by peers for significant contributions to the field of public health.

- Loyalty and dedication to mission of the program and alumni.
- Leader in areas of public health including applied public health practice, academia, and research. .
- Professional and community leadership and service
- Exceptional representative and advocate for the UCONN Master of Public Health program.
- Recognized for continued contributions to the program.

The first recipient(s) will be honored on **April 11, 2015** at the **MPH Celebration/Reunion at Max Downtown** in Hartford. Please **SAVE THE DATE**, and help us by nominating someone you feel has contributed to public health and represents the work we value. *Nominees can come from all areas of public health on the state (or federal) and local levels as well as from nonprofit, private sector or other organizations that contribute to public health.* To make a nomination for consideration by the awards committee, please send name and supporting documentation to ljpowers@comcast.net by **Monday, January 19**. Self-nominations are also encouraged.

Current president of the MPH Alumni Board is **Nancy Dupont, MPH (2010), RN**. **Martha Page, MBA, MPH (2009)** is Vice President.

Finally, a “shout out” to the Director of Alumni Relations for UConn Health, Jeff Simons, and the Assistant Director, Liz Krueger. In addition to the MPH Celebration/Reunion on April 11, they are busy planning a couple of joint events for public health, medical, dental, and other graduate school alumni:



Saturday, February 28—UConn women’s basketball game vs. Memphis at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs and pre-game brunch at the Alumni Association before the game.

Sunday, March 1—UConn men’s basketball game vs. SMU in Hartford and pre-game brunch at Salute across the street from the XL Center.

To register for either of these events, and/or for the Celebration/Reunion, go to <http://www.alumni.uhc.edu/>.

Together with David Gregorio, Program Director; Morgan Spencer, Program Coordinator; and program staff members Barbara Case, Lauri McCarthy and Holly Samociuk, I wish everyone a happy, healthy, safe New Year and a productive, fulfilling spring 2015 semester to all students and faculty.

*Joan Segal
Editor*



SPRING REGISTRATION UPDATE

The spring 2015 Semester begins on **Tuesday, January 20, and Add/Drop ends on Monday, February 2**. If you have not registered yet, please complete the self-registration process in your PeopleSoft Student Admin account using the link below:

<http://studentservices.uhc.edu/registrar/gradschool/index.html>

Note that fee bills are not due until the first day of the semester.

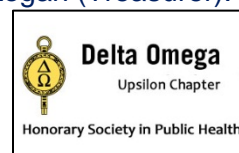
If your UConn union contract prohibits you from registering before the first night of a class, please let Morgan Spencer (mhspencer@uchc.edu) or Barbara Case (bcase@nso.uhc.edu) know what you plan to register for so they can hold spots for you in core courses, or let you know in advance if electives are likely to be full by that time.

It is also important to note that if you or any other UConn student **does not register by the February 2nd deadline**, you will be automatically discontinued by the system, and reinstatement is time-consuming and costly, and is not automatic. It could also jeopardize your stipend if you are receiving a graduate assistantship.

STUDENT PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Students, alumni and faculty who are looking to represent the MPH Program and look “spiffy” at the same time **ARE IN LUCK!** The link below will send you to the Association’s online clothing store: <http://www.gdarter.com/stores/default/UCONN>.

This year’s officers include Harry Amadasun, Jr. (President), Rachele Jean-Paul (Vice-President) and Karonesa Logan (Treasurer).



DELTA OMEGA ANNUAL REPORT

Beta Rho, the UConn Chapter of Delta Omega, the national honorary public health society, held its annual meeting on Tuesday, October 27 in Meriden. Some of the highlights include:

- Inducted eight new members at the Public Health Annual Graduation Dinner. The five new alumni members are **Jennifer Bard**,

JD, MPH (1997); Amy Beck, MD, MPH, (2007), Zygmunt Dembek, PhD, MPH (2005), Gerard Demers, DO, MPH (2001), and Jonathan Noel, MPH (2009).

- The three students inducted in 2014 include



Ben Hallowell, MPH (2014), Roberto Henry, MPH (2014), and Katelyn Sileo, MPH (2014).

- Held a contest for the 2014 Delta Omega Student Poster Session and submitted two abstracts for consideration by the National Office of Delta Omega.
- Continued a partnership with the Connecticut Public Health Association to provide public health mentors, tours, speakers, job shadowing, project advisers, internships and more.
- Fielded judges for UConn MPH's poster session in April 2014 and awarded the first *Delta Omega Beta Rho – MPH Poster Presentation of the Year* award.
- Made lead gift of \$2,500 over five years to help seed the UConn Public Health Programs' newly founded Joan Segal Scholarship Fund.

FIELD EXPERIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

The Office of Public Health Systems Improvement at the CT Department of Public Health is seeking a student intern to work from January 2015 through May 2015 to assist the Accreditation Coordinator in making the staff more aware of and familiar with the accreditation process currently being undertaken. The primary tasks of the intern are:

- Work with Accreditation Coordinator to develop various communication messages to distribute throughout the agency for greater awareness and understanding of public health accreditation, agency activities, and the need for staff participation and cooperation. This may include developing key messages delivered through multiple communication mechanisms (may

include flyers, short emails, posters, video, promotions, postings to the agency Intranet) that are fun and engaging for staff. DPH would like to communicate regularly with staff through these different mechanisms and using its Intranet, or other means.

- Participate in various team meetings, town hall meetings, and Public Health Strategic Team meetings to learn about the accreditation process and DPH activities to meet standards, receive feedback on messaging and communication mechanisms, and brainstorm other ideas.

This is an unpaid internship. Students could register for credit for a Field Experience in Public Health, an Independent Practicum (if appropriate), or even for a Capstone Project (if expanded to include a literature review, etc.). If you are interested, please contact Joan Segal at segal@nso.uhc.edu.

CDC/CSTE APPLIED EPI FELLOWSHIP



The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), in close collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention (CDC), the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is currently accepting applications for the **Applied Epidemiology Fellowship Program**. This program, established to train recent graduates in the expanding field of applied epidemiology, is designed for recent or impending master's or doctoral-level graduates in epidemiology or a related field who are interested in the practice of public health at the state or local level. While the program provides rigorous training for its participants, it is also designed with flexibility in order to meet the particular interests of the fellow. Fellows are matched to a state health department for a two-year fellowship position based on program area of interest.

Fellowship program areas include:

- Chronic Diseases
- Environmental Health (including Waterborne Diseases)

- Infectious Disease (including Healthcare-associated Infections, Quarantine, and Food Safety)
- Injury Prevention (including Drug Overdose)
- Maternal and Child Health
- Occupational Health
- Oral Health
- Substance Abuse

Closely designed based on the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) program and using a mentorship model, the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship offers the opportunity for graduates to acquire and develop epidemiologic skills through on-the-job training. Fellows work closely with highly trained and experienced epidemiologists at the state and local level as well as those working at the federal level with the CDC.

The deadline to submit applications is **January 9, 2015**. All application materials must be received by the deadline to be considered for acceptance. Incomplete applications or applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

Applications are submitted online. For further information and to apply to this program, visit the CSTE website at [www.CSTE.org](http://www.cste.org) or <http://www.cste.org/?page=ProspectiveFellows>.

Questions may be directed to Ms. Valerie Underwood, the workforce and fellowship administrator at CSTE, via email at VUnderwood@cste.org or phone 770-458-3811.

MANAGEMENT POSITION



The American Heart Association is seeking a **Director** for its Mission: Lifeline program, which ensures that all patients get the best treatment for heart attack care no matter where they live. This position would help

communities ensure that from the time a 9-1-1 call is placed, the ambulance knows where to take the patient and hospitals in turn know how to treat and triage the patient appropriately.

The Director position provides an opportunity for a public health professional to impact care on a population level. The Director will work with all stakeholders, from EMS, to Fire Departments to hospitals to make sure that the system operates effectively and efficiently. This involves working with partners to collect and analyze data and revise

protocols or make needed change, community by community.

This position encompasses all facets of public health--community, data, communication, evaluation and monitoring. It is based in Waltham, MA but can also be done from Providence, RI or Wallingford, CT. Coverage is all of New England.

The position is grant funded for two years from date of hire. However, there is a strong chance of further funding as well as the possibility of this role becoming a non-grant funded position. The Director will have the opportunity to seek funding and impact the continuation of this role.

For further information, contact Lisa A. Bembem, MPH, CHES, Senior Director of Quality & Systems Improvement, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, lisa.bembem@heart.org or 871-373-4505.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT POSITION

Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC) in Middletown, CT is searching for a Research Assistant to work at the Weitzman Research Center on Rewards to Quit (R2Q), a state-wide research project being conducted in collaboration with Connecticut's Medicaid provider and the Yale School of Public Health to increase smoking cessation rates in Connecticut's Medicaid population. Funded through a federal grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, R2Q is investigating what effect financial incentives have on participation in smoking cessation resources and in overall cessation.

The Research Assistant will focus on enrollment, recruitment, data collection and management, and participant service and satisfaction at CHC's 12 primary care sites. The Research Assistant will also be expected to run process and planning meetings, report data, and manage the smoking cessation program and services provided at CHC.

Qualifications for the position include:

- Bachelor's degree in a related discipline, with Master's degree preferred.
- Minimum two years of public health research experience
- Proven experience supporting research projects
- Experience with grant submission, annual reports, and updates

- Prior experience interviewing research subjects and obtaining informed consent
- Experience with IRB submission
- Knowledge of electronic health record systems
- Ability to maintain priority and focus
- Ability to follow procedures and protocols consistently
- Flexibility and attention to detail
- Demonstrated proficiency in Microsoft office and internet related applications
- Bilingual English/Spanish preferred
- Bachelor's degree in a related discipline (Master's degree preferred)
- Minimum two years of public health research experience
- Proven experience supporting research projects
- Experience with grant submission, annual reports, and updates
- Prior experience interviewing research subjects and obtaining informed consent
- Experience with IRB submission
- Knowledge of electronic health record systems
- Ability to maintain priority and focus
- Ability to follow procedures and protocols consistently
- Flexibility and attention to detail
- Demonstrated proficiency in Microsoft office and internet related applications
- Bilingual English/Spanish preferred
- Current driver's license

To see a more complete job description and to apply online, go to <https://jobs-chc1.icims.com/jobs/2586/research-assistant/job>. Additional jobs are expected to be opening up soon for Research Associates, so those interested in looking for research careers at a Community Health Center should continuously check the following website (<https://jobs-chc1.icims.com/jobs/search?ss=1&searchLocation=&searchCategory=>).

PROGRAM COORDINATOR POSITION
The Community Health Center Association of Connecticut, Inc. (CHCACT), a not for profit organization in Wethersfield, CT, has an opening for a Program Coordinator. The Program Coordinator assists with the development and administration of contracts, monitoring, and procurement of data reports for the Ryan White Part D, Medicaid Outreach, Cancer Screening

Patient Navigator, and the National Health Service Corps programs. The Program Coordinator is responsible for monitoring data elements and associated reports, and identifying training and educational subcontractors. The Program Coordinator is also responsible for the Uniform Data Set (UDS) Data Management and assists in the development of grant applications to various funding agencies. The Program Coordinator will also receive training to provide Motivational Interviewing and Patient Navigation training to staff of the community health centers.

Qualifications for this position include:

- Experience in a community or public health setting.
- Bachelor's Degree at minimum
- Team player with the ability to work independently in a frequently changing environment.
- Strong interpersonal, listening, written and verbal communication and project coordination skills.
- Ability to perform basic data analysis functions
- Proficient in Microsoft Office systems including Excel and Access
- Ability to learn new data management systems
- Knowledge of CAREWare software preferred
- Possess valid driver's license and provide own transportation to FQHCs throughout the State.

Compensation for this full-time position includes a starting salary of \$37,000 and a benefits package. To apply, submit a resume and cover letter to: Katie Henley, CHCACT, 100 Great Meadow Road, Suite 400, Wethersfield, CT 06109 or email: khenley@chcact.org.

ASSISTANT COALITION COORDINATOR
The Town of Madison is accepting applications for the position of Assistant Coalition Coordinator of the Madison Alcohol and Drug Education Coalition (MADE). This position is located in the Family and Youth Services Department of the town and funded by a five-year grant.

The Assistant Coordinator will be responsible for

organization, management, planning, implementation and continuous review and analysis of the program; will represent the Coalition in meetings; and will coordinate volunteers, submit reports and deliverables, and evaluate data.

The minimum training and experience required include a bachelor's degree in human services or similar field, the ability to learn to work with prevention and youth development, marketing, community development and/or other closely related experience. Experience in management of grants is highly desirable.

Completed applications must be received in the Human Resources Department no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, **January 8 2015**. Application forms may be obtained in the Human Resources Department, 8 Campus Drive, Madison, CT 06433; or, applications can be printed from the website at www.madisonct.org.

FACULTY POSITION IN EPIDEMIOLOGY

Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU - <http://fgcu.edu>) invites applications for an innovative and technologically-proficient higher education professional for the position of **Assistant/Associate Professor in Epidemiology in the Department of Health Sciences (Requisition #2171)** within the College of Health Professions and Social Work (<http://fgcu.edu/chpsw>). The successful candidate will be appointed with a preferred start date of August 7, 2015.

Responsibilities include:

- Provide excellent, responsive instruction to both undergraduate and graduate students.
- Develop innovative courses and/or curriculum in current and planned degree programs.
- Utilize the latest instructional technology, including advanced distance learning platforms.
- Produce quality research or scholarship, including peer-reviewed publications.
- Pursue funding for scholarly pursuits, including research, professional development, and dissemination of academic investigation outcomes.
- Mentor students at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including capstone project advising.

- Become involved with Department, College and/or University committees or initiatives.
- Engage in community and professional outreach and/or service in areas of professional expertise.
- Complete additional duties as assigned.

Minimum qualifications for this position are:

- Doctor of Philosophy degree (or equivalent qualification such as ScD or DrPH) in Epidemiology or directly related field from a regionally accredited institution or equivalent accreditation. ABD will be considered if degree is conferred by August 7, 2015. If successful candidate is ABD, appointment will be made at a Lecturer level on a fixed contract.
- Experience teaching at the University level.
- Evidence of the potential to develop (or evidence of currently active) scholarly activities and intellectual production within the field of Epidemiology.

Preferred qualifications are:

- A Master's degree in Public Health or a Master of Science in Public Health.
- Three years of teaching experience at the university level.
- Distance or online teaching experience.
- Prior program coordinator/director or other related administrative experience, including curriculum development.
- Experience with CEPH accreditation.
- An actively funded research portfolio within the field of Epidemiology, as broadly defined.

Only online applications (letter of application, complete CV, unofficial transcripts, references, and ancillary materials) will be accepted (send to <http://jobs.fgcu.edu>). Review of materials began November 4, 2014 and the position will remain open until filled. For more information or additional questions prior to application submission, please contact: Brian Bossak, PhD, MPH, Department Chair of Health Sciences, directly by phone at 239-590-7511 or through email at bbossak@fgcu.edu.

SOCIAL WORK POSITION

Integrated Health Services (IHS), a non-profit organization operating School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) in the East Hartford public school system, is seeking a licensed social worker (LCSW) to join its team at the elementary school level. The LCSW will work Monday through Friday, 30 hours a week, and follow the East Hartford School District calendar.

The person in this position will provide age-appropriate counseling to students in need of behavioral health care services. He or she will be responsible for the assessment, diagnosis, treatment and/or referral of children/adolescents presenting or referred to their care for evaluation. The LCSW will be responsible for the provision of crisis assessments, individual therapy, group therapy, family therapy, treatment planning, case management, team/community collaboration, patient/family education, and triage/discharge planning, among other duties.

The position requires a Master Degree in Social Work and LCSW licensure (or eligibility for licensure). Other requirements include strong clinical skills; prior experience in the behavioral health field, preferably specific to prospective service setting/level of care/age specific population; written and verbal communication skills; knowledge of community based resources; and a minimum of three months of experience in an outpatient clinic setting with adolescents. Training in DBT, familiarity with Abuse and Neglect reporting mandates, knowledge of community-based resources, experience with pre-authorization and billing processes and bilingual skills are desirable.

If interested, please contact Penny Ross at 860-289-0197 or pross@ihssbhc.org

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH COLLOQUIUM
The next colloquium of the UConn Health Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine will feature a seminar, **How to identify and address psychosocial and workplace barriers to return-to-work after musculoskeletal injuries**, on **January 7, 2015**, noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Disabilities Conference Room, Suite 173, The Exchange. The guest speaker will be William S. Shaw, PhD, Principal Research Scientist, Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety, Hopkinton MA. Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP by email to Miriam Muniz at muniz@uchc.edu.



DISPARITIES SEMINAR

The Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) and the Connecticut Health Foundation will present a symposium, **Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Readmission Rates**, on Wednesday, **February 4, 2015**, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Four Points by Sheraton, Meriden, CT. The purpose of the symposium is to present the culmination of research findings, and provide a forum to integrate stakeholder interpretations into practice models of care delivery to reduce the level of inequity tied to hospital readmission.

The symposium is based on research conducted by CSMS over the last two years which found significant and pronounced disparities in the readmission rates of Black and Latino patients compared to White patients involving nine out of 10 major diagnostic categories (MDCs). The outcome of the symposium will be to document potential best practices of the conditions with the greatest health disparities identified in the CSMS study:

- Uncomplicated Delivery
- Joint Replacement Surgery
- Heart Failure & Chest Pain
- Digestive Disorders

The symposium is designed for health care policy makers, regulators, hospital administrators, physicians and other healthcare professionals and providers. Registration fees are \$55 between December 1, 2014 and January 30, 2015, and \$65 at the door. For online registration, please visit www.csms.org/ReadmissionDisparities

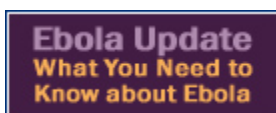
CDC NATIONAL HEALTH REPORT 2014



The **CDC National Health Report 2014** offers a snapshot of our nation's health, highlighting recent successes and challenges in fighting critical health problems in the United States. The report finds Americans are living longer, healthier lives, but suggests that more work is needed to ensure that all Americans can achieve optimum health.

The report includes recent trend data on life expectancy, common causes of death, and health behaviors. It includes a scientific paper (*CDC National Health Report: Leading Causes of Morbidity and Mortality and Associated Behavior Risk and Protective Factors -- United States, 2005-2013*), a *Report Highlights* document, and at-a-glance *dashboard charts*. For more information, go to the CDC's report website: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthreport/>.

CT STATE EBOLA INFORMATION SITE
The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health has created a website with detailed information about Ebola.



The site includes facts and information to help understand Ebola and an overview of the actions that the state is taking to prevent Ebola in Connecticut. Visit the site at www.ct.gov/ebola or get additional information and guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website](http://www.cdc.gov).



EMERGENCY CLOSING PROCEDURES

With the winter season upon us, it is important to note the **Emergency Closing Procedures for UConn Health**. These procedures and decisions are NOT the same as those for other state agencies, the main campus in Storrs or the regional campuses. The nature of UConn Health's activities require that official notification of emergency closing decisions be made and communicated **ONLY** by UConn Health..

Under the **Emergency Closing policy**, UConn Health employees and students are requested to contact the Operational Status Hotline at **860-679-2001** as the reliable, official source of communication regarding delayed openings, class cancellations, or closings of UConn Health's non-essential service units due to weather or other circumstances. Broadcast email messages are also sent to correspond with the appropriate message. Because of restrictions imposed by mass media automated notification systems, UConn Health does

not broadcast closing information through radio or television station outlets.

In the unlikely event that service of the UConn Health Operational Status Hotline is disrupted, UConn Health employees and students may call a **Back-up Number: (860) 486-9292**. Please keep the above two telephone numbers in convenient locations at home for quick access.

STUDENT NEWS



Congratulations to PhD student **Ailton Coleman** on receiving a Spring 2015 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship from UConn in the amount of \$2,000.00.

ALUMNI NEWS

The Connecticut Public Health Association (CPHA) elected its officers for 2015, and UConn alumni are well-represented on the leadership team. **Jon Noel, MPH (2009)**, currently a student in the UConn Public Health doctoral program, is President Elect. Other alumni on the CPHA Board of Directors include **Morgan Spencer, MPH (2006), MPA**, Secretary; and **Colleen O'Connor, MPH (2011)**, APHA Representative. At large Board of Director members include **Tracey Scraba, JD, MPH (2004)**, **David Skoczulek, MPH (2009)**, and **Paul Hutcheon, MPH (1989), RS**. Elections were held at the CPHA Holiday Party on December 2, 2014, at the Tavern at the Exchange.

Martha Page, MBA, MPH (2009), Executive Director of Hartford Food System, was a panelist for the Curtis D. Robinson Center for Health Equity 4th Annual Town Hall Meeting on Health Disparities, **Is Food Making Us Sick? A Conversation about Food and Our Health**. The meeting was held in Hartford on November 18..

Stacy-Ann Walker, MPH (2012) was appointed Director, Community Outreach Services for Seabury At Home, Inc., Bloomfield, CT in August 2014.

FACULTY NEWS

Our heartfelt condolences to **Jane Ungemack** on the recent death of her father, **Robert E. Ungemack**, on November 8. He loved animals, and the family asks that donations be made to the ASPCA in his memory.

Donations may be sent to the ASPCA Honor/Memorial Program, 520 Eighth Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10018. You may also make donations on the website at www.aspca.org. or by calling the 800 number at 800-628-0028 to make credit card donations.

Our condolences also to **Laura Minor** on the death of her father, **Carl Schlesinger**, on November 9, 2014. Donations can be made in his name; send to New York Public Library, 445 5th Ave, New York, NY 10016 or call call 212-930-0653.

Richard Stevens, PhD, Professor of Community Medicine, presented a talk on the *Epidemiology of Breast Cancer* on Friday, December 19 at 7:30-8:30 a.m. at the UConn Health Cancer Center. The seminar was sponsored by the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Office of Community and Continuing Medical Education, and the The Clinical and Translational Breast Program.

Stan Wolfe, DDS, MPH (1995), Director of Education and Training, A.J. Pappanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and Associate Professor of Community Medicine, retired from UConn Health in December 2014. We wish him all the best in this new phase of his life.

Also retiring in December 2014 was **Dr. Gerald Maxwell**, Associate Dean of the Graduate School between 1992 and 2007. During this 15-year tenure, Dr. Maxwell was a staunch supporter of the Graduate Program in Public Health. He had been serving as Associate Dean of Postdoctoral and External Affairs since 2007. A celebration to honor Dr. Maxwell and his career at UConn Health was held on December 11.

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