

Public Health Happenings

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

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Election Day is November 4, 2014. Don't forget to vote!

In this issue:

- Basic Skills for the Public Health Workforce
- UConn Launches Public Health Certificate Program
- Spring 2015 Public Health Courses Announced
- Fellowships, Scholarships, Internships, Paper Awards
- Employment Opportunities
- Community Medicine Seminar
- Student, Alumni, and Faculty News

EDUCATION FOR THE WORKFORCE

While recognizing the importance of having a strong theoretical basis in the core public health disciplines, UConn public health program leaders have consistently said that more important than what you *know* in public health is what you can *do* in public health. In other words, it is the *doing of public health* that we hope our students can demonstrate when they complete their studies.

But what exactly is the doing of public health? There are many official competencies for public health, including the MPH Core Competency Model of the Association of Schools and Programs in Public Health and the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals developed by the Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice. At the recent annual Conference of

the Connecticut Public Health Association (CPHA) on October 17, 2014, Jeremy Keller, Senior Project Manager for the Building Economic Opportunity Group at Jobs for the Future, a workforce research organization, presented his analysis from Connecticut and nationwide indicating which industries and organizations listed public health as one of the disciplines being recruited as well as what specific skills and competencies these employers were seeking.. It was interesting to see the top six baseline skills they were looking for—first and foremost among them being **communication skills**. This confirmed my long-standing observation that *every* description for a job in public health that I have seen has cited *strong written and oral communication skills* as a key qualification for the position. The other five baseline skills cited in Jeremy Keller's analysis

included research, writing, organization, planning and leadership.

In addition to these six baseline skills, the top six specialized skills that the research highlighted included skills in public health and safety, data collection, grant writing, behavioral health, collaboration, and administrative support.

The Public Health Curriculum Committee constantly looks at the curriculum and how well it is developing the skills needed for the public health workforce, and this information will inform future planning. In the meantime, we hope students will embrace opportunities to develop and *demonstrate* these basic skills. This is particularly important for students without a strong work history in the field.

The program offers many opportunities to do this. Practicum projects usually provide the ability to demonstrate many of these skills, and the group practicum in particular requires collaboration with other students as well as preceptors and other professionals at the worksite. The Capstone in Public Health Practice and additional Field Experiences in Public Health also provide these opportunities. In developing your plan of study, look at the skills you want (need) to develop and make decisions accordingly.

If anyone is seeking a field experience during the coming semester, please contact me or your major advisor before the end of the semester. And stay tuned to *Public Health Happenings* for further details on Jeremy Keller's research on *Public Health in the Traditional and Real-Time Labor Market*.

Joan Segal
Editor



CERTIFICATE IN FOUNDATIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH LAUNCHED

The UConn Graduate Programs in Public Health recently launched a new Certificate Program in Public Health. Among the population targeted by this new program are graduate and professional students, as well as practitioners, in medicine, dental medicine, law, nursing, social work, pharmacy, business, and the social sciences seeking to augment their perspective with in-depth understanding of issues and opportunities in population health. The program also is designed for people working in public health who have little or no academic training in the field and are interested in gaining knowledge and skills

in core areas of public, but who lack the time to complete the entire MPH degree. Still other certificate candidates are seeking an introductory pathway to the MPH degree.

Students earn the certificate by successfully completing two required and two selective courses with grades of B or above. The required courses include *Epidemiology and Biostatistics I* (PUBH 5408) and *Epidemiology and Biostatistics II* (PUBH 5409). For the selective courses, certificate students choose two of the following four: *Health Administration* (PUBH 5403), *Environmental Health* (PUBH 5404), *Social and Behavioral Foundations of Public Health* (PUBH 5405), and *Law and Public Health* (PUBH 5406).

A student may enroll in the certificate program on either a part-time or a full-time basis, but must complete the requirements within three years of initial enrollment.

Applicants for the certificate are evaluated on the basis of their academic ability to complete program requirements and interest in working in the community to advance public health. For further information contact bcase@nso.uhc.edu or mhspencer@uchc.edu.



2015 SPRING COURSES ANNOUNCED

Registration begins November 10 for the spring 2015 semester. The usual schedule of evening core courses includes the group **Practicum** on selected Mondays, **Social and Behavioral Foundations of Public Health** on Tuesdays, **Environmental Health** on Wednesdays, and **Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics II** on Thursdays.

The range of MPH electives includes **International Health** on Monday evenings; **Intermediate Epidemiology** and **Population Health Informatics** on Tuesday evenings; **Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology** on Tuesday afternoons (2:00-5:00); **Public Health and Policy in an Aging Society** on Wednesday afternoons and **Child Health, Child Development and Public Policy** on Wednesday evenings; **Topics in Intermediate Biostatistics** on Thursday afternoons and **Public Health Policy Development and Advocacy** and **Chronic Disease Prevention and Control** on Thursday evenings.

Two “Flex” courses that combine online and in-class sessions at the UConn Graduate Business Learning Center, 100 Constitution Plaza, Hartford include **Health Economics** on Tuesday evenings and **Health Insurance and Risk Management** on Monday evenings.

Other graduate courses being offered this semester include the **Public Health Doctoral Research Seminar** (to be scheduled) and an online course, **Exercise Prescription for Special Populations**. In addition, several Public Policy courses are offered by the Master’s Program in Public Administration, located on the current Hartford campus, 1800 Asylum Ave., West Hartford. They include **Public Investment Management** on Wednesdays, 4:00-6:30 p.m.; **Leading and Governing Nonprofit Organizations**, Thursdays, 4:00-6:30 p.m.; and the following two online courses: **Program Development and Evaluation** and **Grant Writing and Fund Development for Nonprofit Organizations**.

Degree students are urged to register during the early registration period, **November 10-16, 2014**, to ensure enrollment in their courses of choice. *Registration for Certificate students and other non-degree students begins on November 17.* Degree and Certificate students who are UConn union employees and entitled to a tuition waiver should contact Barbara Case in the program office (bcase@nso.uhc.edu) to let her know which courses they plan to take, so that they can be accommodated in the core courses they need. Registration in electives is on a space available basis.

HEALTH POLICY FELLOWSHIP

A fellowship is currently available in the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), Office of the Secretary (OS), at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

The selected Fellow will join the Division of Prevention Science in coordinating and developing the *Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans* (PAG). Under the guidance of a mentor, other opportunities may include: developing the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* (DGA) 2015, including communication outreach efforts; developing, implementing, and reviewing PAG and DGA projects and materials; participating in evaluation

and collaborative projects in the area of disease prevention and health promotion; preparing replies to Departmental correspondence and clearances; participating in Division of Prevention Science meetings, and contributing to program development and implementation; and contributing to OPDHP worksite wellness activities and Departmental prevention efforts.

The position requires a Master’s or Doctoral degree in exercise physiology, nutrition, public health or a related discipline received within the last five years. A background in both physical activity and nutrition, or Registered Dietitian is preferred.

To be considered, please send a current CV/resume and professional references to the attention of HHSrpp@orau.org. Reference **DHHS-ODPHP-2015-0103** in all communications.

GO RED™ MULTICULTURAL



SCHOLARSHIP

The American Heart Association and Macy’s Go Red Multicultural Scholarship Fund provides a tuition-focused scholarship for minority women pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in healthcare fields. For the fourth consecutive year, the partners are offering 16 \$2,500 tuition-focused scholarships. **The deadline to apply for 2015 scholarships is December 31, 2014.**

Qualifications for the scholarship include:

- Be a female of Hispanic, African-American, Asian/Pacific Islander or other minority origin
- Be a citizen/permanent resident of the continental United States, including Hawaii and Alaska
- Be currently enrolled in an accredited college, university or allied health institution in the U.S. and plan to be enrolled in the Fall of 2015
- Have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Complete an essay and submit two letters of recommendation with the application

To apply online, go to the following website: <https://app.wizehive.com/appform/login/gored2015>. Create a login and fill out the application form. You will also need to provide a (1) Community

Involvement description, (2) transcripts, (3) two letters of recommendation, and (4) a personal essay.

For questions, go to GoRedScholarship@heart.org. Please note that you must be [registered](#) and [logged in](#) to post a comment.



SUMMER WHITE HOUSE INTERNSHIP

The Summer 2015 White House Internship is a hands-on program designed to mentor and cultivate today's young leaders, strengthen their understanding of the Executive Office of the President and engage them in public service opportunities. The deadline is **January 11, 2015**. To apply, go to: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/internships/faqs>.

To be eligible to apply, you must be a United States citizen, 18 years of age on or before the first day of the internship, and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at a college, community college, or university (two-to-four year institution)
- Graduated from an undergraduate or graduate program at a college, community college, or university (two-to-four year institution) no more than two years before the first day of the internship
- A veteran of the United States Armed Forces who possesses a high school diploma or its equivalent and has served on active duty, for any length of time, in the two years preceding the first day of the internship

The White House Internship is an unpaid, full-time position. Applicants may contact educational and other non-profit organizations to apply for funding or housing assistance. Any outside income, funding or housing assistance received as a White House intern must be pre-approved by the Office of the White House Counsel.

The White House Internship Program is highly competitive. Applicants are encouraged to submit thorough applications that illustrate their qualifications and commitment to public service.

STUDENT PAPER AWARDS

The **Francis G. Caro Student Paper Awards** are given annually to recognize exceptional student papers at each level of academic training in the field of aging and the life course. Types of papers accepted include analytic essays on policies and topics important to the field and reports of original empirical research (quantitative or qualitative methods). These competitive awards are given to the best unpublished papers at the graduate level (pre-Master's degree, \$350 prize) and advanced undergraduate level (\$300 prize). Depending on response, multiple awards in each category may be made. These awards are sponsored by the Francis G. Caro Fund, Department of Gerontology, University of Massachusetts Boston.

Applicants must be currently enrolled in a master's degree program or undergraduate degree program at an accredited university or college. *Students who are enrolled in a PhD program at the post-masters level are not eligible for this award.* The field of study may include gerontology, sociology, economics, psychology, social work, **public health**, public policy, nursing, or related fields. Applications must include a letter of sponsorship from a faculty advisor. In addition to the award, winners will be recognized on social media and the Gerontology Department website.

The deadline for submissions for the 2015 Francis G. Caro Student Paper Awards is **June 1, 2015**. Announcements of awards will be made no later than September 1, 2015.

Francis (Frank) G. Caro is professor emeritus of the Department of Gerontology and a fellow of the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston. He has been working in the field of gerontology for more than 50 years. These awards are offered to recognize Dr. Caro's numerous contributions to the field and to honor his commitment to students. He is currently the editor of the *Journal of Aging and Social Policy*, continues to be active in research, and is a committed advocate for the older population in the community. For further information on submitting a paper, go to http://www.umb.edu/academics/mgs/gerontology/student_resources_gero/mgs_gerontology_student_paper_awards.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR



The North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) is currently seeking to hire a **part-time Emergency Response Coordinator**. Based in Enfield, the health department has four

offices and serves a population of 166,000 (the largest district in the state) in the towns of East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Stafford, Suffield, Vernon, Windham and Windsor Locks.

Examples of duties are:

- Update public health emergency response plans for the health department pertaining primarily to natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and biological agents, but participate in established municipal emergency planning committees and lend support to the process.
- Maintain an updated list of emergency contacts and volunteers within the District's communities for emergency response.
- Prepare educational material for the general public and the community for individual and collective survival in an emergency.
- Prepare or review technical and policy analyses and risk assessment studies.
- Coordinate volunteer and staff training as it relates to public health emergency response.
- Coordinate the recruitment and retention of medical and non-medical volunteers for service in the implementation of mass vaccination clinics or Point of Dispensing (POD) operations.
- Be responsible for budget and budget reporting.

The skills and knowledge required would generally be acquired with an undergraduate degree in public health, environmental science, police science, or closely related field. They include:

- Knowledge of interaction of public health and health-related agencies, and emergency response sectors. (Knowledge of the use of community resources and the function of local health-related agencies would also be helpful.)
- Skilled in the use of a personal computer and related software programs, including Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and the

like; ability to operate standard office equipment.

- Skilled in data management, including ability to manage communication networks (i.e.; e-mail, blast fax, internet, etc.).
- Skilled in oral and written communication and group presentations.
- Ability to take direction and work independently.
- Ability to conduct research and measure project activity outcomes.
- Ability to prioritize work assignments possessing good organization and coordination skills.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with staff and the general public.
- Ability to meet the physical demands of the position including sitting and/or standing for extended periods of time transporting equipment weighing up to 50 pounds.

This is a grant-funded position. Please forward a resume and letter of interest to the Director of Health, NCDHD at 31 North Main Street, P. O. Box 1222, Enfield, Connecticut 06083 or send by e-mail to mpirro@ncdhd.org. Include your qualified references.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SANITARIAN
West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District (WHBHD) is seeking full-time qualified candidates to investigate and enforce public health laws and regulations relating to environmental health and property maintenance. A BS in Science or related area is required. Previous related experience and state certifications in Phase I and II for sewage disposal and food service would be helpful. Call the WHBHD at (860) 561-7900 for an application or [www.westhartford.org/living_here/town_departments/health_district/index.php]. Applications must be postmarked no later than October 31, 2014.

PART-TIME PROGRAM FACILITATOR

The Town of Stratford is currently accepting applications for a part-time (22.5 hrs/wk) Program Facilitator for the town's Community Services Department. This is a grant-funded position responsible for providing staff support to the Stratford Youth and Family Advisory Board, a Drug Free Communities coalition working to increase

community collaboration and reduce youth substance use.

A Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university in social work, public health, education or related field; one to two years' experience working with youth; and valid Driver's License are required. The work schedule includes evenings and weekends as needed.

Applications can be found on the town's website at www.townofstratford.com and should be submitted to the Town of Stratford, Human Resources Department, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, CT 06615.

SURVEY SPECIALIST JOB OPENING

Mathematica Policy Research (MPR), a social policy and research firm headquartered in Princeton, NJ, is looking for interested graduate students or alumni for **Survey Specialist** positions open in its Oakland, CA, Chicago, IL, Washington, DC and Cambridge, MA locations. The firm is seeking students who will be getting, or a graduates who have earned, a **master's degree** in a social science or related field who have some demonstrated survey research or related experience. These are students or alumni that have experience with data collection and/or survey methodology.

Mathematica conducts social policy research on health care, disability, education, welfare, nutrition, and related topics. Its clients include federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as private foundations.

Duties of the position are:

- Support senior staff in project leadership (e.g., in task planning and oversight, progress reporting, monitoring subcontractor activity).
- Develop project materials (e.g., survey instruments, training materials, operations manuals, quality control specifications).
- Train interviewers and conduct pretests.
- Manage data collection quality control efforts.
- Coordinate work of junior staff on projects and mentor their professional development.
- Coordinate with statisticians, programmers, and researchers to integrate project work.
- Use MS Project and other tools to assume

project management responsibilities and monitor project activities to ensure that time and budget constraints are met.

- Prepare memos and assist with writing sections of descriptive reports and proposals.
- Exhibit initiative to take on new opportunities, further own professional development, and become an organizational leader.

Qualifications include a Master's degree in a social science or related field plus some demonstrated survey research or related experience; or a Bachelor's degree in a social science or related field plus three to five years survey research or related experience. A combination of equivalent education and work experience may be substituted for the above requirements.

Please submit a cover letter and resume and be sure to include your salary requirements. Also, be prepared to upload your transcripts, contact information for three references, and writing sample, via the online employment web-site at https://careers.peopleclick.com/careerscp/client_mathematica/external/gateway.do?functionName=viewFromLink&jobPostId=612&localeCode=en-us. Applications are being reviewed as they come in, so interested students and alumni are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. **The company is looking to make an immediate hire.**

PREVENTION/ADVOCACY COORDINATOR

Brown University Health Services is seeking a **Coordinator of Sexual Assault Prevention and Advocacy**. The Coordinator conducts education and outreach programs, provides support to students and advocates for improved systems and responses related to the issues of sexual violence and relationship violence. Job requirements are:

- Master's degree in a relevant field or the equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Demonstrated understanding of the dynamics of interpersonal violence and the ability to provide support to victims of sexual violence/interpersonal violence.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, including the ability to conduct educational programs and training workshops.

- Familiarity with best practices related to policy development and victim advocacy (preferred).
- Ability to work with a diverse population of students and colleagues.
- Proficient computer skills.
- Available to work some nights and/or weekends.

If interested, please apply online at:

<http://careers.brown.edu>. You can also submit a resume and cover letter to:

Frances.Mantak@brown.edu.

COMMUNITY MEDICINE SEMINAR



The speaker at the next Community Medicine departmental seminar will be Peter Adams, PhD, who is visiting from New Zealand; he will be talking about the assessment of moral jeopardy in accepting funding from

addictive consumptions. The seminar will take place on Tuesday, November 4, 12:00 noon-1:30 p.m.

Dr. Adams is Associate Professor and Deputy Head, School of Population Health, University of Auckland. He is also Associate Director, Centre for Addiction Research, and is Academic Director of the Bachelor of Health Sciences program. His research has focused on alcohol and other drugs, gambling, and male partner violence, among other issues. Follow the link below for his bio:

<https://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/en/soph/peter-adams.html>

For more information on the seminar contact Lisa Cook at lcook@uchc.edu.

STUDENT NEWS

Two students have joined the Curriculum Committee: **Jessica Hoag**, a first-year PhD student, and **Mitchell Irving**, a first-year student in the MPH Program. The Curriculum Committee gives a big thank-you to the student members they are replacing for their important contribution to the public health programs: **Shristi Rawal**, who is leaving so she can concentrate on her dissertation, and **Maytte Restrepo-Ruiz, MPH (2014)**, who has graduated from the program.

Anstasiya Domnich-Kovalevsky has been appointed Immunization Coordinator by the Torrington Area Health District.



ALUMNI NEWS

UConn Public Health alumni now have their own Facebook page, thanks to Alumni Relations, UConn Foundation. Visit it at

<https://www.facebook.com/UCONNPHAlumni> and "Like" the page.

Pamela Higgins, MS, MPH (2001), CPH was a panelist at a workshop, *Promoting Healthier Choices and Health Careers through Public Health 101: A Workshop for Public Health Mentors and Educators* at the CPHA 2014 Annual Conference on October 17. Pamela teaches public health courses at Springfield College, where she is Assistant Professor in Health Science.



Other alumni participating in the CPHA conference include **Charles Brown, MPH (2010)**, Director of the Central Connecticut Health District, and **Michael Pascucilla, MPH (2002), REHS**, Director of Health for the East Shore Health District, who served as public health mentors on the panel entitled *Looking for Jobs in all the Right Places: The Expanding Public Health Career Pathway*.



Cyndi Stern, MA, MPH (2005) moderated this session, while **Steve Huleatt, MPH (1989), RS**, Director of Health, West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District, was a panel moderator for a session on *Promising Clinical Preventive Services and New Approaches to Promote the Community's Health*.

Also participating in the CPHA conference was **Alyssa Norwood, JD/MPH (2009)**, a speaker at the workshop *on Public Health, Healthcare and Aging Populations* at the CPHA 2014 Annual Conference. Alyssa is Program Manager, Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging. **Karen Spargo, MPH (1994)**, Director of Health for the Naugatuck Valley Health District, was a speaker at another workshop entitled *Public Health and Healthcare: Embracing a Culture of Quality Improvement*. **Celeste Jorge, MPH (2011)** participated in the student poster session for an undergraduate project, *The Health Implications of a Supportive Family Environment in Connecticut High School Students*, undertaken by a St. Joseph University student whom she precepted at the Connecticut Department of Public Health. **Robert**

Miller, MPH (1995), Director of Health, Eastern Highlands Health District, was a co-author on another St. Joseph University student poster, *Sun in the Sky, Toes in the Sand, and E. Coli in the Water? Evaluating Water Samples in Ponds and Lakes of Tolland County, Summer of 2014*,

Paul Hutcheon, MPH (1989), RS has been appointed Director of Health for the town of Killingworth.

Prakrity Silwal, MPH (2012) is now a Social Work Intern at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Eric Szafran, MPH (2012) has been promoted to the position of Senior Manager, Corporate Relations at National Multiple Sclerosis Society, CT Chapter.

Melissa Touma, MPH (2014), has accepted a position as Program Coordinator at the Connecticut Department of Public Health. She will be working on the state accreditation and quality improvement initiative with Kristin Sullivan and Joan Aschieri.

FACULTY NEWS



Scott Wetstone, MD was a panelist in a workshop, *Promoting Healthier Choices and Health Careers through Public Health 101*, at the CPHA Annual Conference on October 17.

Joan Segal, Editor

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