



## Farewell to Margarita Chung and Amy Androff

A few words from MPH Director, Rowland W. Chang, MD, MPH.....

The Program in Public Health and the Department of Preventive Medicine are saying farewell to Margarita Chung and Amy Androff. **Amy** has been a Program Assistant for the Public Health Program and for several faculty members of the Department since January 2005. During this time she has been praised by countless students and faculty members for ably managing all aspects of the Public Health Program's courses, from syllabus/Blackboard website development to textbook ordering to classroom assignment and support to the management of teaching assistants, and assisting in a variety of other curricular activities. She also sat through countless committee meetings taking minutes to make sure that we didn't forget decisions that we were making. Amy, we thank you for your selfless and consistently cheery service to the Program and the Department. We wish you the best in your new position in the School of Education and Social Policy.

**Margarita Chung** has been a major reason for the success of the Program in Public Health. Shortly after beginning work in the Department in June 1996, she was assigned to be the Program's Administrator in 1997, when the Program was a year old and 10 students big. We are now in our 11th year and have nearly 100 students in the Program. As the program grew, Margarita had ever increasing budgetary, staff supervisory, and overall administrative responsibilities which she took on in a calm and extremely competent manner. She has gained the confidence of faculty, staff, and students, including the administrators outside the Department with which she has had to interact. These past two years, during the time that I have been Acting Chair of the Department, Margarita has been particularly effective in keeping program activities going while I have had to devote time to other responsibilities, and I want to personally thank her for her especially attentive support during this time. We wish her the best of luck in her new position at the NUCATS Institute.

**Karen Quintana**, a member of the Department of Preventive Medicine's administrative staff since 2006, will be the new Program in Public Health Administrator beginning this September. We welcome Karen and look forward to her administrative leadership as the Program continues to grow and evolve.

Fall Quarter Begins  
September 25!



## Fall Quarter Starts Tuesday, September 25

**Welcome, new and current students!** Fall quarter begins Tuesday, September 25 and ends December 14. You should have received a course schedule, but if you haven't, you can also find it at

<http://www.publichealth.northwestern.edu/mphprogcourses.htm>.

Registration is currently open for *continuing* students through CAESAR at <http://www.northwestern.edu/caesar/>. Registration for *new* students will be open on September 21. Current students: make sure your account is clear of any holds. For course info and syllabi, visit [www.publichealth.northwestern.edu/mphcurriculum.htm](http://www.publichealth.northwestern.edu/mphcurriculum.htm).

*FE Presentations:  
9/13 and 9/20*

---

## Field Experience Presentations: Sept. 13 and Sept. 20

Students working on field experiences this year will present their projects on one of two days: **September 13 at 5pm** and **September 20 at 5pm**. Students will each give 10 minute presentations summarizing what they did and what they learned from their experiences. Field sites include a diverse list: Asian Health Coalition of Illinois, Roberto Clemente Community Academy, NU Institute for Health Care Studies and Lurie Cancer Center, Erie Family Health Center, NU Biomedical Engineering and University of Cape Town, Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children, Children's Memorial Hospital, NU International Programs, American Medical Association, UIC School of Public Health, Howard Brown Health Center, NU Cells to Society, Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative, Salud Latina/Latino Health, Loyola's Stritch School of Medicine, Lawndale Christian Health Center, RIC, Center for Health and Fitness. Many of the students' mentors will be present.

This is also a good opportunity for incoming students to learn about current public health students' experiences and to get an idea of what you can do for your field experience.

**September 13 at 5PM:** McGaw Building, Williams Auditorium, 2nd Floor (Entrance at 240 E. Huron; After 6pm, enter thru 710 N. Fairbanks):

The following 11 students will present at this session: Melissa Chen (md/mpH), Marguerite Converse (md/mpH), Beatrice Edwards (mph), Kara Gleason (md/mpH), Jefferson Jones (md/mpH), Leslie Kim (md/mpH), Rachel Kowalski (md/mpH), Caley McIntyre (md/mpH), Phyllis Nsiah-Kumi (mph), Chandra Osborn (mph).

***Reception and refreshments starting at 4:30PM.***

**September 20 at 5PM:** McGaw Building, Williams Auditorium, 2nd Floor (Entrance at 240 E. Huron; After 6pm, enter thru 710 N. Fairbanks):

The following 9 students will present at this session: Elisabeth Pordes (md/mpH), Chelsea Richmond (mph/phd), Shaina Rozell (md/mpH), Julie Schulz (md/mpH), Adriana Segura (md), Elizabeth Sweet (mph/anthro), Rebecca Tsang (md/mpH), Asad Usman (md/mpH), Kangni Zong (md/mpH).

***Reception and refreshments starting at 4:30PM.***

---

## Do you know your Core Competencies?

Upon completing the MPH degree program, graduates will have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to...

1. Critically evaluate epidemiologic, prevention and health promotion, clinical outcomes, and health services research studies.
2. Formulate a testable hypothesis relevant to public health practice and select and implement appropriate methods to test the hypothesis in an ethically appropriate fashion with contemporary information and computing resources.
3. Locate and interpret vital statistics and other population-based data.
4. Identify population needs for primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention and describe population-based, organizational, and individual behavioral change approaches designed to restore, improve, and maintain health.
5. Identify challenges and opportunities that the economics and organization of health services create for maintaining and improving the public's health.
6. Describe the differences and overlap between clinical medicine and public health,

*Nine Core  
Competencies*

**Mark your calendar!**

*Cancer Prevention  
and Control Lecture  
Dr. Marc Hamilton  
September 18*



*Visiting Professor  
in Minority Health  
Dr. Herman Taylor  
November 12-13*



identify ways in which the two disciplines can work in synergy, and recognize the advantages of interdisciplinary team work in achieving health objectives.  
7. Develop advocacy strategies for public policies that advance health goals.  
8. Demonstrate leadership potential as exemplified by effective writing, public presentation, and teaching.  
9. Describe the history and traditions of public health and their relevance to current and future practice.

---

**Visiting Invited Lectureship in Cancer Prevention and Control  
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern  
University**

**Marc Hamilton, Ph.D.**

Marc Hamilton, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences and Dalton Cardiovascular Research Investigator at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri. Dr. Hamilton studies the molecular and physiological mechanisms by which physical inactivity causes chronic metabolic diseases (including Type II diabetes and obesity). Using microarray technologies, Dr. Hamilton's laboratory characterizes the response of a large percentage of the genome to exercise training, inactivity, and identifying both the transcriptional and post-transcriptional events influenced by fatty acids.

***Title: Metabolic, Molecular, and Clinical Effects of Sitting: A Hazard to Human Health?***

**Tuesday, September 18, 2007 from 3:30-5:00 PM** – Preventive Medicine, Suite 1102, Large Conference Room

---

**6<sup>th</sup> Visiting Professor in Minority Health:  
Herman Taylor, MD, MPH, F.A.C.C., F.A.H.A**

Herman Taylor, MD, MPH, F.A.C.C., F.A.H.A will visit NU on **November 12-13** as the sixth Visiting Professor in Minority Health. He is a Professor of Medicine and Attending Physician in Division of Cardiovascular Diseases and Internal Medicine, UMMC, Jackson, MS. His background includes internal medicine and cardiovascular disease. Dr. Taylor is scheduled to give talks to various groups at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine including:

**Monday, November 12 from 3:30-5:00 PM** – Robert H. Lurie Building, Hughes Auditorium, 303 E. Superior

***Wine and cheese reception to follow***

**Tuesday, November 13 from 7:30-9:00 AM** – Medicine Grand Rounds, Feinberg Pavilion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room A, 251 E. Huron

Additionally, we will schedule him to meet with students during a mentoring luncheon on November 12 at noon. Interested students should RVSP to [t-singvongsa@northwestern.edu](mailto:singvongsa@northwestern.edu) by no later than November 2.

---

## Recognition, Awards, Publications, Etc...

### Recognition and Awards

**Elizabeth Quinn** is the recipient of the National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant.

**Melanie Vento** is the recipient of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

**Jared Klein** and **Kachiu Lee** were awarded a Community Building Grant (<http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/studentlife/commbuildingproposals/>) from The Graduate School for their MYOM (Make Your Own Maki) group. This is the second year they've received the grant. They are also looking for M1 and M2 leadership for the culinary organization.

**Dr. June McKoy** has been appointed as Chairperson for the East Region, Committee on Admissions, Feinberg School of Medicine.

In June 2007, **Dr. McKoy** also received a Certificate in Disability Ethics from the Donnelley Family Disability Ethics Program at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

**Dr. McKoy** was featured in the June 2007 issues of Chicago Hospital news; she discussed Cancer Care Trends for Today's Elderly Population.

### Presentations

**Aileen Plate** is presenting a paper titled "State Preparedness for Avian Influenza in the United States" at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences on Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup>. This paper was a result of her MPH Field Experience. Her presentation will be sponsored by the MPH Program.

**Lynn Rundhaugen** co-organized an NIH-sponsored conference on epilepsy, titled "Curing Epilepsy 2007: Translating Discoveries into Cures" that was held on the NIH campus on March 29-30, 2007. For more information on speakers and topics presented, please visit the conference website at <http://www.curingepilepsy.ninds.nih.gov/>. At the conference, the Epilepsy Benchmark Stewards met and re-designed research benchmarks. The new benchmarks will be posted on the NINDS web site for public comment through September 30, 2007 and will be formally introduced at this year's American Epilepsy Society meeting in Philadelphia, PA.

**Joel Shalowitz** was a Fulbright Senior Specialist and Visiting Professor at Keio University Medical School in May. He lectured to medical students and studied the Japanese healthcare system. He also gave lectures at the Schools of Economics at Osaka University and Kyoto University. Topics included: Quality Assessment, Pay for Performance, Basics of Cost Accounting, Geriatric Exam, and Graduate Education for Hospital Management.

**Dr. McKoy** taught a class entitled "Medical Legal Context for Patient Safety, the Just Culture, and the Patient," HQS 502; Advanced Patient Safety in the Center for Patient Safety at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, in July 2007.



## Publications

Recently published or in press articles written by MPH faculty, alumni and students (names in bold):

**Suchdev P**, Ahrens K, Click E, Macklin L, Evangelista D, Graham, E. A Model for Sustainable Short-Term International Medical Trips. *Ambulatory Pediatrics*. 2007 July-Aug; 7(4): 317-320.

Murphree LJ, **Rundhaugen LM**, Kelly KM. Animal models of geriatric epilepsy. *International Review of Neurobiology*. 2007; 81: 29-40. Review.

Persell, S., **Osborn, C. Y.**, Richard, R., Skripkauskas, S., Wolf, M. S. (in press) Limited health literacy is a barrier to medication reconciliation in ambulatory care. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*.

**Osborn, C. Y.**, Paasche-Orlow, M., Davis, T. C., Wolf, M. S. (in press). Health literacy: An overlooked factor in understanding HIV health disparities. *Journal of Preventive Medicine*.

Kishore, K., Eder, M., **Osborn, C. Y.**, Calhoun, E. A., Fulwiler, D., Skripkauskas, S., Diamond-Shapiro, L., Wolf, M. S. (in press). Improving colorectal cancer screening among the medically underserved: A pilot study within a federally qualified health center. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*.

Bennett CL, Tigue CC, Angelotta C, **McKoy JM**, Edwards BJ. Adverse effects of drugs used to treat hematologic malignancies: surveillance efforts from the research on adverse drug events and reports project. *Semin Thromb Hemost*. 2007 Jun; 33(4): 365-72.

Bennett CL, Nebeker JR, Yarnold PR, Tigue CC, Dorr DA, **McKoy JM**, Edwards BJ, Hurdle JF, West DP, Lau DT, Angelotta C, Weitzman SA, Belknap SM, Djulbegovic B, Tallman MS, Kuzel TM, Benson AB, Evens A, Trifilio SM, Courtney DM, Raisch DW. Evaluation of Serious Adverse Drug Reactions: A Proactive Pharmacovigilance Program (RADAR) vs Safety Activities Conducted by the Food and Drug Administration and Pharmaceutical Manufacturers. *Arch Intern Med*. 2007 May 28; 167(10): 1041-9.

Tigue CC, **McKoy JM**, Evens AM, Trifilio SM, Tallman MS, and Bennett CL. Granulocyte-colony stimulating factor administration to healthy individuals and persons with chronic neutropenia or cancer: an overview of safety considerations from the Research on Adverse Drug Events and Reports project. *Bone Marrow Transplant*. 2007 Jun 11; [Epub ahead of print]

Angelotta C, **McKoy JM**, Fisher MJ, Buffie CG, Barfi K, Ramsey G, Frohlich L, Bennett CL. Legal, financial, and public health consequences of transfusion-transmitted hepatitis C virus in persons with haemophilia. *Vox Sang*. 2007 Aug; 93(2): 159-65.

**McKoy JM**, Fitzner KA, Edwards BJ, Alkhatib M, Tigue C, Nonzee N, Bolden CR, Bennett CL. Cost Consideration in the Management of Cancer in the Older Patient. *Oncology*. 2007 June; 21(7).

## Join a Committee!



## Alumni Update



---

## We Need You --- Join An MPH Committee

We are looking for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year MD/MPH and freestanding MPH students to serve as student reps on one of five MPH committees: Admissions, Curriculum, Diversity, Evaluation, and Professional Experience. These committees are a great way for you to help the program improve, have a direct impact on your education, and have an opportunity to influence the future direction of the program. If you are interested, please contact Karen Quintana at [k-quintana@northwestern.edu](mailto:k-quintana@northwestern.edu).

**Moving on:** Thank you to the following student committee reps for their contributions this past year: Eleanor Harrison Bly (md/ MPH '09) – professional experience; John Flaherty (mph alumnus '05) – professional experience; Michelle Lin (md/ MPH '09) – diversity; Rebecca Osgood (md/ MPH '09) – curriculum; Joel Ou (md/ MPH '09) – evaluation; Yuna Rapoport (md/ MPH '10) – professional experience. **Continuing student reps:** Caley McIntyre (md/ MPH '10) – curriculum; Carlos Zambrano (3<sup>rd</sup> year freestanding mph) – diversity. **New student reps:** Mitra Afshari (md/ MPH '11) – professional experience; Amber Alencar (md/ MPH '11) – curriculum; Elizabeth Groothuis (md/ MPH '11) – diversity; Sarah Hoffman (mph/jd) – evaluation; Jefferson Jones (md/ MPH '10) – evaluation; Claire O'Connell (md/ MPH '11) – evaluation.

---

## Alumni News

Have you moved or changed your contact info? Please send us your updated info! Go to <http://www.publichealth.northwestern.edu/mphalumni.htm> to download the "MPH Alumni Contact Info Sheet – Change of Address." Also, **we'd love to hear from you!** Let us know how you are doing by sending us an email at [k-quintana@northwestern.edu](mailto:k-quintana@northwestern.edu).

### \*\*\* Alumni Update \*\*\*

**Leslie Murray, MD, MPH Class of 2003** will complete a residency in Psychiatry at the Medical College of Wisconsin in September and is scheduled to begin a fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Iowa in October. She is a participant in MEP-Mentoring and Education Program (<http://mep.unm.edu/>) funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. The program pairs minority researchers (or people interested in research in minority populations) with top researchers in the field.

**Neysa McDonald, MD, MPH Class of 2004** has completed her pediatric residency at Albert Einstein Jacobi and will be an attending in Waterbury, CT starting in the fall. She and her husband also just had a baby boy named Steven McDonald in April. Congratulations Neysa!

---

## News We Can Use

Do you have info to share in our next newsletter? Please e-mail info to [t-singvongsa@northwestern.edu](mailto:t-singvongsa@northwestern.edu). The MPH Program Quarterly is published at the beginning of each academic quarter. Remember to check out "News and Events" at [http://www.publichealth.northwestern.edu/mphnews\\_events.htm](http://www.publichealth.northwestern.edu/mphnews_events.htm) for a calendar of events, past issues of the MPH Quarterly, upcoming presentations, and seminars.