

Programs in Public Health (MPH and MSEB)

Public Health Quarterly

Fall Quarter Highlights

Special points of interest:

- Fall quarter highlights
- Herman A. Taylor, Jr.
- PPH Director, Dr. Rowland Chang was the recipient of the 2007 Freedom of Movement Award
- Winter quarter begins January 7th 2008

6th Visiting Professor of Minority Health

Herman A. Taylor, Jr. MD, MPH, FACC

The Programs in Public Health's Diversity Committee along with Cells to Society (C2S): The Center on Social Disparities and Health at the Institute for Policy Research sponsored Herman Taylor's visit on November 12-13. 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. During his two-day visit, Dr. Taylor met with faculty from several different departments including Preventive Medicine, School of Law, NUCATS, and Cells to Society. He also had a mentoring luncheon with students and fellows where they had a very lively discussion about his research interests.



He delivered two very educational speeches:



- (1) "Local research – Global Relevance: The Jackson Heart Study"
- (2) Improving Health Equity in the "Golden Age" of Cardiology: The Role of the Jackson Heart Study.

For more information on Dr. Taylor and the Jackson Heart Study, please visit <http://www.jsums.edu/~jhs>.

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Rowland W. Chang, MD, MPH

Recipient of the 2007 Freedom of Movement Award

The Freedom of Movement Award is presented each year to an individual or corporation who has shown outstanding leadership in the prevention, control and cure of arthritis and related diseases. This year at the 18th Annual Black Tie Gala, the Arthritis

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Recipient of the 2007 Freedom of Movement Award *(continued from pg 1)*

Foundation Greater Chicago Chapter presented this prestigious award to Rowland W. Chang, MD, MPH, Professor of Preventive Medicine, Medicine, and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Medical Director Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Arthritis Center. Dr. Chang has been a tireless advocate for people with arthritis through his rheumatology practice as well as his over 25 years volunteering with the Arthritis Foundation.

The theme of the gala evening on Northerly Island was "Community and Collaboration" and "Reaching Out Touching Lives". The program included a documentary film comprised of a series of short interviews where his colleagues shared their appreciation for his work and contributions as well as some personal snapshots of Dr. Chang's daily routines. The film opened with Dr. Chang's usual daily swim; when he popped up out of the water he was wearing his customary bowtie! It then traced his steps from the hospital to the lecture hall, and Wrigley Field to Capitol Hill.

"Race, Health Literacy, and HIV Medication Adherence"

Chandra Y. Osborn, PhD presents at the 2007 Delta Omega Annual Meeting

The 2007 Delta Omega Annual Meeting was held on Monday, November 5 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

Chandra Y. Osborn, PhD from Northwestern University's Master of Public Health Program was selected to present her poster entitled, "*Race, Health Literacy, and HIV Medication Adherence*" at the Delta Omega poster session at the American Public Health Association meeting. She was sponsored by the NU Beta Eta Chapter of Delta Omega, the Honorary Society in Public Health.



Chandra Y. Osborn with her poster at the 2007 Delta Omega Annual Meeting.

ABSTRACT: Limited health literacy may contribute to racial disparities in health. This study examined the mediating effect of limited health literacy on the relationship between race and HIV medication adherence. A total of 204 patients infected with HIV were recruited from two clinics. Structured in-person interviews were conducted to obtain information on patient demographics, medication adherence, and health literacy. Multivariate regression models examined the associations between race, literacy, and HIV medication adherence after adjusting for relevant covariates. In an adjusted analysis that excluded literacy, African Americans were 2.40 times more likely to be non-adherent to their HIV medication regimen than Whites. When literacy was included in the final model, the effect estimates of race diminished 25% to non-significance. Literacy remained a significant independent predictor of non-adherence. In this study, limited health literacy mediated the relationship between race and HIV medication adherence. Investigators need to consider the potential utility of ameliorating literacy barriers in healthcare as part of interventions to reduce racial health disparities. The development of educational interventions for medication management that are both appropriate for lower literate audiences and culturally sensitive may both improve HIV medication adherence, and reduce racial disparities on this outcome.

In November 2007, this study received national press: [Adherence to HIV therapy linked to health literacy](#)

Winter Quarter 2008

Winter Quarter starts Monday, January 7, 2008

Welcome, new and current students! Winter quarter begins Monday, January 7 and ends March 21. The Winter 2008 course schedules can be found online:

[MPH Course Schedule](#); *[MSEB Course Schedule](#).

Advance registration for current students is now in progress through [Caesar](#). Registration for new students and for continuing students who have not pre-registered starts 9:00 AM, January 9 and ends January 11. Visit the [curriculum page](#) for course info and syllabi.

NOTE: Registration requests for Kellogg courses MUST be sent to k-quintana@northwestern.edu.

* MPH students are eligible to register for the MSEB daytime courses.



January 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Important Dates

- January 1 - Tuition due, Winter Quarter
- January 7 - First day of classes
- January 7 - 11: Change of Registration Period (add/drop)
- January 21 - No classes on Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 31 - CE status report due
- February 4 - First FE proposal draft is due
- February 15 - Last day for dropping any course
- February 19 - The National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) Presentation
- February 25 - Registration for Spring Quarter begins
- March 3 - FE Application due and CE first draft due
- March 15 - Last day of classes
- March 17 - 21: Winter Quarter Examination Week

Did you know???

MS in Epidemiology/Biostatistics (MSEB) Program

The Programs in Public Health recently launched its new program, MS in Epidemiology/Biostatistics in Fall 2007. The MSEB degree is designed to provide an educational environment for students committed to studying the distribution and determinants of health-related events in populations and clinical settings. The program emphasizes interdisciplinary perspectives to provide students with the skills to apply epidemiologic and biostatistical methodology to the design, conduct, and analysis of population and clinical studies. This is a full-time program consisting of daytime classes.

For more information, please visit the [MSEB Web site](#).
Please visit the [curriculum page](#) for current curriculum and course listings.

Certified in Public Health

The National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) recently opened registration for the first public health certification exam. Graduates from CEPH accredited schools and programs of public health across the country are encouraged to register and sit for the exam by visiting www.publichealthexam.org. The dates for the exam are August 11-30, 2008.

Discounted rates for registration

\$350 October 16 – December 31, 2007

\$400 January 1 – April 30, 2008

Want more information? The MPH Program is hosting an informational session with a representative from NBPHE on February 19th at 5pm in Lurie - Grey Seminar Room located at 303 E. Superior, Chicago campus.

Alumni News

Have you moved or changed your contact info? Please send us your updated info! Download and complete the "[MPH Alumni Contact Info Sheet – Change of Address Form](#)." Also, we'd love to hear from you! Let us know how you are doing by sending us an email to Karen Quintana (k-quintana@northwestern.edu).

Alumni Update

Suru Lin (2006) is now a resident at Boston University in General Internal Medicine.

Suneel Udani (MD/MPH 2004) completed his residency in Internal Medicine University of Chicago Hospitals/University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He is currently Chief Medical Resident at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County (formerly Cook County Hospital). Dr. Udani will start his Nephrology Fellowship at the University of Chicago Hospital next year.

“Teach this triple truth to all: A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity.”

Recognition and Awards

Dr. William B. Bunn, III, MD, JD, MPH at International Truck and Engine Corporation and Professor at Northwestern University School of Medicine has been recognized for his Vital Lives program. The program received the 2007 Honorable Mention C. Everett Koop Award. The Award Ceremony was held in New Orleans, LA – October 1-4, 2007.

Akbar Rahman was awarded an Aspen Institute Fellowship. The Aspen Institute is a forum in Aspen, CO where they assemble a variety of thought leaders & executives from all over the health care world including politics, health care policy/health reform, pharmacy, biotech, and academics for discussion sessions and meet & greets.

Dr. June McKoy was elected, along with her mentor, Dr. Steven T. Rosen, to the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society (Illinois Division). She was also elected to the Board of Directors of H.O.M.E. (Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly). H.O.M.E. is committed to improving the quality of life for Chicago's low-income elderly and helps seniors remain independent and part of their community by offering intergenerational living and a variety of support services.



Kenzie Cameron, PhD received an award from the Department of Medicine, specifically for her involvement in the Communication Skills course for M1 students (Patient, Physician & Society (PPS) year 1).

The certificate says: "Northwestern University Department of Medicine / Presented to Kenzie Cameron, PhD / In honor of being ranked in the top 10% of medical school teachers at Northwestern for the 2006 – 2007 academic year."



**"ranked in the top
10% of medical
school teachers."**

Presentations

Osborn, C. Y., Fisher, J. D., Perez-Escamilla, R. (2008, March). Factors Associated with Health Outcomes among Puerto Ricans with Diabetes. Poster presentation at the 29th Society for Behavioral Medicine annual research meeting, San Diego, CA.

Spring, B. (November 2007) Behavioral Interventions to Reduce Post-Cessation Weight Gain. Invited presentation delivered to the World Congress on Tobacco or Health, Minneapolis, MN.

Osborn, C. Y., Fisher, J. D., Perez-Escamilla, R. (2007, Nov). Environmental health disparities among Puerto Ricans with diabetes. Poster presentation at the 5th National Health Disparities Conference on Diabetes Health Disparities: Determinants, Prevention, Treatment, and Policy, Nashville, TN.

Beatrice Edwards MD, Dorothy Dunlop PhD, Jing Song MS, Howard Fink MD, Jane A Cauley DrPH presented at the Annual American Society of Bone and Mineral Research in Honolulu, HI on September 19, 2007 entitled "Functional decline after incident wrist fractures: The Study of Osteoporotic Fractures."

Selected Publications*

Diaz MH, Silkaitis C, Malczynski M, Noskin GA, Warren JR, Zembower T. 2008. Contamination of Examination Gloves in Patient Rooms and Implications for Transmission of Antimicrobial-Resistant Microorganisms. *Infection Control Hosp Epidemiol.* 29(1). *Based on M. Diaz's MPH field experience.*

Edwards BJ, Bunta AD, Langman CB, Favus M. Secondary Factors for bone loss in osteoporotic hip fractures. *Osteoporosis International* 2007 (In press).

Wendy J. Brickman, Helen J. Binns, **Borko D. Jovanovic**, Scott Kolesky, Anthony J. Mancini, Boyd E. Metzger, for the Pediatric Practice Research Group: The Prevalence of *Acanthosis Nigricans* in African American, Hispanic, and Caucasian Youth Encountered in Pediatric Practice. Nov/Dec 2007; *Pediatric Dermatology*.

Veena Shankaran, **June M. McKoy**, Neal Dandade, Narissa Nonzee, Cara A. Tigue, Charles L. Bennett, Tom D. Denberg. Costs and Cost-Effectiveness of a Low-Intensity Patient-Directed Intervention to Promote Colorectal Cancer Screening. *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, Vol 25, No 33 (November 20), 2007: pp. 5248-5253.

Naidech AM, **Jovanovic B**, Wartenberg KE, Parra A, Ostapkovich N, Connolly ES, Mayer SA, Commichau C. Higher hemoglobin is associated with improved outcome after subarachnoid hemorrhage. *Crit Care Med* 2007 Aug 21.

Terp S, Bar-Meir, Tan T. Inflammatory reaction at the site of a Bacille Calmette-Guerin vaccination scar in an adopted child. *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 2007 August 15; 45(4): 487, 518-19.

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.

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.

Schneider, K., **Spring, B.** & Pagoto, S. (2007) Affective benefits of exercise during nicotine withdrawal: Influence of smoking-specific weight concern. *Psychology of Addictive Behavior*, 21(2), 255-260.

Spring, B., Doran, N., Pagoto, S., McChargue, D., Werth Cook, J., Bailey, K., Crayton, J., & Hedeker, D. (2007) Fluoxetine, Smoking, and History of Major Depression: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 75(1): 85-94.

Feinglass J, Lin S, Thompson JA, Sudano J, **Dunlop D**, Song J, **Baker DW**. Baseline health, socioeconomic status and 10 year mortality among older middle age Americans: findings from the Health and Retirement Study, 1992-2002. *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 2007; 628: S209-S2217.



*Selected publications or in press articles written by PPH faculty, alumni and students (names in bold):

Fellowship Opportunities

2008 DHS Scholarship and Fellowship Program



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announces program guidelines for the 2008 competition cycle of the DHS Scholarship and Fellowship Program. Complete information is available online at <http://www.orau.gov/dhsed/>.

All applicants are expected to apply using the online application. The deadline for submitting an application is January 7, 2008, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Questions regarding the DHS Scholarship and Fellowship Program can be sent via e-mail to dhsed@orau.org.

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship

The Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows Program, a program of The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship and the Health and Medicine Policy Research Group, provides service opportunities and support for aspiring health professionals who seek to help the underserved in Chicago and its surrounding communities. With the generous help of Chicago-based contributors, the Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows Program proudly announces its twelfth year of uniting a diverse range of health professions students, faculty, and community-based providers who share a commitment to public service.

For more information and for application go to http://www.schweitzerfellowship.org/features/us/chi/chi_app.aspx. The application deadline for the 2008-2009 Program year is by 5:00 PM Friday, February 1, 2008.

News We Can Use

Do you have info to share in our next newsletter? Please e-mail info to Thongsy Singvongsa (t-singvongsa@northwestern.edu). The Public Health Quarterly is published at the beginning of each academic quarter. Remember to check out "[News and Events](#)" on the Programs in Public Health [homepage](#) for a calendar of events, past issues of the PPH Quarterly, upcoming presentations, and seminars.



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