Both local and national media have sought out School faculty members to comment on aspects of the national debate on health care reform, particularly after a bill was passed in March. Among those most often quoted are Tim Carey, MD, director of the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research and adjunct epidemiology faculty member; Dean Harris, JD, clinical associate professor of health policy and management; Jon Oberlander, PhD, professor of health policy and management; and Thomas Ricketts, PhD, professor of health policy and management.


Health policy and management doctoral student Brad Wright also blogs about health care reform in The Huffington Post (see www.huffingtonpost.com/d-brad-wright).

Explaining the health care reform debate

Major grants

In fiscal year 2009, despite a major economic recession, more than 400 grants and contracts, totaling more than $150 million, were awarded to faculty members with a primary appointment in the School—a 45 percent increase from the previous year.

Among the highlights:

Gates Foundation grant for urban reproductive health

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded more than $22 million for a new project to improve reproductive health of the urban poor in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Ilene Speizer, PhD, research associate professor of maternal and child health, is one of the two leaders of “Measurement, Learning and Evaluation for the Urban Reproductive Health Initiative,” which will be run by UNC’s Carolina Population Center. Working with the center on the project are the African Population and Health Research Center, based in Nairobi, Kenya, and the Population Reference Bureau in Washington, D.C. The project will help identify which urban reproductive health approaches and interventions are most effective and likely to have the biggest impact.

Statistical Methods for Cancer Clinical Trials

Michael R. Kosorok, PhD, professor and chair of the biostatistics department, will lead researchers from UNC, Duke University and N. C. State University to find ways to design more powerful clinical trials for cancer treatments. Their aim is to more quickly and effectively deliver better, more personalized new therapies to cancer patients. “Statistical Methods for Cancer Clinical Trials,” a $12.5 million, 5-year grant from the National Cancer Institute, is designed to develop new methods for the design and analysis of cancer clinical trials. Co-investigators from the School include Joseph Ibrahim, PhD, Alumni Distinguished Professor of biostatistics; Jianwen Cai, PhD, biostatistics professor and associate chair; and Danyu Lin, PhD, Dennis Gillings Distinguished Professor of biostatistics.

Center of Excellence in Genomic Science

The National Institutes of Health’s National Human Genome Research Institute and National Institute of Mental Health have awarded UNC an $8.6 million, 5-year grant to establish a Center of Excellence in Genomic Science. The center will explore how genes and the environment interact and affect certain mental diagnoses, including autism, depression, anxiety and adverse reaction to antipsychotic medicines.

Public health researchers include Daniel Pomp, PhD, nutrition professor; and Fred Wright, PhD, professor, Fei Zou, PhD, associate professor, and Wei Sun, PhD, assistant professor, all in biostatistics.

Sobsey presents water test idea to NASA, USAID and others

Mark Sobsey, PhD, Kenan Distinguished Professor of environmental sciences and engineering, is one of 10 innovators who participated in the first LAUNCH
event, held March 16–18, 2010, at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. LAUNCH sponsors include NASA, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. State Department. The inaugural event focused on water supply and quality.

Sobsey presented a proposal for simple, accessible, affordable tests to assess water quality and safety to the 30-member LAUNCH Council, a diverse group of entrepreneurs, scientists, engineers and others who advised presenters about how to move their innovations forward into commercial production, field deployment and use.

Sobsey received a Gillings Innovation Laboratory to develop portable field tests to detect fecal contamination in water. He and an international team are designing reliable fecal microbe tests that will not require sophisticated laboratory equipment, electricity or advanced training of test users.

Dr. Mark Sobsey

Technology enhances communication about the School

Social media sites provide an easy, and now mainstream, means to share information about research, practice and education opportunities—and a great way to network with colleagues, classmates and others.

UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health offers a variety of ways for students, alumni and friends to stay connected with the School and each other around the world. Check out these opportunities:

- **LinkedIn**
  - Tap into relationships and stay informed.
  - Post or search for jobs in public health.
  - [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

- **Experience**
  - Find alumni in our online community.
  - [www.uncsph.experience.com](http://www.uncsph.experience.com)

- **Alumni Online Community**
  - Follow the School on Twitter.
  - [www.twitter.com/uncpublichealth](http://www.twitter.com/uncpublichealth)

- **YouTube**
  - Check out the School’s YouTube channel.
  - [www.youtube.com/user/UNCpublichealth](http://www.youtube.com/user/UNCpublichealth)

- **Flickr**
  - Picture what the School has been up to.
  - [www.flickr.com/photos/uncsph/collections](http://www.flickr.com/photos/uncsph/collections)

- **Facebook**
  - Join our Facebook community.
  - [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

For links to more School connections (Dean’s blog, events calendar, RSS feeds, iTunes podcasts, myspace, Second Life, Wikipedia, Student Affairs blog), visit [www.sph.unc.edu/more_connections](http://www.sph.unc.edu/more_connections).

Events and other news

Minority Health Conference addresses health inequality in the modern world

The 31st annual Minority Health Conference, “Building Community in the Age of Information: Fighting Health Inequality in the Modern World,” was held Feb. 26, 2010, at the William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education in Chapel Hill, N.C. The event was planned and hosted by the School’s Minority Student Caucus.

Columbia University’s Robert E. Fullilove, EdD, presented the 12th annual William T. Small Jr. Keynote Lecture. The conference is the largest and longest-running student-led health conference in the country, regularly attracting more than 500 students, faculty, researchers, public health and human services professionals, and community leaders from N.C. and surrounding states, with at least as many throughout the country viewing the keynote lecture by webcast or on DVD.

Online learning certificates now offered

The School now offers two new online learning programs for students not seeking degrees. The Public Health Leadership Program’s online certificate in global health confers academic certification in global health competencies, focusing on global health issues, ethics, epidemiology and