

# Carolina

## PUBLIC HEALTH

GILLINGS SCHOOL of GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH  
THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA at CHAPEL HILL

FROM THE WELL TO THE WORLD

PUTTING  
SCIENCE  
INTO PRACTICE

FALL 2012 • VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 3





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Dr. Barbara K. Rimer

## The urgency of now

In this issue of *Carolina Public Health*, we focus on the urgency of *now*, the implementation imperative. Without good implementation, our discoveries are just trees falling in the woods, making no sound and having little impact.

It's not enough to discover. We also must implement...*well*. It takes far too long to move evidence from laboratories and research programs to clinics and communities where it will benefit people.

One of our responsibilities as a public university is not only to educate our state's children, but also to benefit the people of North Carolina. As this issue of our magazine demonstrates, many of the School's faculty members are translating research into practice and are committed not only to discover new knowledge but also to apply it. Because we are a global school, we want that benefit to be felt in North Carolina and around the world.

It's one thing to talk about implementation, but we must help people achieve it. Over the last few years, our gift from Dennis Gillings and Joan Gillings has enabled us to support visiting professors and an executive in residence. Don Holzworth, a successful, energetic entrepreneur and former chief executive officer of Constella Group LLC, has been a guru and guide for faculty members and students who want to translate their effective devices and programs into practice. Partly because of Don's help, we're giving birth to new companies, and more students and faculty members are interested in entrepreneurship.

Implementation is where we could achieve our greatest impact on the public's health. There are multiple examples of our faculty members' research being turned into effective programs and methods, influencing policies, and reducing health threats and hazards. Decreasing dating violence, increasing availability of healthy foods in schools and other

settings, realizing the vision of a cervical-cancer-free America, a better water filter, new statistical tools, graduated motor vehicle licensing, better ways of sharing water between jurisdictions, and the potential to improve women's health through evidence-based family guidelines are just a few of the areas in which we have made a difference.

Our North Carolina Institute for Public Health, under the leadership of associate dean for practice Anna Schenck, PhD, is accelerating practice and implementation of evidence-based public health.

We're influencing the field of implementation science by teaching it, providing critical services to other researchers, serving on prestigious editorial boards and encouraging the University to organize around it.

The speed and quality of implementation can be a matter of life and death, as statistics on maternal and child mortality numbers show. The implementation imperative is urgent if we are to achieve what Chancellor Holden Thorp defined in his 2008 acceptance speech ([tinyurl.com/thorp-acceptance](http://tinyurl.com/thorp-acceptance)) as the University's mission – to solve “the greatest problems of our time.” We're passionate about doing just that!

Barbara K. Rimer



Dr. Herbert Peterson addressed a group of maternal and child health alumni and friends at the 2012 Foard Lecture, where there was great enthusiasm about the upcoming family planning issue of *The Lancet*, subsequently published in July.

# Implementation science – Translating research into real-world solutions

Herbert Peterson, MD, an obstetrician-gynecologist, Kenan Distinguished Professor and chair of maternal and child health, knows how to stop a postpartum hemorrhage for a patient at UNC Health Care. However, the vast majority of those life-threatening hemorrhages happen to women who are hours away from medical facilities, refrigerated pharmaceuticals, safe blood supplies and trained personnel.

To address that public health challenge, Peterson looks to the field of implementation science.

“The challenge is trying to put science into service,” says Peterson, whose department at the public health school houses a World Health Organization collaborating center. The center accelerates progress in translating research evidence for sexual and

reproductive health into real-world solutions. “Implementation science is about how to deliver interventions effectively,” he says.

Implementation science closes the loop that connects research to policy to practice. Researchers find out how to fix a problem; policy makers mandate programs to apply the fix. Implementation scientists observe obstacles that get in the way of carrying out

the programs, determine how to resolve the sticking points, and inform researchers about what inhibits practitioners from implementing programs in the ways researchers and policy makers intended. Often, the rate-limiting step isn’t the discovery; it’s implementation ‘potholes.’

Implementation science has become one of the hottest growth areas in public health, says Dean Barbara K. Rimer. The Gillings School of Global Public Health is a leader, a position earned through many years of work in this field.

“Implementation science is important to us because we are committed to improving the public’s health,” Rimer says. “We can make groundbreaking discoveries and develop the world’s best interventions, but they mean nothing if they don’t get to the people who need them.”

Alice Ammerman, DrPH, director of the UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (HPDP), a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention research

PHOTO BY TOM FULDNER





Dr. Alice Ammerman



Dr. Susan Ennett



Dr. Herbert Peterson



Dr. Barbara K. Rimer



Dr. Bryan Weiner

center, has been appointed to the National Institutes of Health study section on dissemination and implementation research in health. In summer 2011, HPDP hosted the National Institutes of Health- and Veterans Affairs-sponsored Training Institute for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health. HPDP also is home to the Center for

history of conducting clinical research in community settings and translating research results into every-day clinical care. Weiner's article, "A Theory of Organizational Readiness for Change," is the most-viewed article in the history of *Implementation Science*, a journal on whose editorial board he serves.

"Implementation science moves us beyond

researchers from different disciplines leads to innovations in the intervention itself, the technology to facilitate implementation, the process of implementation and the ability to change the context.

Susan Ennett, PhD, professor of health behavior, focuses on adolescent health-risk behaviors and has worked on national and regional studies, most recently evaluating implementation of school programs targeting substance abuse prevention and wellness promotion. Her team studies what practitioners need if they are to implement programs fully and well.

"There's a big leap between the world of research and that of practice," Ennett says. "It's naïve to think that just because a program is available or a policy is in place it will be implemented, much less implemented well. Implementation science feeds information back into the loop so that programs coming out of research can be used effectively by practitioners."

—Nancy Oates

**To that person who devotes his life to science, nothing can give more happiness than increasing the number of discoveries. But his cup of joy is full when the results of his studies immediately find practical applications. —Louis Pasteur**

Training and Research Translation, which has supported obesity interventions nationally for more than six years.

"Many interventions published in the literature attempt to maximize impact without considering feasibility and sustainability," says Ammerman. "This can make them impossible to implement or sustain in the real world. Implementation science considers the needs of the population, the setting and resource constraints."

Bryan Weiner, PhD, organizational psychologist and professor in the health policy and management department, has been principal investigator for a number of prominent studies funded by the National Cancer Institute, including one that examined the implementation, impact, sustainability and business case of the Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOP), a provider-based research network with a 28-year

the randomized controlled trial for examining implementation," Weiner says. "We need brief, reliable and valid measures of the factors that drive implementation outcomes."

The public health school's range of experts underscores how the field is transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary. Bringing together

## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Dean L. Fixsen, PhD, senior scientist at UNC's Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, is author of *Implementation Research: A Synthesis of the Literature*, published in 2005 by University of South Florida's Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute. The text is online at [tinyurl.com/fixsen-implementation](http://tinyurl.com/fixsen-implementation).

Issues of implementation became urgent in the context of the AIDS epidemic. Dr. Herbert Peterson and colleagues, in a recent series in *The Lancet*, highlighted the fact that understanding implementation could increase access to family planning and reduce maternal mortality. Read more at [www.thelancet.com/series/family-planning](http://www.thelancet.com/series/family-planning).





PHOTO BY CAITLIN KLEBOER

# A vision for practice – How we are engaged locally and in the world at large

UNC Project-Malawi, a research, care and training program, opened in 1999. In 2009, the program began an international malaria vaccine trial, the first of its kind. More than 110 people die of malaria every day in Malawi, nearly half of them under age 18.

Globally and locally, UNC public health researchers, staff members and students touch the lives of thousands of people every day – leading the way toward healthier lives for women, children and families, victims of disease and disasters, those without safe drinking water and sanitation practices, and many others.

## THE WATER INSTITUTE AT UNC

Limited access to safe water, lack of sanitation and poor hygiene threaten the lives of three billion people, says Jamie Bartram, PhD, Holzworth Distinguished Professor of environmental sciences and engineering and director of the The Water Institute at UNC. Bartram tendered the figure in response to the 2012 UNICEF/World Health Organization report ([tinyurl.com/2012-water-report](http://tinyurl.com/2012-water-report)), which underestimates how

many global water sources are endangered by sanitation issues. Unsafe water and poor sanitation kill more young children every year than malaria, AIDS and accidents combined, he says.

“Over one million children die from diarrhea every year, and 90 percent of those deaths could be averted through better water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH),” says Peter J. Kolsky, PhD, who joined the Institute in June as its associate director and Professor



Dr. Peter Kolsky



# CAPSTONE PROJECTS

## TRAINING STUDENTS, BENEFITING COMMUNITIES

"Health Behavior (HB) Capstone projects focus students on achieving real-world changes while taking part in mentored service and learning opportunities," says Megan Ellenson Landfried, MPH, manager of the department's Master of Public Health program. "Each project strengthens partnerships between UNC and local communities."

The projects are as varied and complex as the teams of HB Master of Public Health candidates who apply their education, experience and passion to make the projects happen. For an entire academic year, teams of four or five students develop or improve public health programs, services and resources by collaborating with a dozen community organizations. Competition from nonprofit groups applying to become Capstone partners is fierce, Landfried reports.

Capstone projects in North Carolina have contributed



Phoebe Goldberg, Marcia Perritt, Laura Major, Rebecca Woodruff and Hannah Prentice-Dunn (l-r) won a state planning award for their Capstone work.

to Orange County's Master Aging Plan, El Pueblo Inc.'s adolescent reproductive health curriculum, the Northern Orange Partnership for Alcohol and Drug-Free Youth's Social Norms marketing campaign materials and North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence's statewide primary prevention plan for intimate partner violence.

To learn more about the program, visit [www.sph.unc.edu/hb/capstone](http://www.sph.unc.edu/hb/capstone).

—JB Shelton

of the Practice in environmental sciences and engineering.

"Finding out what water and sanitation facilities communities actually use is surprisingly challenging, before and after projects. Doing so is critical to the design and implementation of effective programs. Sharing global experience in monitoring and evaluation increases quality and reduces cost," says Kolsky, a former senior water and sanitation specialist at The World Bank.

The vision of the Water Institute is to bring together individuals and institutions from diverse disciplines and sectors and empower them to collaborate on critical global issues in water and health, including water scarcity and sharing, climate change and others. The Institute supports nonprofit Plan International USA ([tinyurl.com/PlanUSA-WASH](http://tinyurl.com/PlanUSA-WASH)) by assessing promotional efforts for sanitation issues

and also the impact of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation's water initiatives ([www.hilton-foundation.org](http://www.hilton-foundation.org)). Its presentation of the annual Water and Health Conference in October is central to the Institute's vision for research, teaching and dissemination of knowledge. (See [whconference.unc.edu](http://whconference.unc.edu).)

### BIostatistics: CHANGING THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

Former biostatistics professor Lisa LaVange, PhD, directed the oldest continuously funded National Institutes of Health coordinating center at UNC from 2005 to 2011. The Collaborative Studies Coordinating Center (CSCC), founded in 1971 in the UNC biostatistics department, has a rich history and tradition of conducting clinical trials and epidemiological studies.

"Biostatistics and epidemiology faculty

members work with statisticians, programmers and project managers to design and conduct complex national and international studies," LaVange says. "These provide immeasurable improvements in people's lives globally."

Early on, the CSCC documented benefits of lowered cholesterol in reducing morbidity and mortality. Its longest-running study, Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities, has produced more than 1,000 manuscripts relating heart disease to risk behaviors and clinical and genomic factors. Data now are being used to identify predictors of neurocognitive functioning during aging. Today, studying health disparities among Hispanics of various backgrounds, the CSCC plays an integral role in identifying and reducing risks for disease, thus changing the practice of medicine.





Dr. Lisa LaVange (left) and biostatistics chair Dr. Michael Kosorok catch up on department news.

“Whether examining links between indoor air pollution to respiratory disease in the United Arab Emirates, or comparing harmful antipsychotic side effects in treating schizophrenia,” LaVange says, “project teams use state-of-the-art data collection systems and apply cutting-edge methodologies.”

LaVange left UNC in October 2011 to direct the Office of Biostatistics in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. Read more about CSCC at [www.csc.unc.edu](http://www.csc.unc.edu). Read about the center’s new director, Sonia Davis, DrPH, on page 48.

## DR. HAJIME KANAMORI –

### A BELIEF IN ‘KIZUNA’

“Fortunately, I can let you know I’m alive.”

Those were the sober words of Hajime Kanamori, MD, PhD, MPH, in an email to colleagues at UNC Gillings School of Global Health in March 2011. Kanamori was in the northern part of Miyagi Prefecture, high in the hills, when a 9.0-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami devastated countless Japanese towns and cities. Almost immediately, he was treating survivors

who had made their way to evacuation centers.

“I believe in kizuna, the idea of bonds and connections between people,” he says. “We received supplies, prayers and support from international rescue and medical teams. Japan will recover and rebuild better with our efforts and the global community’s help. I thank the world from the bottom of my heart.”

Kanamori earned a certificate in field epidemiology at UNC’s public health school in 2011 and a Master of Public Health in Public Health Leadership in 2012. A physician at Tohoku University’s Graduate School of Medicine, he works to prevent and control infectious diseases.

“Through my practicum at UNC, I came to understand the role of infection control and outbreak investigation in challenging situations such as the Great East Japan Earthquake,” Kanamori said. “I also learned how UNC hospitals reduce health-care-associated infections and learned the basic skills of hospital epidemiology. That will be of great help in promoting better infection control activities at my hospital.”

—JB Shelton



Dr. Kanamori

# SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP –

## USING INNOVATIVE BUSINESS PRINCIPLES TO ACHIEVE BENEFICIAL SOCIAL CHANGE

Thanks to the entrepreneurial spirit of faculty members and students, research from UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health labs is finding its way to market.

Don Holzworth, MS – entrepreneur and founder of multiple global health companies, including Constella Group LLC – knows what it takes to develop a thriving business from a good idea. As the School's executive in residence since 2009, Holzworth provides support, feedback, and sometimes, a reality check for those who want to translate research discoveries into commercial applications.

"I understand firsthand the challenges faced by people who have a dream but don't know how to make it into a reality," Holzworth says. "I guide students and faculty members through the steps involved in transforming an idea into a revenue-producing enterprise, including developing a business plan, refining business presentation skills and understanding markets."

During Holzworth's tenure at the school, faculty members have incorporated three companies: Aquagenx LLC, BioDeptronix LLC and ImmunoBenefit.

Aquagenx offers an accurate, easy-to-use and affordable method of water-quality testing.

"Our goal is to become the go-to water-quality test for anyone who conducts testing in the developing world," says Mark Sobsey, PhD, Kenan Distinguished Professor of environmental sciences and engineering (ESE). Sobsey founded the company with alumnus Lanakila "Ku" McMahan, PhD. Current ESE doctoral student Alice Wang is a principal member of

the company. In April, Aquagenx received the first-place prize in Carolina Challenge, a business and social venture competition designed to promote entrepreneurship at UNC.

Will Vizuite, PhD, ESE associate professor, is co-founder of BioDeptronix ([www.unc.edu/~vizuite](http://www.unc.edu/~vizuite)), which offers a device that can test air toxicity.

"We developed this method, which uses human lung cells as part of the testing, in our lab," Vizuite says. "Our technology offers more accurate results in a shorter time."

ImmunoBenefit ([immunobenefit.com](http://immunobenefit.com)), founded by nutrition professor Melinda Beck, PhD, is a contract research organization that exclusively tests food, food supplements and beverages to determine whether they contain the immune system benefits they promise. "Ultimately, I would like our company to be the 'Good Housekeeping Seal' for immuno-enhancing properties," Beck says. "That would allow consumers to be confident that a product actually has health benefits."

Sanitation Creations ([sanitationcreations.com](http://sanitationcreations.com)), which develops environmentally friendly sanitation solutions, is another company with roots in the School. The group designed the Dungaroo, a waterless, easy-to-empty, cost-efficient retrofit for existing portable toilets. The product seals waste in odor-blocking bags and turns it into safe-to-use fertilizer



### HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

One-third of children and adolescents in the United States are overweight or obese, a condition associated with hypertension, diabetes, psychosocial and orthopedic problems.

"In the past few decades, overweight and obesity rates have skyrocketed, particularly in low-income communities and among people of color," says Sarah Strunk, MHA, director



Sarah Strunk

of Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities (HKHC). "Many neighborhoods lack safe and accessible spaces for physical activity and play, and healthy food may not be readily available."

HKHC is a five-year, \$33.4 million national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that launched in 2008. The Foundation chose Active Living By Design, based at the School's North Carolina Institute for Public Health, to lead the program. "The Institute is the cornerstone of our school's outreach in service to improve public health in North Carolina and the nation,"





Clockwise, from left:  
 Doctoral student  
 Alice Wang fills bottles  
 with filtered water  
 in Cambodia; Don  
 Holzworth engages  
 students in a  
 discussion; Liz Morris  
 makes a presentation  
 about the Dungaroo.



or bio-gas. Liz Morris, MS (2011), conducted the original research for her master's thesis in ESE, under the guidance of Jamie Bartram, PhD.

"We recently won the Cherokee Challenge [which funds high-impact environmental business ventures]," Morris says. "We are excited to have acquired our initial investment."

The School is mindful of conflicts that can arise when research at the university is combined with product development partnerships in industry.

"Conflicts of interest (COI) are going to occur," says Sandra Martin, PhD, associate dean for research at the School. "That doesn't mean the researcher has done anything wrong."

She says School leaders are dedicated to transparency. "Our COI committee, chaired by ESE professor Dr. Leena Nylander-French and including a representative from each department, helps faculty members assure that their work adheres to federal, university and other COI guidelines."

Julie MacMillan, MPH, managing director of the School's Research and Innovation Solutions (RIS) unit, says the School is committed to supporting entrepreneurship. "Within the School, we have a spectrum of people – from those new to public health and research to those who have patents and own companies," she says. "We try to meet people along that spectrum and connect them to advice."

RIS offers a wealth of information online ([www.sph.unc.edu/accelerate](http://www.sph.unc.edu/accelerate)). The group also invites speakers to the School from UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School, UNC Office of Technology Development and other entrepreneurial endeavors.

School personnel also offer training in intellectual property. Dixon McKay, a Carolina law student and School intern, helps organize seminars and publicize UNC resources to educate researchers about trademarks, patents, copyrights, trade secrets and other legal issues in business. "We want to help entrepreneurs understand what they can and can't protect," McKay says.

—Michele Lynn

says Institute director Anna P. Schenck, PhD, who is also associate dean for practice at the School. "ALBD cultivates and supports integrating physical activity and healthy eating into daily life."

HKHC works with multidisciplinary community partners to put into effect obesity-prevention strategies in populations at greatest risk. Initiatives include collaborating

with corner store owners to increase healthy food availability, implementing agreements to open school playgrounds to residents after hours and developing safe and inviting routes to schools and parks. Impacted communities range from rural Nash County (N.C.) to Chicago.

"This investment in nearly 50 communities is helping to improve the lives of children

across the country," Strunk says. "They are growing up in a culture that gives them the ability to make healthier choices and contributes to a brighter future."

Learn more about the HKHC program at [tinyurl.com/ALBD-healthykids](http://tinyurl.com/ALBD-healthykids).

—JB Shelton

# Putting knowledge to work – Implementation of programs, technologies and other tools

UNC public health researchers develop and adapt evidence-based solutions for specific health challenges. Through new techniques, tools, technologies and programs, they bring research findings to bear on such problems as obesity, tobacco use, adverse drug reactions, pollution, health inequities and others. By developing innovative ways to implement their research in the real world, they provide individuals, health advocates, care givers and practitioners with the best available ways to prevent, control and treat disease.

## *Designing model programs*



*Dianne Ward, EdD, professor, Nutrition*

**Challenge:** Childhood obesity has more than tripled in the last 30 years.

**Goal:** Promote healthy weight among young children through better nutrition and more physical activity in early care and education settings

**Intervention:** An engaging interactive online tool that gives child care providers direct access to proven strategies for healthy weight development from birth to age 5

**How it works:** Ward led the team that developed the successful Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (NAP SACC) program. NAP SACC improves child-care environments through free, Web-based training to health consultants in many states and addresses nutrition and physical activity practices at early care and education settings. Those consultants then help child care centers that serve children ages 2 to 5 boost food quality and physical activity. With a Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation grant, Ward will create a new online resource for the state, improve its user-friendliness and adapt it for direct use by care providers in family homes and child care centers. Within the original NAP SACC model, a new “Baby NAP” component will address breastfeeding, infant feeding, and other issues related to very young children. Both projects are administered by the UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

**See:** [www.napsacc.org](http://www.napsacc.org)





*Vijaya Hogan, DrPH, clinical associate professor, Maternal and Child Health*

**Challenge:** Even when health institutions request input from disadvantaged communities, barriers often prevent vulnerable populations from achieving health equity.

**Goal:** Establish a replicable model of community-centric engagement in maternal and child health

**Intervention:** Hogan and colleagues will develop a community-centered evidence base of specific and effective strategies to reduce infant mortality among African-American women in Philadelphia.

**How it works:** With funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation ([www.wkcf.org](http://www.wkcf.org)), the Philadelphia Roadmap to Health Equity in Maternal and Child Health actively will engage African-American women affected by preterm birth and infant mortality in decision-making processes and practices that affect their lives. The project will build the women's research, leadership and critical thinking skills and develop their capacity to engage health and social services institutions. The women will determine how health care and social service delivery need to change and will present their recommendations to the relevant local and national institutions. Hogan's team will develop novel recommendations and strategies that can be used to address other health disparities through community engagement.

**Email:** [vijaya\\_hogan@unc.edu](mailto:vijaya_hogan@unc.edu)



*Lori Carter-Edwards, PhD, deputy director,  
UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention*

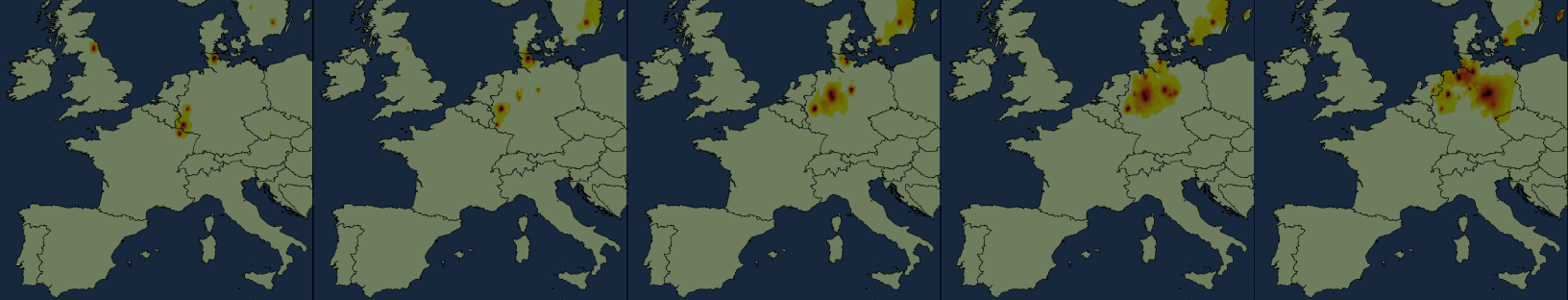
**Challenge:** Obesity and poor health can be exacerbated by social and economic factors.

**Goal:** Develop replicable products and strategies to address these problems across North Carolina and in other states

**Intervention:** Widen the impact of the successful HOPE (Health, Opportunities, Partnerships, Empowerment) Works program originated by the late Marci Campbell, PhD, former professor of nutrition at the School.

**How it works:** With funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Carter-Edwards and her team determine the most effective ways to expand participation in HOPE Works, which helps low-income women in three rural eastern North Carolina counties set and meet goals for improved health and financial well-being. The Seeds of HOPE project team will revise the HOPE Works materials to make them easier to use, disseminate the program more widely through women's social networks and existing organizations, and identify which methods and products most effectively counter socio-economic impacts on health.

**See:** [www.hdpd.unc.edu/research/current-projects/seeds-of-hope](http://www.hdpd.unc.edu/research/current-projects/seeds-of-hope)



## Developing innovative techniques, tools and technologies



*Kurt Ribisl, PhD, professor, Health Behavior*

**Challenge:** Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S.

**Goal:** Enable tobacco control advocates to document the pervasiveness of tobacco industry activity in the retail environment and make the case for policy change

**Intervention:** Ribisl is developing customizable, observational assessment, mapping and policy-testing tools that will allow public health workers to gather, organize and display data about tobacco sales, marketing and promotions in stores.

**How it works:** Advocates collect assessment information on paper forms or with smart phones or other Web-enabled mobile devices. The mapping tool lets decision makers see where tobacco retail locations are concentrated, how close they are to schools and parks, and how the retailers will be impacted by various policy options.

**See:** [www.countertools.org](http://www.countertools.org)



*Nabarun Dasgupta, MPH, doctoral candidate, Epidemiology*

**Challenge:** Adverse events related to prescribed medicines and medical devices are under-reported.

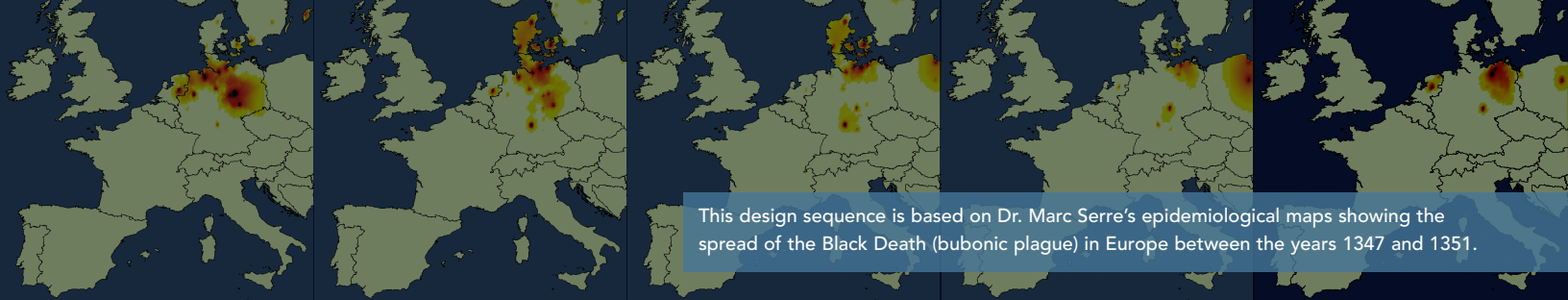
**Goal:** Improve drug and device safety by streamlining the reporting process

**Intervention:** With collaborators at Children's Hospital Boston, Dasgupta developed a smartphone application that allows health professionals and patients to report adverse drug reactions more easily. This fall, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration launched an update that also allows reporting on medical devices. Future adaptations likely will track drug shortages, counterfeit drugs and adverse events related to vaccines.

**How it works:** With the customizable app, patients and physicians can look up specific medicines and devices, report issues, access user forums, and receive FDA safety alerts and relevant media updates. MedWatcher also can track how devices perform during public health emergencies.

**See:** [www.medwatcher.org](http://www.medwatcher.org)





*Marc Serre, PhD, associate professor, Environmental Sciences and Engineering*

**Challenge:** Pollutants in the air and water adversely impact cardiovascular, respiratory and possibly neurocognitive and neurodevelopmental health.

**Goal:** Improve techniques for mapping air and water pollution in North Carolina and across the U.S.

**Intervention:** Serre has developed geostatistical techniques that allow more precise pollution exposure estimates for a given location.

**How it works:** His lab maps exposure, disease and risk statistics in space and time. Colleagues at UNC and in more than 40 countries use his mapping methods in epidemiological studies, for instance to discover and understand relationships between exposure to hazardous air pollutants and autism, sleep disturbance and cognitive disorders. Serre continues to perfect his techniques and discover new applications for them.

**See:** [www.unc.edu/depts/case/BMElab](http://www.unc.edu/depts/case/BMElab)



*Deborah Tate, PhD, associate professor, Health Behavior, Nutrition*

**Challenge:** Obesity-related illness is a significant problem among the more than 5 million veterans served by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

**Goal:** Support veterans' self-guided efforts to achieve a healthy weight and a healthy lifestyle

**Intervention:** Tate helped create a new version of the VA's MOVE! weight-loss program by integrating evidence-based tools such as Telephone Lifestyle Coaching (TLC).

**How it works:** MOVE! TLC now provides veterans with a workbook to guide them through lessons and exercises. A trained coach calls regularly to discuss the lessons and support each veteran's progress. The TLC version of the VA program resulted in increased weight loss and high participant satisfaction. Tate is now developing an eMOVE! version that will integrate Web-based tools.

**See:** [www.move.va.gov/WhatMoveCanDoForMe.asp](http://www.move.va.gov/WhatMoveCanDoForMe.asp)

—Kathleen Kearns





California Tribal Epidemiology Center staff members collect surveys that will yield information about American Indians' asthma incidence.

# Influencing policy – Changing the way things are done

UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health faculty members and alumni lead state, national and international programs, making an impact upon health outcomes including disease reduction, food choice improvement and enhancement of services for domestic violence victims.

**Leah Devlin, DDS, MPH**, Gillings Professor of the Practice in health policy and management, secures economic safety and health for North Carolina's children through her appointment to the policy group Action for

Children. Currently, she tackles smoking and obesity prevention.

As North Carolina's state health director and public health division director from 2001 to 2009, Devlin accomplished a great deal,

including policy changes for public schools. Under her leadership, the health department developed comprehensive school health programs, placed nurses in schools, mandated regular physical activity and required nutritious lunches. During her tenure, mental health and injury prevention services also were introduced.

"You cannot separate health and education from outcomes," Devlin says. "Children must be healthy to learn. If a person doesn't graduate from high school, he or she is less able to earn a decent wage and therefore less able to live in healthy environments or purchase healthy foods. The impact of poverty, lack of education and housing issues shapes health policy."





Dr. Kristal Chichlowska



Dr. Leah Devlin



Dr. Brenda Edwards



Dr. David Richardson

Although 2009 alumna **Kristal Chichlowska, PhD, MPH**, concentrates on social indicators driving California's health disparities, her work is important to North Carolina. As director of the California Tribal Epidemiology Center at the California Rural Indian Health Board ([www.crihb.org](http://www.crihb.org)), she serves 109 American Indian tribes routinely underrepresented in epidemiologic data.

Physicians often misclassify American Indian and Alaska Native patients' ethnicities, masking the groups' childhood and chronic disease burdens. Without accurate data, health programs cannot secure funding to meet community needs.

"For instance, we found California's American Indians were misclassified in state health databases up to 60 percent for some health outcomes," Chichlowska says. "Now, we advocate for oversampling, pushing the state capital and federal agencies for data improvement."

Since 2010, the epidemiology center has surveyed these communities about diseases and published data online, she says. This information bolsters CRIHB's outreach effort to enhance policies.

**Sandra Martin, PhD**, maternal and child health professor, evaluates the performance of policies and strategies. As a Governor's Crime Commission member, she and her co-members analyze domestic violence and sexual assault programs and helped develop a standardized, statewide reporting system.

The question, she says, is whether these programs can use the system to provide care.

"We're surveying all programs about their capacity for using the new system, and we'll

offer necessary training," she says. "We're also looking at how well programs address substance abuse. It's a sensitive topic people often ignore because they're uncomfortable talking about it."

Martin's research revealed four components vital to understanding the efficacy of domestic violence and sexual assault services – the victim's satisfaction with the services, victim's progress toward goals, changes to violence victims experienced and changes in victims' knowledge about services.

Martin also has studied child maltreatment in military families. She found abuse occurs more frequently when one parent – frequently the father – is deployed. Congress used these findings to increase family support services during deployments.

The School's dean, **Barbara K. Rimer, DrPH**, is chair of the President's Cancer Panel, the group charged with monitoring the nation's cancer effort. The panel has organized a series of four workshops to develop strategies to accelerate cancer prevention by increasing the proportion of age-eligible individuals who are vaccinated against human papillomavirus (HPV) infections.

HPV causes more than 560,000 new, worldwide cases of cervical, oropharyngeal and other cancers annually. Noel Brewer, PhD, associate professor of health behavior, co-chaired the second workshop, titled "Achieving widespread vaccine uptake."

Increasing vaccine access is critical to eliminating avoidable disease, Rimer says.

"A vaccine to prevent cancer is the Holy Grail of cancer control. Yet, only about 30 percent of girls and less than 2 percent of boys have been vaccinated," Rimer says. "If we identify promising strategies to increase HPV vaccine use, then, indirectly at least, we'd contribute to preventing cancers. That's why I'm doing this."

While the advisory panel cannot mandate



Dr. Noel Brewer addresses an audience in Raleigh, N.C., at the launch of the N.C. Cervical Cancer-Free initiative in 2010.

PHOTO BY RAMONA DUBOSE



action, Rimer wants health organizations to help implement proposed policies and recommendations. Cervical Cancer Free NC ([www.ccfnc.org](http://www.ccfnc.org)), based at the School and led by Brewer, is one such effort, aiming to reduce or eliminate cervical cancer in North Carolina by advocating for vaccination, screening and treatment.

For **Brenda Edwards, PhD**, a 1975 School alumna, the goal is reducing all cancers – her objective at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) since the 1990s. Now, she is senior adviser to NCI’s Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) database – a registry from 15 major cities, totaling roughly 28 percent of the U.S. population. The data include patient demographics, primary tumor site and morphology, stage-at-diagnosis, first-treatment course and follow-up.

“These data look beyond clinical trial results for a better picture of how to use and apply outcomes to impact total populations,” Edwards says. “Studies and modeling groups can analyze SEER data to see who gets cancer, mortality rates, data changes over time, risk factors and how to minimize risk.”

The Food and Drug Administration uses

the statistics to determine orphan drug status (an orphan drug is developed specifically to treat a rare medical condition). The statistics also help NCI extrapolate the number of new diagnoses annually. Such estimates inform Medicare and Medicaid policy decisions, Edwards says.

For many patients, health care is obtained at rural, critical access hospitals (CAHs) which often don’t monitor their financial status. To help these vital facilities track expenditures, **George Pink, PhD**, Humana Distinguished Professor of Healthy Policy and Management, and **Mark Holmes, PhD**, health policy and management assistant professor, developed the Critical Access Hospital Financial Indicators Report, based on data from 300 CAHs.

Using 21 financial ratios, the report identifies hospital financial strengths and weaknesses. Thus, facility and state program administrators can pinpoint institutions that could benefit from grant funding or consultant guidance, Pink says.

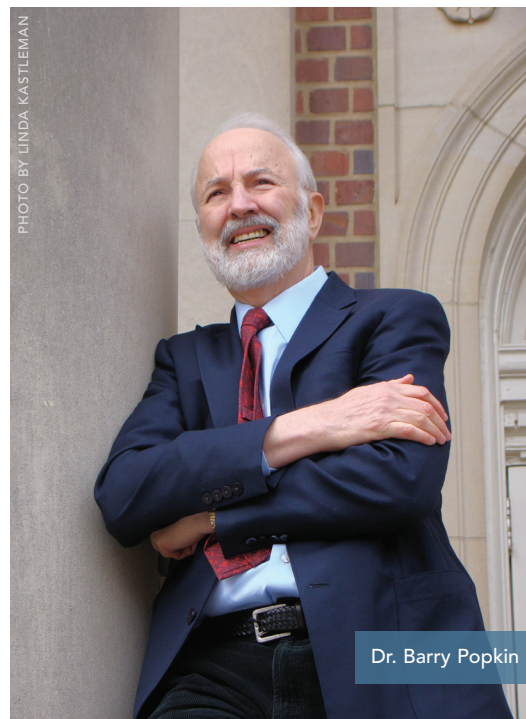
“The hope is that these data will help hospital managers think strategically and strengthen their system to adapt and survive when federal

reimbursement rules change,” Holmes says. “It’s something they might not have been able to do prior to getting these reports.”

PHOTO BY U.S. PACIFIC FLEET/JOHN SMOLINSKI



Dr. George Pink (left) and Dr. Mark Holmes



Dr. Barry Popkin





U.S. Navy barges delivered a half-million gallons of water to support cooling efforts at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in March 2011. Dr. David Richardson works with Japanese officials to develop nuclear policies that will keep the country's people safer.

In 2009, President Obama appointed **David B. Richardson, PhD**, associate professor of epidemiology at the School, to the White House Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health.

Two years later, Japanese citizen groups and public health researchers called upon Richardson's expertise in radiation after a national disaster. When a horrific earthquake and tsunami damaged a nuclear energy facility, Richardson advised about the development of policies that would keep the Japanese people safe and about long-term strategies to understand health effects of the disaster.

Richardson's research investigates occupational and environmental causes of disease, with a particular focus on ionizing radiation. He has served in various capacities at UNC since 1996 when he began as a postdoctoral researcher.

He has led a number of studies of workers at U.S. Department of Energy facilities focused on occupational health and radiation exposures. Previously, he worked at the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon,

**You cannot separate health and education from outcomes. Children must be healthy to learn. If a person doesn't graduate from high school, he or she is less able to earn decent wages and therefore less able to live in healthy environments or purchase healthy foods. The impact of poverty, lack of education and housing issues shapes health policy. —Dr. Leah Devlin**

France, and at the Radiation Effects Research Foundation in Hiroshima, Japan.

**Barry Popkin, PhD**, W.R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of nutrition, improves global food choices by helping countries establish proper nutrition labeling guidelines. Currently, only The Netherlands has national labeling policies. This dearth of guidance troubled Popkin.

"I had to get involved when I saw the food industry – global and stateside – creating labeling systems to allow enormous amounts

of sugary, salty and fatty foods to be labeled as healthy," Popkin says. "I knew it was essential for a scientist to create an appropriate, science-based system."

Based on World Health Organization and U.S. standards, these labeling policies reduce added sugars and sodium, lower trans and saturated fats, and increase whole grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables. Seven additional countries are considering a national labeling policy, Popkin says, to control obesity, diabetes and other diet-related ailments.

—by Whitney L.J. Howell

UNC GILLINGS SCHOOL OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

# RESEARCH ANNUAL REPORT

## FISCAL YEAR 2012



Dr. Sandra Martin

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

You will not find ivory tower academics in the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. As this edition of *Carolina Public Health* clearly demonstrates, our faculty members undertake state-of-the-art research to discover solutions to some of the world's most pressing public health challenges – problems that affect the lives of people in North Carolina, our nation and the world.

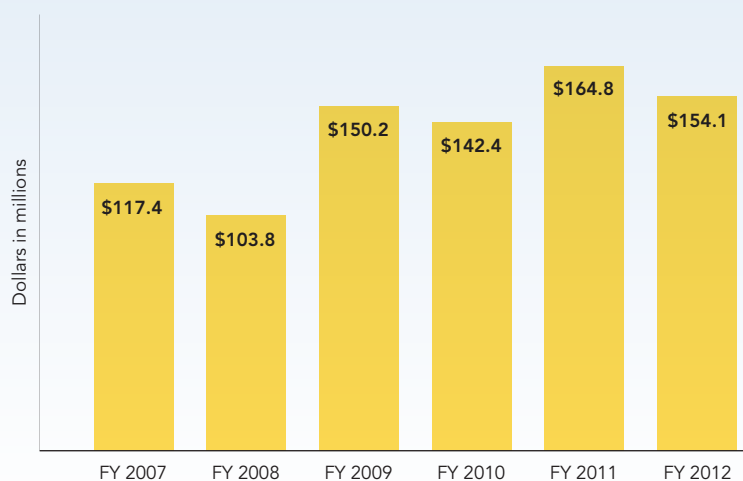
However, learning “what works” to solve a public health problem is not enough. This is why many on our faculty engage in implementation science to

determine and apply methods aimed at the dissemination of effective public health interventions. The goal is to ensure that the most effective public health approaches are actually put into use to improve people's lives.

This work takes funding. In fiscal year 2012, our faculty members submitted more grant and contract applications than ever to fund their research, a 20 percent increase in requested funds from the previous fiscal year. Although we are living in an economy in which research resources are limited, our researchers'

### DOLLARS AWARDED FROM GRANTS AND CONTRACTS TO PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AT THE SCHOOL (FISCAL YEARS ENDING JUNE 30)

The School's faculty members were awarded \$154 million for grants and contracts in Fiscal Year 2012.





hard work has paid off. They received 417 grants and contracts totaling more than \$154 million, 80 percent of which was provided by federal sources including the National Institutes of Health.

This edition of *Carolina Public Health* highlights some examples of these endeavors, and I'll mention a few others here.

- Drs. Vijaya Hogan and Diane Rowley, in the Department of Maternal and Child Health, were funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to engage in action research with vulnerable African-American women. They will work toward developing community-centric solutions to maternal and child health problems that are often faced by those living in poverty. Strategies identified during this project may be used to modify existing maternal and child health institutional processes to improve effectiveness of health-related services.
- Drs. Annelies Van Rie and Marcel Yotebieng, in the Department of Epidemiology, were funded to conduct research on a new diagnostic test for detecting multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, a significant public health problem in sub-Saharan Africa, especially in areas where there is also a high rate of HIV. Van Rie received a grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to work in South Africa; Yotebieng's grant from the World Health Organization (WHO) will fund his work in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Both

research projects aim dramatically to reduce the overall prevalence and number of deaths caused by tuberculosis, an airborne infectious disease that is preventable and curable.

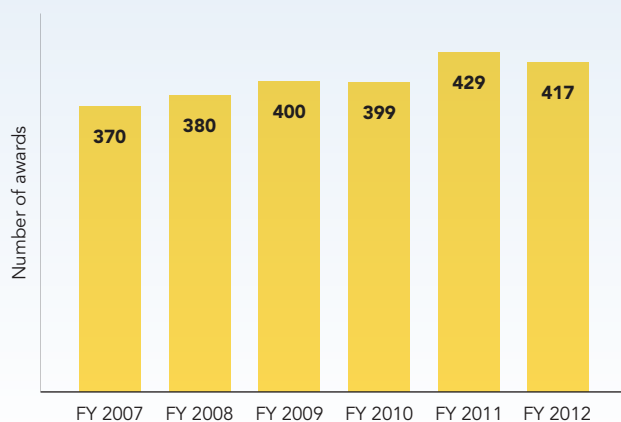
- Drs. Jason West and Will Vizuete, in the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, were funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to design and evaluate a dynamic management system for the country's electric power sector, a system aimed at minimizing daily exceedances of ozone air quality standards. If shown to be effective, this approach could be instituted across the country to help improve air quality.

Our School is fortunate to have so many bright, hard-working, productive and dedicated faculty members. They dream of a better world, and they work hard to help make it happen. They are truly driven to accomplish our School's mission to improve public health, promote individual well-being and eliminate health disparities across North Carolina and around the world.

Sandra L. Martin, PhD  
Associate Dean for Research  
Gillings School of Global Public Health

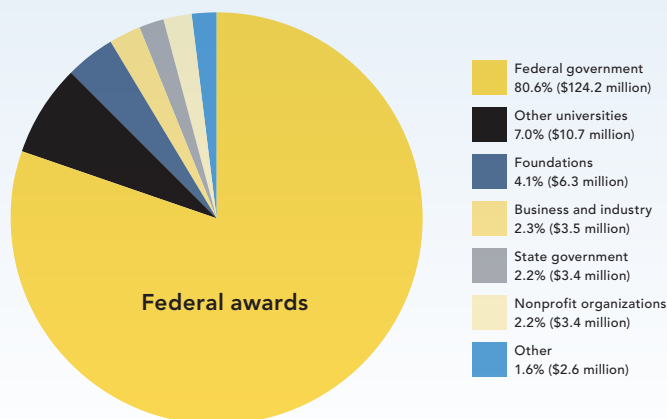
## NUMBER OF GRANTS AND CONTRACTS AWARDED TO PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS (FISCAL YEARS ENDING JUNE 30)

In fiscal year 2012, 417 grants and contracts were awarded to principal investigators at the School – an average of 2.54 grants per faculty PI.



## TYPES OF FUNDING FOR GRANTS AND CONTRACTS AWARDED TO PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS DURING FISCAL YEAR 2012

The majority of external funding in fiscal year 2012 – 80.6 percent – was from the federal government.





# Research highlights – Implementation-ready studies that may shape policy and treatment

PHOTO BY TOM FULDNER

**I**nnovative research at the School offers risk-reduction strategies, defines vulnerable populations and informs optimal treatments. Implementing findings such as these – and making them work for individuals and communities – will help make the public healthier faster.

## **DRAMATIC RISE IN DIABETES AMONG AMERICAN TEENS**

Diabetes increased by about 25 percent among American teens in the last decade. Noting this disturbing trend, which was seen for both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, nutrition professor **Elizabeth Mayer-Davis, PhD**, says the real public health impact of these numbers may not be felt for decades, as the current teen population ages and becomes plagued with chronic diseases.

“Youth with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes will enter adulthood with higher risk for cardiovascular disease and other long-term, costly complications of diabetes, including eye and kidney disease,” she says.

Mayer-Davis’ research also showed that diabetic teens rarely meet health recommendations for exercise and diet, and their diabetes often is controlled poorly. She says this makes it all the more important to redouble efforts to support daily medical management,

healthy food choices and opportunities for physical activity among teens with – or at risk for – diabetes.

## **ADULTS BORN DURING 1980S UNIQUELY PRONE TO OBESITY**

Despite recent reports that obesity in the U.S. appears to be leveling off, assistant professor of epidemiology **Whitney R. Robinson, PhD**, has found that young adults born in the 1980s may continue to be burdened by increasing obesity rates when compared to the rest of the adult population. Her study, published in May by the *International Journal of Obesity*, found marked generational differences in the rates of obesity.

Robinson hopes the findings will help shape public health efforts to prevent incident obesity and further weight gain in these young adults, especially as they reach middle age and begin to experience obesity-related conditions like hypertension and diabetes.





Dr. Paul Godley



Dr. David Margolis



Dr. Elizabeth Mayer-Davis



Lauren McCullough



Dr. Whitney R. Robinson

## EXERCISING, EVEN LATER IN LIFE, APPEARS TO CUT BREAST CANCER RISK

One in eight American women is diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in their lives – something that weighs heavily on many women’s minds, especially as they age. New research led by **Lauren McCullough**, doctoral candidate in epidemiology, offers promise. McCullough’s study found the risk of breast cancer can be reduced by as much as 30 percent in women who exercise 10 to 19 hours per week.

According to the study, published in the journal *Cancer*, risk reductions were observed at all levels of intensity, and exercise seemed to reduce the risk of hormone-receptor-positive breast cancers – the most commonly diagnosed tumor type among American women. McCullough says active women also need to focus on maintaining a healthy weight. Substantial weight gain, particularly after menopause, seemed to negate the cancer-reducing benefits of exercise.

## STUDY VALIDATES OPTIMAL TREATMENT FOR PROSTATE CANCER, INFORMS MEDICAL CHOICE

Over the last decade, Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) largely has replaced conventional conformal radiation therapy (CRT) as the primary radiation technique for treating localized prostate cancer, despite little hard data to support it. Now, UNC researchers, led by **Paul Godley, MD, PhD**, adjunct professor of epidemiology and professor of medicine, have helped to validate this change in practice.

In a comparative analysis, published April 18 in *Journal of the American Medical*

*Association*, IMRT was better at preventing cancer recurrence and results in fewer side effects than conventional CRT. IMRT was associated with fewer diagnoses of gastrointestinal symptoms such as rectal bleeding or diarrhea, fewer hip fractures and less additional cancer therapy, but more difficulty with sexual function. It was as effective as proton therapy, a new high-cost technique that has been growing in popularity.

Godley and his team believe these results will provide clinicians and patients with more information upon which to base medical decisions. In 2012, approximately 241,740 American men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer.

## DRUG HELPS TARGET HIDDEN HIV

While antiretroviral therapies (ARTs) have been effective in controlling HIV levels, they have not completely eliminated latent virus hiding within infected cells. Problems with long-term ARTs, such as drug resistance, side effects and cost, have underscored the need for a new approach to combating the virus, according to **David Margolis, MD**, professor of epidemiology and medicine.

A recent study by Margolis and colleagues, published online July 25 in the journal *Nature*, found that a cancer drug, vorinostat, can force HIV out of hiding and expose it to attack from conventional anti-HIV therapies. The results provide a path forward for testing this class of anti-cancer drugs, known as HDAC inhibitors, to target persistent virus, which would be an important step toward finding a cure.

In a related study, published online May 28 in *Proceedings of the National Academy*

*of Sciences*, Margolis and colleagues found that latency develops soon after infection and slows when ART is administered.

## EARLIER HIV TREATMENT CAN HELP PROTECT PARTNERS

In African countries with the highest HIV rates, nearly half of HIV-infected adults in stable relationships have uninfected partners. More than half of new adult infections occur within such couples, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

A landmark study known as HPTN 052, conducted by **Myron Cohen, MD**, and his team, found that starting combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) dramatically cuts the rate of sexual transmission of HIV to uninfected partners (by 96 percent) and significantly reduces HIV-related illness and death in the infected partner (by 41 percent). Results, published July 18 in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, have led WHO to consider recommending early cART in its guidance to couples with one HIV-infected partner.

“HPTN 052 is the first randomized clinical trial to indicate definitively that an HIV-infected individual can reduce sexual transmission of HIV to an uninfected partner by beginning antiretroviral therapy sooner,” Cohen says.

Cohen is the J. Herbert Bate Distinguished Professor of medicine, microbiology and immunology in the UNC School of Medicine and epidemiology professor at UNC’s public health school. *Science* named HPTN 052 its “Breakthrough of the Year” in 2011.

—Amanda Crowe



# Alumna viewpoint

## Engaging patients and physicians in China's fight against chronic diseases

PHOTO BY BARBARA TYROLER

With an aging population and the adoption of an increasingly western lifestyle, the burden of chronic diseases in China is on the rise. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the percentage of Chinese over age 65 will more than double, between 2000 and 2030 – from 7 percent to 16 percent. By 2050, one in four people in China will be older than 65.

This demographic shift already is having a huge impact upon the number of people living with chronic diseases, such as hypertension, infectious diseases, cancers, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and diabetes – China already has the largest diabetic population in the world, and it's growing at 16 percent each year.

This burden on the health-care system drives the need for innovative approaches to disease prevention and treatment. Key to both is better education for health professionals and patients.

The health-care industry can help address this need by supporting continuing medical education for professionals at all levels –

education that improves core knowledge in key therapeutic areas, introduces innovative methods for disease prevention and shares research about the newest treatments to enable selection of the most appropriate therapies.

Patients, too, increasingly are looking for ongoing support and information from a variety of sources, including private enterprise, as they take a greater role in managing their own health. Arming them with the knowledge to make smart decisions about care and treatments – for themselves and for their family members – and helping them gain access to services and therapies within their own communities will be essential if China achieves its long-term goals for health.

—Clancey Houston



*Clancey Houston, MPH, is managing director of inVentiv Health Communications / China, a multidisciplinary integrated communications group dedicated to improving health through innovation and superior communication programs. For nearly twenty years, she has led integrated multinational teams in building, promoting and protecting brands and businesses in the highly complex and issues-rich markets of Asia Pacific and Africa.*

*Houston holds a bachelor's degree in Chinese and political science from Middlebury College and a Master of Public Health degree in health policy and management from UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. She is fluent in Mandarin Chinese.*

*Read more about the diabetes crisis in China in a recent study by nutrition professors Penny Gordon-Larsen, PhD, and W. R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor Barry Popkin, PhD at [tinyurl.com/nature-diabetes-in-China](http://tinyurl.com/nature-diabetes-in-China). Nutrition faculty members Linda Adair, PhD, Elizabeth Mayer-Davis, PhD, and Shufa Du, PhD, and biostatistics professor Amy Herring, ScD, co-authored the study.*



# UNC GILLINGS SCHOOL OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOOL NEWS

MAY — SEPTEMBER 2012

Read more at [www.sph.unc.edu/news](http://www.sph.unc.edu/news).

## *From the journals*

Increasing access to family planning will play a central role in achieving U.N. targets for maternal health, eradication of poverty, education and gender equality, according to a major new Series on Family Planning published July 10 by *The Lancet*. **Herbert B. Peterson, MD**, Kenan Distinguished Professor and chair of the Department of Maternal and Child Health, played a key role in the series.

**Sally C. Stearns, PhD**, and **R. Gary Rozier, DDS, MPH**, professors of health policy and management, led a study of the cost-effectiveness of Into the Mouths of Babies, a Medicaid program operating in North Carolina since 2000. Results were published

online Aug. 27 in *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*.

Minors easily can purchase alcohol online as a result of poor age verification, according to a study co-authored by **Kurt Ribisl, PhD**, professor of health behavior. **Rebecca Williams, PhD**, research associate at UNC's Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, was lead author of the study, published in the May *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*.

The rapid shift from nomadic life to modern-day culture in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) exposes the population to significant indoor air quality risks that can lead to

respiratory illness, according to a study led by epidemiology assistant professor **Karin Yeatts, PhD**. The study was published May 1 in *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

**Harsha Thirumurthy, PhD**, assistant professor of health policy and management, co-authored an article in the May *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* suggesting that use of text messaging and other mobile phone applications may be an increasingly effective and cost-efficient means of improving health outcomes, especially in developing countries.

A rapid growth spurt in childhood could foretell obesity in adulthood, according to a study authored by 2012 health policy and management alumnus **Daniel Belsky, PhD**, and published in the June *Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine*.

A study led by alumna and adjunct assistant professor **Asheley Cockrell Skinner, PhD**, published online Sept. 10 in *Pediatrics*, finds a surprising difference in the eating habits of overweight children between ages 9 and 17 years, compared to those younger than 9. Younger overweight children consume more daily calories than do healthy-weight peers, but older overweight children consume fewer calories than peers.

A recent clinical trial testing a combination therapy for basal-like, or triple-negative, breast cancer demonstrates that a combination of two drugs with promising preclinical results is not as effective as researchers had



Dr. Anastasia Ivanova



Dr. Herbert Peterson



Dr. Kurt Ribisl



Dr. Asheley Skinner



Dr. Sally Stearns



Dr. H. Thirumurthy



Dr. Karin Yeatts



Dr. Cynthia Bulik



Dr. William Carpenter



Nabarun Dasgupta



Dr. Tania Desrosiers

hoped. **Anastasia Ivanova, PhD**, associate professor of biostatistics, was co-author of the study, published online June 4 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

New research finds a global decline in activity levels and predicts a continuing rise in inactivity in countries around the world. The study, conducted by **Barry Popkin, PhD**, W.R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of nutrition, and **Shu Wen Ng, PhD**, research assistant professor of nutrition, used extensive data from the 1960s onward to determine how people around the world spend their time and how they move in the course of their daily lives. Findings were published online June 14 in *Obesity Reviews*.

A study led by **Cynthia Bulik, PhD**, nutrition professor and Jordan Distinguished Professor of Eating Disorders (psychiatry), found that age is no barrier to disordered eating. In women ages 50 and over, 3.5 percent report binge eating, nearly 8 percent report purging, and more than 70 percent are trying to lose weight. The study was published online June 21 in the *International Journal of Eating Disorders*.

A diet based on American junk food could lead to more obesity-induced inflammation than a diet high in animal fat, according to a study led by **Liza Makowski, PhD**, assistant professor of nutrition, and published June 12 in the *Public Library of Science One (PLOS ONE)*. The study analyzed inflammatory responses in rats fed different diets: control diets, a lard-based high-fat diet and a “cafeteria junk-food” diet consisting of nutrient-



Dr. Penny Gordon-Larsen



Dr. Michael Kosorok



Dr. Liza Makowski



Dr. Barry Popkin

poor snacks. Researchers found that the junk-food diet caused the most inflammation and dramatic metabolic changes.

**Barry Popkin, PhD**, W.R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of nutrition, and colleagues found that Chinese teenagers have a rate of diabetes nearly four times greater than their U.S. counterparts. The rise in diabetes incidence parallels increases in cardiovascular risk and is the result of a Chinese population that is growing increasingly overweight. Findings were published in the September *Obesity Reviews*.

More than three-quarters of Chinese adults have at least one risk factor for Type 2 diabetes or cardiovascular disease, according to new data in a long-term study led by nutrition associate professor **Penny Gordon-Larsen, PhD**, and published July 19 in the journal *Obesity*. Rates of hypertension, diabetes and triglycerides are particularly high, the study reports, even in the young and trim.

A customized weight loss program may cost less to implement than a traditional weight loss program, despite having similar results, according to a study co-authored

by **Deborah Tate, PhD**, associate professor of nutrition and health behavior, and published June 27 in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. Tate and colleagues describe a stepped-care program that begins with a low-intensity intervention increased or adjusted if weight loss milestones are not achieved as planned.

**Christine Rini, PhD**, associate professor of health behavior, and colleagues report that cancer rumors – such as the idea that one can get cancer from being in contact with a cancer patient – may affect health-related behaviors and medical decision-making. Results of the study were published online June 22 in the *Journal of Health Communication*.

A study published July 9 in *Occupational and Environmental Medicine* found that certain jobs held by men before they conceive a child may increase risk for various birth defects. Led by epidemiology researcher **Tania Desrosiers, PhD**, the study found certain birth abnormalities were associated with fathers who were artists, photographers and landscapers, among other professions.





Dr. Christine Rini



Dr. Ivan Rusyn



Dr. Jennifer Smith



Dr. Deborah Tate



Dr. Dianne Ward



Dr. Steven Zeisel

Data from national poison control centers may provide the best indicator of deaths by methadone overdose in the United States. Methadone is an opioid linked to 30 percent of deaths attributed to prescription painkiller overdose. **Nabarun Dasgupta**, epidemiology doctoral candidate, led the study, published July 19 in the journal *PLoS One*.

A study led by senior author **Jennifer Smith, PhD**, research associate professor of

epidemiology, strengthens the argument for human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination in men. Published June 18 in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, the study of 2,228 Kenyan men presents the first epidemiological data in men on the type-specific associations between prevalent HPV infections and future acquisition of other HPV types.

Research that compares the effectiveness of different cancer treatments should be

accelerated – and the findings promoted and accepted – according to a recent study by **William Carpenter, PhD**, assistant professor of health policy and management, **Michael Kosorok, PhD**, professor and chair of biostatistics, and **Til Stürmer, MD, PhD**, professor of epidemiology. Published online April 20 in *Cancer*, the study includes a literature review and interviews with 41 cancer comparative effectiveness research (CER) scientists.

## Grants

A new \$3.3 million project to combat childhood obesity while helping owners of home-based child care facilities adopt healthy practices will be undertaken by a UNC-Duke partnership. Led by the School's **Dianne Ward, EdD**, professor of nutrition, and Duke's **Truls Ostbye, MD, PhD**, the "Healthy You, Healthy Home, Healthy Business" project will help child-care providers become healthy role models and establish environments that support good nutrition and physical activity. Ostbye is professor of community and family medicine.

UNC's Nutrition Research Institute (NRI), in Kannapolis, N.C., received a Grand Challenges Explorations award from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. **Steven H. Zeisel, MD, PhD**, institute director and Kenan Distinguished University Professor of nutrition, will pursue a research project titled "Choline and Optimal Development." Zeisel is credited with the discovery of choline's role as an essential nutrient, particularly for fetal and infant development.

The grant enables Zeisel and colleagues to design a diet intervention that can be implemented in The Gambia, where diet provides less than half of recommended adequate intake.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded a three-year, \$1.2 million grant for research conducted by the Carolina Center for Computational Toxicology ([comp-tox.unc.edu](http://comp-tox.unc.edu)). **Ivan Rusyn, MD, PhD**, professor of environmental sciences and engineering, is principal investigator for the project, "Assays, models and tools for NextGen safety assessments." **Fred Wright, PhD**, professor of biostatistics, and **Alexander Tropsha, PhD**, professor and associate dean for research at UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, are project co-investigators.

**Til Stürmer, MD, PhD**, received a \$690,502 award from the nonprofit Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute for his project, "Methods to Increase Validity of Comparative Effectiveness Research in



Dr. Til Stürmer



Dr. Suzanne Maman

the Elderly." He leads an interdisciplinary team to examine methodologies to compare effectiveness of elderly patients' treatment after myocardial infarction, especially in terms of their risk for re-infarction and hospitalization.

**Suzanne Maman, PhD**, associate professor of health behavior, received a five-year, \$2.6 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health for an innovative microfinance and health study in

*School News continued on page 48*

## In Memoriam



Dr. Robert Millikan

### Robert Millikan

Dr. Robert Millikan, Barbara Sorenson Hulka Distinguished Professor in Cancer Epidemiology, died Oct. 7. He was 55.

A member since 1993 of the School's epidemiology faculty and of UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, Dr. Millikan's research brought hope for better understanding and treatment of breast cancer, particularly for young African-American women who disproportionately die from the disease.

Data from UNC Lineberger's Carolina Breast Cancer Study, which Dr. Millikan directed for more than 15 years, demonstrated that black women under age 45 are more likely to be diagnosed with aggressive types of breast cancer than are women of European ancestry. The NCI program grant, which he led, will result in a better understanding of this significant health disparity by collecting information about more than 5,000 women to explore biological, environmental and epidemiologic reasons for the difference in cancer incidence.

Dr. Millikan earned undergraduate and doctoral degrees in veterinary medicine from University of California at Davis and a Master of Public Health and Doctor of Philosophy in epidemiology from University of California at Los Angeles. He was a postdoctoral fellow in molecular biology at Harvard Medical School and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and completed internships in medicine and surgery at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine.

His wisdom and kindness will be missed greatly.

### John Vernon

John Andrew Vernon, PhD, 43, died on June 19. An assistant professor of health policy and management at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health since 2008, he earned an undergraduate degree at Duke University, master's degree at North Carolina State University and doctorate from the University of London, all in economics. He also held a doctorate in management science from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. Prior to joining the UNC public health faculty, Dr. Vernon served as senior economic policy adviser in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, faculty research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research and assistant professor of finance at the University of Connecticut. On several occasions, he was called upon for expert testimony at Congressional committee hearings.

### James Abernathy

James R. Abernathy, PhD, retired professor of biostatistics, died Sept. 3, at age 86. He was a well-known international demographer who, over his 30-year career, pioneered statistical

research in maternal and child health programs, epidemiological investigations, public health nursing and dental health services, and served as a statistical consultant to national agencies, including the National Center for Health Statistics and the World Health Organization. An alumnus, he joined the School's faculty in 1965. He directed the International Program of Laboratories for Population Statistics (POPLAB), a USAID-funded project conducted through Carolina Population Center, from 1980 to 1983.

### Richard Udry

J. Richard Udry, PhD, Kenan Distinguished Professor of maternal and child health and sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, died on July 29, after a long illness. He was 83. During his nearly 50-year career, Dr. Udry pioneered research that integrated biological and sociological models of human behavior in the areas of adolescent behavior and health, sexual behavior and women's gender roles, and developed the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health). He directed UNC's Carolina Population Center from 1977 to 1992.

*To learn more, please visit [www.sph.unc.edu/news](http://www.sph.unc.edu/news).*



# UNC GILLINGS SCHOOL OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

MAY — SEPTEMBER 2012

Read more at [www.sph.unc.edu/recognitions\\_and\\_awards](http://www.sph.unc.edu/recognitions_and_awards).



Dr. Gregory Allgood



Mr. Dean Harris



Dr. Amy Herring



Dr. Joseph Ibrahim



Dr. Deborah  
Parham Hopson



Dr. Pranab Sen

## **Maman, Sen receive McGavran, Larsh awards; Rimer introduces Bloomberg**

TWO PRESTIGIOUS FACULTY AWARDS were presented during the School's May 12 commencement. Suzanne Maman, PhD, associate professor of health behavior, received the McGavran Award for Excellence in Teaching, and Pranab K. Sen, PhD, Cary C. Boshamer Distinguished professor of biostatistics, received the John E. Larsh Jr. Award for Mentorship.

On May 13, Dean Barbara K. Rimer introduced New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg, who gave the UNC commencement address. Read his speech at [tinyurl.com/unc-bloomberg](http://tinyurl.com/unc-bloomberg).

## **Ibrahim receives dual ASA appointments**

JOSEPH G. IBRAHIM, PHD, Alumni Distinguished Professor of biostatistics and director of UNC's Center for Inno-

vative Clinical Trials ([www.sph.unc.edu/clinical\\_trials](http://www.sph.unc.edu/clinical_trials)), was appointed last spring as coordinating editor of the *Journal of the American Statistical Association (JASA)* and editor of JASA's section on Applications and Case Studies.

## **Stürmer to lead international society**

TIL STÜRMER, MD, PHD, professor of epidemiology, was chosen as president-elect of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and epidemiology. His three-year term of service began at the society's 2012 annual meeting in Barcelona in August. Stürmer directs UNC's Center of Excellence in Pharmacoeconomics and Public Health.

## **Harris honored at Kiev conference**

DEAN M. HARRIS, JD, clinical associate professor of health policy and management, accepted the Health and Law Bioethics

Award at the International Congress on Medical and Pharmaceutical Law, Bioethics and Social Policy in Kiev, Ukraine.

## **Herring accepts prestigious award**

BIostatistics PROFESSOR Amy H. Herring, ScD, accepted the Gertrude M. Cox Award in June at the Washington Statistical Society annual dinner, held at RTI International in Washington, D.C. The award, jointly sponsored by the Society and RTI, recognizes early- to mid-career statisticians for significant contributions to survey methodology, experimental design, biostatistics or statistical computing.

## **Allgood, Parham Hopson selected as distinguished alumni**

SCHOOL ALUMNI Gregory Allgood, PhD, and Deborah Parham Hopson, PhD, won UNC's Distinguished Alumni Award. All-



Stephanie Baker



Dr. Stephen Marshall



Dr. Marva Mizell Price



Tara Seshan



Dr. Carmina Valle



Dr. Adam Zolotor

good led a Procter & Gamble team that developed an easy way to purify drinking water. Parham Hopson is associate administrator for the U.S. HIV/AIDS Bureau. The two were honored on University Day, Oct. 12.

#### HB student wins AHA fellowship

STEPHANIE BAKER, doctoral student in health behavior, received a two-year predoctoral fellowship from the American Heart Association. The award helps students initiate careers in cardiovascular and stroke research. Baker studies ways that environmental and contextual factors contribute to racial disparities in sedentary behavior and physical activity.

#### Kranz wins APHA award

ASHLEY KRANZ, health policy and management doctoral student, was selected by the American Public Health Association's oral health section as winner of the 2012 Anthony Westwater Jong Memorial Community Dental Health Post-Professional Student Award. Kranz's study compared effects of preventive dental services for children three and younger on their having cavities later.

#### First Marci Campbell award presented

NUTRITION DOCTORAL STUDENT Carmina G. Valle, MPH, received the inaugural Marci Kramish Campbell Dissertation Award, a competitive \$5,000 award to be used for her dissertation research on cancer and the population sciences. The prize honors Dr. Campbell, a respected UNC cancer researcher, who died in 2011.

#### School alumnus named NCIOM VP

ADAM ZOLOTOR, MD, MPH, DRPH, School alumnus and assistant professor in UNC's Department of Family Medicine, was selected as vice president of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine (NCIOM).

#### Marshall appointed IPRC director

STEPHEN W. MARSHALL, PHD, was named director of the UNC Injury Prevention Research Center, effective Aug. 1. Marshall is professor of epidemiology and has an adjunct appointment in UNC's Department of Exercise and Sport Science. He has served as interim director of the Injury Prevention Research Center (IPRC) since August 2011.

#### Alumna to work with energy commission

N.C. GOV. BEVERLY PERDUE has appointed School alumna Marva Mizell Price (MPH, 1974; DrPH, 1977), associate professor of nursing at Duke University, for a four-year term on the Mining and Energy Commission. The new commission will develop and oversee regulations for hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in the state.

#### Student entrepreneur wins \$100K

TARA SESHAN, a senior Bachelor of Science in Public Health student in environmental sciences and engineering, has received a \$100,000 Thiel Fellowship to launch an innovative health services company. Seshan is the entrepreneur behind Chek.Up ([www.chekuphealth.com](http://www.chekuphealth.com)), which seeks to provide better health monitoring and evaluation in

low-resource settings. Burcu Bozkurt, undergraduate in health policy and management, is also on the Chek.Up team. The fellowship is awarded annually to 20 young innovative thinkers under age 20.

#### Gillings Award recipients named

DOCTORAL CANDIDATES Allison Groves (health behavior) and Heather Paich (nutrition) received the 2012 Gillings Dissertation Award, a \$5,000 prize to support doctoral research and dissertation writing at the School. Groves is studying intimate partner violence in South Africa, and Paich studies the impact of obesity upon people's response to influenza infection.

#### Gillings Merit Scholarships awarded

TWELVE STUDENTS were designated as 2012–2013 Gillings Merit Scholarship recipients. The scholarships, established in 2010 to help the School recruit graduate students with exceptional promise, are made possible through a generous gift to the School from Dennis Gillings and Joan Gillings. Award-ees include Erika Helgeson (biostatistics); Julia Naman (environmental sciences and engineering); Eboneé Butler (epidemiology); Maria Priscilla Brietzke and Rachel Clad (health behavior); Daniel Douthit, Meredith Webb and Lei Zhou (health policy and management); Shane Khan (maternal and child health); Gina Tripicchio (nutrition); and Heidi Harkins and Virginia Moye (Public Health Leadership Program).





Water and health Conference attendees learn about water research in 2011. This year's conference is Oct. 29 – Nov. 2. Learn more at [whconference.unc.edu](http://whconference.unc.edu).

*Gillings School of Global Public Health*

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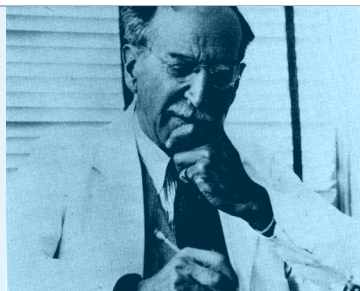
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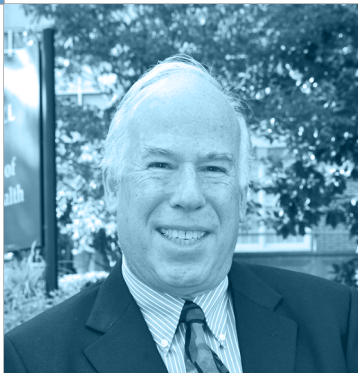
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Dr. Jamie Bartram

## *Hilton Foundation unites with Water Institute to bring safe drinking water to those in need*

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation has granted \$1.5 million to The Water Institute at UNC to improve the lives of disadvantaged people around the world. The Institute will use the grant in liaison with the nonprofit foundation and its grantees across the globe to improve strategies for making clean water accessible to those most in need.

"The goal of this partnership is to improve the well-being of the ultra-poor in targeted developing countries by supporting sustainable access to safe water," says Jamie Bartram, PhD, Institute director. "This is a fantastic opportunity for us to work alongside the foundation and the projects they support to improve their strategy and ultimately make an impact on water projects across the globe."

Through the partnership, the Water Institute will help foundation grantees develop internal monitoring systems by training them to use and report data on the performance and impact of their projects.

"Central to the foundation's Safe Water Strategy is rigorous monitoring and evaluation to improve the overall effectiveness of our grant making by providing feedback to improve ongoing programming," said Braimah Apambire, senior adviser for water, sanitation and hygiene at the foundation. "The University of North Carolina's Water Institute has established itself as a leader in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector, with deep, substantive expertise, demonstrated experience in conducting complex evaluations, and the capacity to effectively aggregate and disseminate learnings and findings."

# Conrad N. Hilton

## F O U N D A T I O N

*Learn more at [hiltonfoundation.org](http://hiltonfoundation.org) and [waterinstitute.unc.edu](http://waterinstitute.unc.edu).*

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Dr. Miriam Labbok (right) discusses CGBI's work with alumna Korede Adegoke, MPH.

## *W.K. Kellogg Foundation awards funding to CGBI*

The Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute (CGBI) has received a three-year, \$900,000 grant from The W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The funding supports CGBI to translate action-oriented research and program theory into practice and develop an environment in which more women can decide to breastfeed and achieve their breastfeeding goals.

The Institute, based in the School's Department of Maternal and Child Health, carries out innovative efforts to improve breastfeeding support for underserved populations in North Carolina and beyond.

"Breastfeeding can reduce the four major preventable killers of infants – pneumonias, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), infections and major causes of deaths in premature infants – as well as reducing obesity, diabetes, cancers and ear infections," says Miriam Labbok, MD, MPH, who is CGBI director and Professor of the Practice in maternal and child health. "This support will help address the current shameful disparities in these diseases created by inequities in breastfeeding success."

"The Kellogg Foundation is pleased to support and partner with CGBI in this work because we believe that breast milk is the optimal first food to give to all children a healthy start so that they can thrive in school, work and life," said Diana N. Derige, program officer at the foundation.

*Learn more at [wkkf.org](http://wkkf.org) and [cgbi.sph.unc.edu](http://cgbi.sph.unc.edu).*

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Mildred Smith



Denise Cline



Donald Smith

*A stone from every state —  
Denise Cline's memories result  
in a travel fund for students*

**WATERMARK OF GARDEN  
FOUNTAIN MADE OF STONE**

Denise Cline's father had a unique idea. "My father's goal," she says, "was to gather a rock from every state and use them eventually to build a fountain."

The memory stands out when she is asked about the yearly pilgrimages her family took westward. "My parents had five children," Cline says. "Every summer they packed us in a car, and we took 'Steinbeck trips' out west."

The trips are the cornerstone for Cline's inspiration to create a new travel fund at UNC. Named in memory of her parents, the Donald N. and Mildred K. Smith Public Health Travel Fund provides support for any undergraduate or graduate student at the School to travel in conjunction with practice, research, service or conference presentations.

More importantly for Cline, establishing the fund allowed her to honor her parents' values. "My parents were able to make their lives better through education, and this type of gift seemed a perfect convergence of health care, education and travel," she says.

The value of health care is especially meaningful to Cline, as her mother suffered from a debilitating illness which was never diagnosed. Through all her ordeals, Cline's mom still maintained a positive spirit that inspired everyone who met her.

It inspired Cline as well. "I hope my gift allows students an opportunity to share their ideas with others and to gain experience abroad," she says.

— Branson Moore

*Find out how you can support students or other efforts at the School.  
Visit us online at [www.sph.unc.edu/giving](http://www.sph.unc.edu/giving).*



John and Dorothy Swartz

## *The Swartz Scholarship — meeting an immediate need*

John and Dorothy Swartz love to travel. When they established the Swartz Scholarship at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, their inspiration was drawn from the many faces of public health they encountered in their trips around the world.

Their scholarship provides full tuition and fees to a Public Health Leadership Program executive doctoral student from a developing country who plans to work in the public health academic community.

"We at the School are very grateful for the Swartzes' generous gift," said Peggy Dean Glenn, associate dean for external affairs. "Their gift was expendable, which means it can be fully spent to provide immediate support to a student. A donor also may choose to fund an endowed scholarship, which pays out small amounts initially but grows over time and can be awarded year after year. We are so appreciative of both kinds of scholarships because they enable us to respond to students with a range of financial needs."

Mr. Swartz, who received assistance at Duke University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and George Washington University Law School, likes to say that his own success was due to the financial help he received along the way.

"We believe offering our scholarship to someone who will educate others in public health in the developing world will have a multiplier effect," Mr. Swartz says. "The scholarship recipient will educate many people, who in turn, will help solve the world's health problems."

— Branson Moore

*To explore ways your gift might meet a student's immediate or long-term need, contact the School's Office of External Affairs at (919) 966-0198.*



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Jill and Mike Kafrissen

## *Jill and Mike Kafrissen's legacy gift — 'A vote of confidence in the future'*

Leadership, vision and community responsibility are among Dr. Mike Kafrissen's strongest attributes – and the traits he says he most admires in others.

Through the years, he has collaborated with many people who have been affiliated with the School. He knew Dr. Bill Roper, former dean of the public health school, in Roper's role as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He has admired Chancellor Holden Thorp's ideas about entrepreneurship and his proposal of water as a two-year, university-wide theme. As director of research and innovation for the World Health Organization Collaboration Center, based in the School's Department of Maternal and Child Health, he has worked closely with Dr. Herbert Peterson and Dean Barbara K. Rimer. For many years, he and his wife, Jill Kafrissen, have supported the School's Annual Fund because they believe in the 'visionary' work the School sets out to do.

Now, the Kafrissens have arranged for a \$5 million planned gift from their estate that will benefit the School and its goals.

"I've admired the caliber of Bert's and Barbara's leadership for a long time," Mike says. "Our confidence in the Gillings School of Global Public Health always has been amply rewarded, and we're proud to have offered support that met immediate needs along the way. This longer-range gift is similar to others we've given. It's a vote of confidence in the future of an institution we value."

— Linda Kastleman

*Michael Edwin Kafrissen, MD, MSPH, a member of the School's Advisory Council, is chief executive officer of STE Health International LLC. Previously, he was company head and chief scientific officer of Ortho-McNeil Janssen Scientific Affairs LLC. He holds several adjunct professorships, including at UNC, and is a research scientist at MIT's AgeLab (agelab.mit.edu).*

*Jill Kafrissen, LCSW, has worked in a variety of social work settings including hospitals, family services and legislative advocacy. She is involved in a number of philanthropic activities.*

*Are you interested in learning more about a planned giving, or estate, gift?  
Contact Stephen Couch, associate director of development, at (919) 966-0219 or [spcouch@email.unc.edu](mailto:spcouch@email.unc.edu).*



Delton Atkinson chats with friends at the 2011 Minority Health Conference.

## *The gift of leadership — Atkinson chosen as foundation board president*

Delton Atkinson, MPH, a division director in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics, has been elected president of the School's Public Health Foundation board. A board member since 2007, Atkinson is connected to the School in almost countless ways. He earned two Master of Public Health degrees at the School – one in biostatistics and one in health policy and administration (now health policy and management) – and serves as an adjunct faculty member in biostatistics. He has held leadership roles in the School's alumni association and on various committees, including one to increase diversity in the School community.

"I am delighted and honored to serve as president of the School of Public Health Foundation Board," Atkinson says. "The Foundation has a rich history of working with the dean to improve the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. I hope to continue prior presidents' excellent stewardship of Foundation resources and to aid the School's becoming more diverse and inclusive. Boosting and broadening our financial resources and base of support also will be a focus of my leadership. Achieving this goal is paramount, as people – faculty and staff members, students and alumni – are the heart and soul of the School."

Atkinson also has established The Atkinson Scholarship Fund, which makes funds available to any student at the School, with a preference for students who enhance the social, economic and cultural diversity of the student body.

— Linda Kastleman

*To explore ways your gift of time or money might make a difference at the School, call the Office of External Affairs at (919) 966-0198.*

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**Every gift to UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health is vitally important,  
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*We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of our Honor Roll lists and regret any errors or omissions.  
To report an error, contact the External Affairs development specialist at (919) 966-0198.*



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*School News continued from page 25*

Tanzania. Maman's team will offer small loans and leadership training to young men as a strategy to reduce HIV risk and partner violence.

**Margaret (Peggy) Bentley, PhD**, Carla Smith Chamblee Distinguished Professor of Global Nutrition, received a five-year grant of about \$3 million from The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). Bentley's study, "Mothers and Others: Family-based Obesity Prevention for Infants and Toddlers," will develop and implement tailored nutrition interventions for mothers and families of non-Hispanic black infants, a group at high risk for pediatric obesity.

**Ralph S. Baric, PhD**, professor of epidemiology, and Mark T. Heise, PhD, associate professor of microbiology and immunology



Dr. Margaret Bentley



Dr. Ralph Baric

at UNC's medical school, will lead a five-year, \$21.4 million research study that could result in more effective treatments for life-threatening viral infections of the lungs and central nervous system, such as SARS, influenza and West Nile virus. The project's long-term aims are to identify key immune regulatory genes and networks that control disease severity, better understand how immune compartments "talk" to one another and determine disease outcomes after infection.

## *In other news ...*



Dr. Leslie Lytle



Dr. Sonia Davis

### **School welcomes Lytle as health behavior chair**

Leslie A. Lytle, PhD, former professor of epidemiology and community health in the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health, became chair of the School's health behavior department on Oct. 1. She holds a joint professorship in the School's nutrition department. Lytle received a bachelor's degree in medical dietetics (Pennsylvania State

University), master's degree in education (Purdue University) and doctoral degree in health education and health behavior (University of Michigan), completing post-doctoral training in cardiovascular health behavior in University of Minnesota's epidemiology division. Lytle succeeds Jo Anne Earp, ScD.

### **Davis takes on leadership of CSCC**

Sonia Davis, DrPH, is the new director of the Collaborating Studies Coordinating Center (CSCC), based in the Department of Biostatistics. Davis received bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in biostatistics from UNC and previously was a senior director at Quintiles Inc. An adjunct faculty member in the department since 1995, she is now Professor of the Practice. Read more about the CSCC's illustrious history at [tinyurl.com/CSCC-turns-40](http://tinyurl.com/CSCC-turns-40).

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THESE SPRING EVENTS!**

### **45TH ANNUAL FOARD MEMORIAL LECTURE THURSDAY, APRIL 11**

Registration opens February 2013.

Visit [www.sph.unc.edu/foard](http://www.sph.unc.edu/foard).

### **TRIBUTE EVENTS TO HONOR**

**JO ANNE EARP, ScD**, professor and former chair of Health Behavior, for four decades of service to UNC **FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, APRIL 12 AND 13**

For information about how you might participate, contact Steve Couch at (919) 966-0219 or [spcouch@email.unc.edu](mailto:spcouch@email.unc.edu).

### **UNC presents 18th annual summer videoconference on minority health**

UNC's National Health Equity Research Webcast, formerly known as the Summer Public Health Research Institute and Videoconference on Minority Health, was held June 5. This year's topic was "Social determinants of health disparities: Moving the nation to care about social justice." Read more at [www.sph.unc.edu/minority\\_health\\_project](http://www.sph.unc.edu/minority_health_project).





Dr. Jamie Bartram, right, chatted with Don and Jennifer Holzworth recently about plans for the Water Institute's October Water and Health Conference.

PHOTO BY LINDA KASTLEMAN

When Don and Jennifer Holzworth established a distinguished professorship in March, they simultaneously supported two ventures that excited them – the work of UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and UNC's two-year campus-wide theme, water.

On April 26, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Board of Trustees announced that Jamie Bartram, PhD, professor of environmental sciences and engineering and director of The Water Institute at UNC, had been selected as the first Holzworth Distinguished Professor.

"We are extremely pleased that Jamie Bartram has been awarded our distinguished professorship," Don Holzworth said. "His work on water – our world's most precious resource – is respected by all who know him. Jamie has influenced both science and global policy while at the same time improving the lives of millions."

Don Holzworth serves as the school's first Gillings Executive-in-Residence, chairs the School of Public Health Advisory Council and is adjunct professor of health policy and management. A member of the Chancellor's Innovation Circle, he has been instrumental in leading innovation at the school and in launching The Water Institute at UNC, which is part of the public health school.

"I'm honored to be selected to help advance the School's and the Institute's missions," Bartram said. "Clean water and sanitation issues disproportionately affect the vulnerable – in the U.S. as well as in developing countries. We have a lot of work to do to improve health around the world through attention to water-related issues."

The Don and Jennifer Holzworth Distinguished Professorship Fund was initiated with a \$666,000 gift from the Holzworths. Matching funds through the state's Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund support the \$1 million professorship.

The Holzworths' support of the University flows from a lifetime of dedication to global public health. Don Holzworth founded Constella Group in 1983, a human health services company that employed innovative science, technology and management solutions to solve pressing health problems in more than 60 countries. Jennifer Holzworth was Constella's chief financial officer during its start-up phase and has dedicated herself to volunteer work, most recently with emergency and other medical services in Vail, Colo. The Holzworths also have funded a series of endowed scholarships and are longtime members of The Rosenau Society.

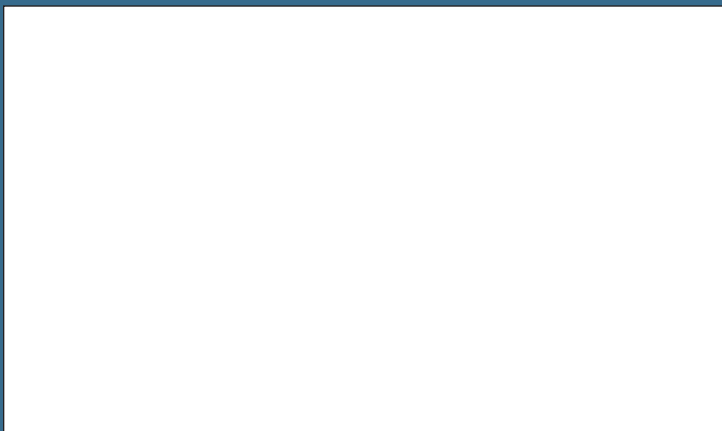




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#### ON THE COVER:

Members of UNC's Engineers Without Borders (EWB) make a practice run before the Sept. 16. "Run to Make Water Run" 6K race. Left to right are Jennifer Casanova and Johnny Kim (master's students, environmental sciences and engineering), Blythe Carter (undergraduate, mathematics), Stephanie O'Daly (undergraduate, environmental science) and Lauren Snyder (master's student, maternal and child health).

EWB sponsors the event each year to support its local and global engineering and development projects. *Why a 6K?* That's the average distance women and children in the developing world walk each day to collect household water.

Learn more at [studentorgs.unc.edu/ewb](http://studentorgs.unc.edu/ewb).

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