

May–October 2014
**AWARDS &
RECOGNITIONS**

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KEY TO DEPARTMENTS

BIOS Biostatistics
EPI Epidemiology
ESE Environmental Sciences
and Engineering
HB Health Behavior
HPM Health Policy and Management
MCH Maternal and Child Health
NUTR Nutrition
PHLP Public Health Leadership

Karl Umble, PhD, HPM clinical assistant professor, was honored April 22 with a Chancellor's Award for teaching excellence and service to undergraduates.

Leah McCall Devlin, DDS, MPH, Professor of the Practice of HPM, has joined The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) board of trustees. The board leads the nation's largest philanthropy devoted to "building a culture of health in America, enabling all to live healthier lives now and for generations to come."

Racquel Kelly Kohler, HPM doctoral candidate, won *The Lancet* and Consortium of Universities for Global Health award for best student poster at the consortium's 2014 conference May 10-12 in Washington, D.C.

Gillings School BIOS students won four of eight student research awards presented by the International Chinese Statistical Association and Korean International Statistical Society. Their



Ting-Huei Chen (left) and Ran Tao won biostatistics research awards at the Joint Applied Statistics Symposium in June.

work was acknowledged during the 2014 Joint Applied Statistics Symposium of the two organizations, in June, in Portland, Ore. Winners are:

Guanhua Chen (Drs. Michael Kosorok and Donglin Zeng, advisers), for *Personalized Dose Finding Using Outcome-weighted Learning*;

Ting-Huei Chen (Drs. Wei Sun and Jason P. Fine, advisers), for *Using a Structural Equation Modeling Approach with Application in Alzheimer's Disease*;

Ran Tao (Dr. Danyu Lin, adviser), for *Analysis of Sequence Data Under Multivariate Trait-Dependent Sampling*; and

Qiang Sun (Drs. Hongtu Zhu and Joseph G. Ibrahim, advisers), for

Hard Thresholded Regression Via Linear Programming.

Sarah Rutstein, HPM doctoral student and medical student in UNC's School of Medicine, received the AIDS 2014 Young Investigator Award from the International AIDS Society and the French National Agency for Research on AIDS and Viral Hepatitis. She accepted the award at the 20th International AIDS Conference in July, in Melbourne, Australia.

HPM doctoral student **Caroleen Quach** was a "Best Poster" finalist at the 19th annual conference of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research. Of the more than 1,800 poster presentations, hers was

selected as one of the top 100. Quach's study measured the impact of colorectal cancer upon the lives of older American adults. It is one of the first population-based studies to quantify health-related quality-of-life changes from before to after colorectal cancer diagnosis for Medicare Advantage enrollees ages 65 years and older, compared to matched controls without cancer.

Natalia Gouskova, BIOS doctoral candidate, received a "Best Poster" award at the Statistical Analysis of Multi-Outcome Data workshop, held June 30-July 1, at the University of Cambridge (U.K.).

Wizdom Powell, PhD, assistant professor of HB, received a Professional of the Year Award from the American Psychological Association. She accepted the award at the national APA conference in Washington, D.C., in August, during which she presented a keynote address.

Three Gillings School of Global Public Health faculty members are among the most-cited researchers in the sciences and social sciences, according to data collected by Thomson Reuters. They are **Gerardo Heiss, MD, PhD**, Kenan Distinguished Professor of EPI; **Yun Li, PhD**, assistant professor of BIOS and of genetics (UNC School of Medicine); and **Barry Popkin, PhD**, W.R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of NUTR. About 3,200 researchers earned the distinction by writing the greatest number of reports officially designated as highly-cited papers, thereby being ranked within the top one percent most cited for their subject field and year of publication.

Pam Silberman, JD, DrPH, immediate past president of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine and clinical professor of HPM, received the North Carolina Hospital Association's 2014 Meritorious Service Award. The prize is given each

year to recognize outstanding service to the field of health care.

Gary G. Koch, PhD, BIOS professor, was named recipient of the American Statistical Society's 2014 Karl E. Peace Award for Outstanding Statistical Contributions for the Betterment of Society.

BIOS graduate students **Avner Halevy** and **Nicolas Ballarini** led a Gillings School production team that tied for first place in the American Statistical Association's "You've Got Talent!" contest. The finalists performed during the Joint Statistical Meetings in August, in Boston. See video at tinyurl.com/UNC-Gillings-statistical-love.

Jianwen Cai, PhD, professor and vice chair of BIOS, was elected to lead the International Biometric Society's (IBS) Eastern North American Region (ENAR), the international biostatistics professional organization. Cai will take office as president-elect on Jan. 1, 2015, and will serve successive years (2016–2017) as president and past-president. A number of Gillings School biostatistics faculty have held the three-year leadership role in ENAR, most recently Amy Herring, ScD, professor and associate department chair, who served from 2010 to 2012.

Mark Holmes, PhD, HPM associate professor, was awarded UNC's Phillip and Ruth Hettleman Prize for Artistic and Scholarly Achievement by Young Faculty in September. Holmes' work focuses on rural health, comparative effectiveness and complex methods for policy analysis, particularly in relation to public health and health policy. He is recognized for visionary, innovative research that is grounded in economics and sheds light on issues relevant to health policy.



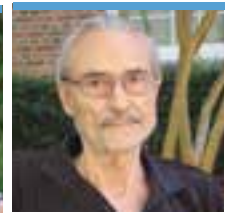
Dr. Jianwen Cai



Dr. Leah Devlin



Natalia Gouskova



Dr. Gerardo Heiss



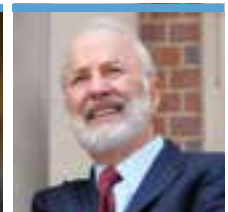
Dr. Mark Holmes



Dr. Gary Koch



Dr. Yun Li



Dr. Barry Popkin



Dr. Pam Silberman



Dr. Karl Umble