

# Public Health Happenings

The official electronic newsletter of the  
University of Connecticut Graduate  
Programs in Public Health

Volume Ten, Number One  
September-October 2014

## September is National Emergency Preparedness Month.

### In this issue:

- **On Engaging in Public Health**
- **CPHA 2014 Conference Preview**
- **Conference on Genetic Research on Addiction**
- **CPH Exam and Preparation**
- **Student and Alumni Opportunities**
- **Conferences/Resources**
- **Student, Alumni and Faculty News**

### **ON ENGAGING IN PUBLIC HEALTH**

The fall semester is already underway, but since I was not able to attend the orientation for new students, I want to take this opportunity to warmly welcome each of you to our UConn public health community. I also want to welcome our “older” students back, with the hope that you had a wonderful (relaxing and/or productive) summer.

If I had had a chance to speak at the orientation, I would have given one main piece of advice—that is, to become an **engaged student**. What do I mean by this? While the lessons learned in the classroom are extremely important to your development as a public health professional, what is also important is the level of engagement you have in the process. Our Public

Health Student Organization, for example, gives students an opportunity to gain valuable leadership skills, to interact with other students and alumni, and to become involved in public health in a myriad of ways. Student internships and field placements in public health, whether on a credit or non-credit basis, give students valuable public health experiences that may (and sometimes do) translate directly (or indirectly) to job opportunities. If you have no prior work experience in the field, you can change this perceived “deficit” to a positive by getting experience in the field while a student.



There is another way to engage in public health, and that is through your professional organizations. For almost 100 years, the Connecticut Public Health Association (CPHA) has provided a voice for public health in Connecticut. Students have played prominent roles in the association through committee work, and some have even served on the board. In several cases, their CPHA engagement with other members, including UConn alumni, have directly led to positions in the workforce.

Each year CPHA holds an annual meeting and conference, and this is an excellent way to begin your engagement. The all-day conference focuses on cutting-edge issues in public health and offers an array of keynote and workshop presentations that enhance what you are learning in the classroom. Workshops on career issues and opportunities to present your research through the student poster session are other highlights for public health students, as are the opportunities to “rub elbows” with UConn public health alumni and other professionals from the full spectrum of the public health workforce.

Student membership is only \$20 per year, and student registration for the conference is discounted to \$50, which includes the all-day program, breakfast and lunch. To learn more about this year’s CPHA conference on Friday, October 17, see the article below. Each year there is a large contingent of public health students from Southern Connecticut State University. Wouldn’t it be great to match SCSU with a strong contingent from UConn this year?



Finally, for those who have the ability and interest in becoming engaged at a national level, the American Public Health Association (APHA) offers many opportunities for students, including leadership development through the Student Assembly. This year’s meeting and expo will be held November 15-19, 2014 in New Orleans. Its theme is “Healthography: How Where You Live Affects Your Health and Well-being.” For more information visit <http://www.apha.org/events-and-meetings/annual>

Whatever you choose to do, become engaged. There are so many opportunities in public health, but you can’t find them glued to your computer screen. I would be happy to meet with any student who wishes to discuss this further, or who is interested in a community-based field experience during this academic year. Just send me a note at [segal@uchc.edu](mailto:segal@uchc.edu). And I do hope to see many of you at the CPHA meeting on October 17.

*Joan Segal, Editor*

### **CPHA 2014 CONFERENCE PREVIEW**

**Public Health and Healthcare: Building on Our Past, Evolving for the Future** is the theme of the annual meeting of the Connecticut Public Health Association, to be held on Friday, October 17 at the Coco Keys Resort, Waterbury, CT. Dr. Jose Montero, Director of the Division of Public Health Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, and Past-President (2012-13), Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO), will kick off the meeting and help to set the stage for the conference with his presentation, “Integrating Public Health and Healthcare: Common Goals – Diverse Strategies.” This presentation will be followed by a facilitated question and answer session including Dr. Montero, Dr. Jewel Mullen, Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, and Kathi Traugh, President, CPHA.

Another highlight is the plenary session immediately following the luncheon, to be presented by David Jacobs, PhD, CIH, Director of Research at the National Center for Healthy Housing and formerly the Director of the Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. His presentation, “Health and Housing: Opportunities for Dialogue and Action,” will focus on the role that housing and the built environment plays on healthy behaviors and population health.

In addition, there are morning and afternoon workshops. Morning concurrent breakout sessions include:

#### Session 1

- Promoting Healthier Choices and Health Careers through Public Health 101: A Workshop for Public Health Mentors and Educators
- State and Community Health Assessments and Improvement Plans, What They Mean?

- Local Health: Promising Clinical Preventive Services and New Approaches to Promote the Community's Health

#### Session 2

- Public Health and Healthcare: Embracing a Culture of Quality Improvement
- Public Health, Healthcare and Aging Populations
- Looking for Jobs in All the Right Places: The Expanding Public Health Career Pathway

The afternoon concurrent breakout session will include the following three workshops:

- Location, Location, Healthy Location
- Public Policy and the Equity Agenda
- Connecticut's State Innovation Model: An Opportunity to Recreate the Spectrum of Health, Wellness and Sick Care

Please note that the earlybird registration deadline is October 1. Student members pay \$50 through October 1, and \$60 afterward (the student membership is \$20). Fees for regular members is \$85 through October 1 and then increases to \$95; non-members pay \$135 (earlybird) or \$145. To register, join CPHA, or obtain further information, go to [www.cpha.info](http://www.cpha.info).

#### CONFERENCE ON ADDICTION

The Department of Community Medicine, in collaboration with the UConn Alcohol Research Center, will be sponsoring a conference on **Genetic Research on Addiction: Ethics, Law, and Public Health** on **Wednesday, October 22** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Grossman Auditorium at 400 Farmington Ave. The conference has three key aims:

- to identify the ethical issues arising when carrying out genetically based addictions research
- to explore the ethical, legal, and public health implications of interpreting, translating, and applying the research
- to develop an on-line tutorial based on the presentations.

Among the presenters will be several Department of Community Medicine Faculty:

- *Protecting Privacy in Genetic Research on Alcohol Dependence and Other Addictions*  
Audrey Chapman, PhD, Healey Professor of

#### Medical Ethics

- *Certificates of Confidentiality: Uses and Limitations as Privacy Protection for Genetic Research on Addiction*  
Zita Lazzarini, JD, MPH, Associate Professor
- *Research Funding from the Addictive Consumption Industries: Guidelines for Minimizing the Effects of Conflicts of Interest*  
Thomas Babor, PhD, Professor and Chair

The full list of distinguished speakers can be found at the link listed below. The conference and lunch will be provided without cost, but registration is required at <http://commed.uchc.edu/conference/registration.pdf>. Registration by October 15 is appreciated.

#### NBPHE LAUNCHES CPH PRACTICE EXAM



Are you planning to take the Certified in Public Health (CPH) exam? The National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) is now hosting a 50-question practice exam, which is a free resource for CPH candidates wishing to assess their strengths and weaknesses across the domains of the exam. The practice exam is comprised of psychometrically tested items from the CPH exam item bank. The practice exam may be taken as many times as a candidate wishes. Following completion of the practice exam, candidates can opt to have a summary and detailed results emailed to them for further review.

The NBPHE has also published an updated content outline which serves as a road map of areas of knowledge which are on the CPH exam. Over the past year, the former content outline was reviewed and revised to ensure the content outline best reflects knowledge students should acquire in introductory graduate level courses of epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health, health policy and management, and social and behavioral sciences. The content outline will be an excellent resource for CPH candidates as they study for the exam.

Both of these study resources can be found at <https://www.nbphe.org/studyresources.cfm>.

#### NEXT CPH EXAM: OCTOBER 4-25

The National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) is offering the Certified in Public Health (Exam) **October 4-25** at AMP (Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc.) testing centers across the country and at approved locations around the world. Candidates should register as soon as possible to ensure they can schedule a seat at a testing center.

Students of CEPH-accredited schools and programs are eligible to sit for the CPH exam so long as they have completed or are concurrently enrolled in the graduate-level core content required for their graduate degree (biostatistics, epidemiology, health services/policy management, environmental health, social behavioral sciences.) Candidates who pass the exam under this eligibility criteria will be provisionally certified until graduation. Following confirmation of their graduation, they will be Certified in Public Health.

The exam is also being given on November 19 at the APHA annual meeting in New Orleans. The Exam will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the New Orleans Convention center and is being offered at a special discounted price of \$250. Candidates wishing to take the exam on November 19 should register [here](#), and indicate they want to take the exam by paper pencil. They will receive a refund on the price difference after the exam.

### **SUMMER PROGRAM ON GLOBAL POLICY**



Applications are now being accepted for the **Summer 2015 Duke Program on Global Policy and Governance** in Geneva, Switzerland. The program offers professional and graduate school

students the opportunity to intern with a United Nations (UN) agency or international Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Geneva. There are four fellowship tracks:

- Global Health Fellows
- Environment, Energy, and Economics Fellows
- Humanitarian Action Fellows
- Global Social Innovation Fellows (based in London and Geneva)

**The Global Health Fellows Program** offers an opportunity to learn firsthand how global health policy is formulated and implemented. Global Health Fellows receive both academic and experiential perspectives on how intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, and the private sector shape global health policy.

The Global Health track combines internships with global health stakeholder organizations in Geneva and an intensive course on global health issues. There are also many events throughout the summer to network and socialize with other policy interns and experts. The Global Health tract is open to graduate students attending schools of public policy, public health and medicine.

For further details, visit.

<http://graduate.sanford.duke.edu/geneva>.

[Applications](#) are due November 24 by 11:59 p.m. EST. You are also invited to an information webinar on Friday, October 17 at 12:00 noon EST. Please RSVP to [margaret.j.woods@duke.edu](mailto:margaret.j.woods@duke.edu) if you wish to attend.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATE PROGRAM**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a **Public Health Associate Program** for recent graduates with a bachelor's or master's degree who want to begin a career in public health and gain broad experience in the day-to-day operation of public health programs

Public health associates are CDC employees assigned to work alongside state, tribal, local, and territorial public health professionals. The work they perform will help advance their careers while having a significant impact on the community they serve. Upon completion of a two-year appointment, Associates will be qualified to compete for entry-level career positions at CDC and equivalent positions in health departments and NGOs.

Students expecting to graduate in 2014/2015 may wish to apply for the 2015 program. For more information about this training and service program, visit [www.cdc.gov/phap](http://www.cdc.gov/phap).

### **NEW HAVEN DIRECTOR OF HEALTH**

The City of New Haven is recruiting a Director of Health to oversee one of its major city departments. The Health Director is responsible for the planning, coordinating and implementation of all activities of the New Haven Health Department and works with local, regional, state and federal officials to ensure the health of New Haven residents. In addition to the enforcement of state and local ordinances, public health code regulations, and emergency response preparedness planning, the Health Director works with City officials to drive an innovative evidence-based research, policy and advocacy agenda. The Health Director is appointed by the Board of Health and reports directly to the Community Services Administrator for the City of New Haven.

Candidates must either 1) be a licensed physician with a degree in public health from an accredited school, college, university or institution; or 2) possess a graduate degree in public health. In addition, they must have strong research, policy and administrative experience and at least 7 years of professional administrative experience in a health-related organization or government agency doing public health administration or management, including workforce/labor and budget management. Other requirements include effective communication skills;

experience in emergency preparedness response planning, effective establishment and implementation of policy or business goals, and compliance with legal requirements; considerable research and writing experience (including publications in peer-reviewed journals and grant writing); ability to build consensus with community and political partners on critical issues addressing health; ability to manage budgets and prioritize critical deliverables pertaining to health; and ability to optimize and leverage limited resources to address essential public health concerns. Applicants must submit a writing sample along with the application. The position requires Residency in the City of New Haven within six months of appointment.

For further information about the City of New Haven, visit: <http://www.cityofnewhaven.com/Health/>. Applications and job descriptions may be picked up at the Department of Human Resources at 200 Orange St., 1ST Floor, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The position was posted on August 1, 2014 and will remain open until filled.

### **IRB ADMINISTRATOR POSITION**

Hartford HealthCare (HHC) is seeking an IRB coordinator to coordinate and perform a full range of administrative functions in support of its Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Human Research Protection Program (HRPP). The HHC IRB supports Hartford Hospital, The Hospital of Central Connecticut, Backus Hospital, MidState Medical Center and Windham Hospital.

Primary duties include conducting preliminary review of all research protocols for compliance with standard requirements outlined in office policies and state and federal regulations, communicating directly with principal investigators to resolve issues, assigning protocols to an appropriate level of review, preparing for and attending IRB committee meetings and taking minutes at the meeting in accordance with federal regulatory requirements. Additionally, the IRB Administrator prepares detailed correspondence to principal investigators to communicate findings of the IRB, and provides researchers with assistance responding to IRB actions and revision requests.

The position requires a Bachelor's degree in a science field, education, public administration, management, or related field. A candidate who has an advanced degree and who is a Certified IRB Professional (CIP) will be preferred.

Other requirements are a minimum of five years of relevant professional experience, with experience

working with Institutional Review Boards or human subjects protection programs, or direct experience in a research setting, preferred; demonstrated comprehensive knowledge and understanding of management and administrative principles and practices; an ability to work with committees, manage multiple complex administrative tasks, and prioritize responsibilities; and excellent communication skills, including proficiency in technical writing. In addition, applicants should have a working knowledge and understanding of complex federal regulations, ethical issues, institutional policies, and other agency requirements governing human subject research.

Interested candidates can find information about applying at: <https://ch.tbe.taleo.net/CH12/ats/careers/requisition.jsp?org=HARTHOSP&cws=5&rid=17809>.

### **PROGRAM DIRECTOR JOB POSTING**

AHM Youth and Family Services, a regional non-profit that serves the towns of Andover, Columbia, Hebron and Marlborough, has reopened its search for a Program Director. The person to assume this position will be responsible for the supervision and management of two program departments, AHM's Youth Service Bureau and Family Resource Center. The departments provide a wide range of school and community based mental health, prevention, juvenile justice, and family and youth development services.

Educational and professional requirements for this position include:

- a minimum of a Master's Degree in Social Work, Mental Health, Public Health, Juvenile Justice, or a another closely related field from an accredited college or university
- a minimum of five consecutive years working in both a management and supervisory capacity
- currently be supervising a minimum of five or more adult direct service employees
- recent supervisory experiences working within any of the following professional settings: youth service bureaus, family resource centers, child protective services, juvenile court services, mental health centers, non-profit centers or public health facilities
- experience using scientific research methods for collecting, analyzing and interpreting demographic and other statistical data as applicable to the delivery of direct services for children and families in the fields of human services, youth services, and or social services, often referred to as Results Based Accountability systems

This position offers a competitive salary and benefits. To learn more about AHM visit [www.ahmyouth.org](http://www.ahmyouth.org). Candidates should forward a resume and cover letter to Nella Stelzner, Director of Finance and Operations by email only to: [Nellas@ahmyouth.org](mailto:Nellas@ahmyouth.org). Any questions related to salary and benefits can also be addressed to Mrs. Stelzner by email only. The application closing date is **5:00 p.n. on Friday, October 17, 2014.**

### **PRACTICE MANAGER WANTED**

Hartford HealthCare Medical Group (HHC MG), one of the largest multi-specialty practices in CT with more than 250 physicians and advanced practitioners and more than 30 different specialties in 60 offices, is seeking a seasoned practice management professional to join its Operations and Business Management group.

Reporting to the Regional Director of Specialty Care, the successful Practice Manager will drive excellence in office operations, patient satisfaction, physician and staff performance and satisfaction, and lead change through process improvement and operational strategy. Successful candidates will have:

- a Bachelor's degree in healthcare management, public health, business or a related field, or equivalent experience (advanced clinical or business credentials preferred)
- a minimum of 5 years' medical practice management experience, preferably in a multi-site practice (education beyond a Bachelor's degree may be considered towards the experience required)
- a demonstrated record of clinical and operational success as an engaged leader

The position offers highly competitive pay, robust benefits, and the opportunity to work with a talented and committed business operations and clinical team. To apply, please go to following link: <https://ch.tbe.taleo.net/CH12/ats/careers/requisition.jsp?org=HARTHOSP&cws=12&rid=18358>.

### **PREVENTION SERVICES POSITION**

The Town of Madison is accepting applications for the position of **Assistant Director of Prevention Services** in the Family and Youth Services Department of the Town. The position requires a Master's Degree in human services or other closely related field with five years of related human services experience, a valid State of Connecticut driver's license, and clearance of a background investigation.

The person in this position is expected to:

- plan, organize and supervise the administration of the Youth and Family Services Department.
- direct and promote programs that promote positive development and prevention.
- provide supervision of prevention staff and youth community service programs.
- recruit and train volunteers.
- assist in the preparation of grant applications.
- provide the ability to evaluate programs.

Work is performed under the direction of the Youth and Family Services Director.

Completed applications must be received in the Human Resources Department **no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 10, 2014.** Application forms may be obtained in the Human Resources Department, 8 Campus Drive, Madison, CT 06433; or, applications can be printed from the website at [www.madisonct.org](http://www.madisonct.org).



### **CALL FOR POSTERS: CT CANCER PARTNERSHIP**

The Connecticut Cancer Partnership is seeking poster presentations on survivorship topics for its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, **Cancer Survivorship: Models of Care across the Lifespan**, on Wednesday, **November 5, 2014** at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Posters should highlight community or research projects that address cancer survivorship and must include:

- A poster description or abstract (maximum 500 words)
- Contact information including first and last name, email address and phone number (if there is more than one presenter, please include names of all, but list one as the primary contact)

Topics that presenters may want to address in their posters include:

- Disparities implications
- Evidence basis
- Evaluation process
- Replicability of program
- Publication citation

Submit applications by Wednesday, **October 1, 2014 no later than 4:00 p.m.** (EST) to [amanda@ctcancerpartnership.org](mailto:amanda@ctcancerpartnership.org) and include the subject line: Call for Posters. Notification of receipt of application will be sent electronically. If your poster is selected for presentation, you will be notified by email on October 12, 2014. Please note that no honorarium or travel expense reimbursement will be available to any presenter submitting through the "Call for Posters" process. Also, selected presenters will need to arrive at the meeting location at 8:00 a.m. on November 5th, and be present during the poster sessions to answer questions. Posters must remain up until 1:30 or later.

For more information about the CT Cancer Partnership and the 11th Annual Meeting or to join the Partnership, please visit: [www.ctcancerpartnership.ning.com](http://www.ctcancerpartnership.ning.com) or see the conference write-up below.

## CT CANCER PARTNERSHIP MEETING

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the CT Cancer Partnership, **Cancer Survivorship: Models of Care across the Lifespan**, will take place on **Wednesday, November 5**, at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford.

The meeting will provide an opportunity to hear from nationally recognized experts on various survivorship topics across the lifespan. The agenda for the day features:

- Julia Rowland, PhD, Director, Office of Cancer Survivorship, National Cancer Institute
- Nina Kadan-Lottick, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics (Hematology/ Oncology); Medical Director, HEROS Program, Yale Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale - New Haven
- Rebecca A. Silliman, MD, PhD, Director of Research, Section of Geriatrics, Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health
- Robin Schwartz, MS, CGC, University of Connecticut Health Center
- Victoria Blinder, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering
- Anne Willis, Director, Division of Cancer Survivorship, Director, Center for the Advancement of Cancer Survivorship, Navigation and Policy (caSNP), George Washington Cancer Institute (GWCI)

- Dr. Kevin Oeffinger, Director, Adult Long-Term Follow-Up Program, Memorial Sloan Kettering

Continuing education units will be available for nurses and social workers. Register by September 30 to receive the early bird rate of \$50. To read more about the conference, please visit:

<http://ctcancerpartnership.org/pages/11thannualmeeting.asp>.



## CT INJURY PREVENTION CONFERENCE

**Safe Kids Connecticut Injury Prevention Conference** will be held on **November 6<sup>th</sup>**, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the East Hartford Holiday Inn. The conference will cover several injury prevention topics, including Child Passenger Safety, Distracted Driving, Sports Injury Prevention and Poison Prevention.

This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the injury prevention side of public health.

Register at:

<http://www.connecticutchildrensfoundation.org/safe-kids-conference>. From now to October 15, EARLY-BIRD registration is \$25.00. From October 15 to October 29, registration is \$35.00. Registration closes October 29.

## CT HEALTH EQUITY INDEX AVAILABLE

Charles Brown, formerly Executive Director and David Knauf, President of the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health (CADH), (both alumni of the UConn MPH program), have announced that their membership has extended an invitation to community partners and other interested parties to access and use the **Health Equity Index (HEI)**, a web-based tool that provides an in-depth analysis of each of Connecticut's 169 cities and towns. The Index presents maps and data which illustrate health measures and community conditions such as employment, community safety, civic involvement, and educational achievement, along with other indicators of well-being. The value of the Index and its ability to compare the strengths and challenges within communities and between neighborhoods. Local health departments, hospitals, and community coalitions can use the Index to assess community health needs and determine priority areas to target for improvement, and it has great potential for use by public health students in their research projects.

Differences in access to opportunities for good health, such as employment opportunities, school enrichment, safe neighborhoods, and quality housing, can affect the health of community residents. The information generated by the index illustrates health inequities. This allows for a focus on systemic influences, rather than individual behaviors, to direct efforts toward improvement in local policies and practices. By combining national, state, and neighborhood level data sources, the Index provides a way to approach, measure, map, and track community influences on population health and health outcomes.

For more information on the Connecticut Health Equity Index and on how it works, visit [www.sdo.org](http://www.sdo.org).

## STUDENT NEWS

**Micaela Eisenhandler** has been promoted to the position of Senior Clinical Trials Associate at Bristol-Myers Squibb.

## ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to our MD/MPH 2014 graduates who began their residencies this summer:



- **Christian Acharte**—Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Physical Medicine & Rehab
- **Elizabeth Chasse**—UConn, Pediatrics
- **Dylan Graetz**—Children’s Hospital-Philadelphia, Pediatrics
- **Samantha Huq**—UConn, Medicine-Preliminary/Radiology-Diagnostic
- **Avery LaChance**—Brigham & Women’s Hospital-MA, Medicine Preliminary/Massachusetts General Hospital, Dermatology-Harvard Combined
- **Irina Lisker**—Hunterdon Medical Center (NJ), Family Medicine
- **Nadezhda Lomakina**—UConn, Internal Medicine
- **Stephen Marko**—Yale New Haven Hospital, Emergency Medicine
- **Alexander Ocampo**—Boston University Medical Center, Family Medicine
- **James Wallace**—Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (MA), Surgery-Preliminary

**Maritza Bond, MPH (2012)** has been appointed Commissioner at the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. She also is a 2014 National Rural Health Fellow at the National Rural Health Association.

**Katie Perham Boyle, MPH (2009)** and her husband Brian Boyle have announced the birth of a daughter, Samantha, in July. Sammie (8 lbs., 4 Oz.) joins her older sister, Allie.

**Charles Brown, MPH (2010)** has been appointed Director of Health for the Central Connecticut Health District. **Paul Hutcheon, MPH (1989)**, the first and long-time director of the District, has retired.

**Matthew Cook, MPH (2008)** is now University Director at UConn Health Center. In this capacity, he is leading the development of dashboard analytic tools and educational programs in the areas of biomedical informatics, bioinformatics, computational biology and biostatistics. He also holds an adjunct faculty appointment in the Department of Community Medicine & Health Care in the School of Medicine. In addition to his MPH degree, Matt earned a graduate certificate in biomedical informatics from Oregon Health & Sciences University (OHSU) and is currently completing a Master of Biomedical Informatics (MBI) degree in Clinical Informatics from OHSU. His research interests lie in the areas of consumer health informatics and public health informatics, especially immunization registries and biosurveillance.

**Elizabeth Conklin (2006)** has accepted a position with the Connecticut Department of Public Health, where she will be working with Bill Gerrish in Communications.

MSW/MPH graduate **Erin Egan (2014)** and her friend Jesse Calvi have developed a line of bath and body products that avoid the use of any chemicals, fragrances, gluten, soy or corn. Marketed under the name “Naked Mamas,” the products include cold process soaps, lotions, body butters, and foot scrubs, among others. Erin’s interest in these “naked” products (all ingredients are clearly listed on the packaging) grew out of her own health problems, mainly her allergic reaction “to pretty much everything.” For a blog on this new venture that appeared in the online publication [connecticutmag.com](http://www.connecticutmag.com) on March 14, 2014, go to <http://www.connecticutmag.com/Blog/Health-Wellness/March-2014/These-Mamas-Say-Go-Naked-With-Your-Skin-Care-Regiment-Anyway/>

The *New Haven Register* recently published an opinion editorial by **Anne Elwell, MPH (2006)** entitled “Your Final Expression of Love Might be an Advanced Directive.” Ann is Vice President of Community Relations for Qualidigm.



**LeaAnn Fortin-McCue, MPH (2011)** has been promoted to the position of Contract Administrator at Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

**Lisandra (Velez) Gonzalez, MPH (2005, CIP)** has been appointed Consultant Assistant at HRP Consulting Group, Inc. in Springfield, MA. Previously she was an Education and Compliance Specialist at Baystate Medical Center.

Congratulations to MPH student **Ben Hallowell, MPH (2014)** and Emily Murphy on their summer marriage. Ben is a teaching assistant at University of Georgia, where he is pursuing a PhD in Public Health.

**Roberto Henry, MPH (2014)** has been appointed Public Health Advisor, CDC Public Health Associates Program. He will be working within the office of State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support and will be based in the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department in Charleston, WV (the county health department). He expects to be doing primarily epidemiology and threat/emergency preparedness work. The Public Health Associates Program is of two years' duration; after the second year, associates are eligible for conversion to full, permanent employment with the CDC.

**Jennifer Kertanis, MPH (1996)**, Director of Health for the Farmington Valley Health District, has been appointed to the Board of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

**Rene Lopez, MPH (1999)** is now Clinical Operations Program Leader at Pfizer Centers for Therapeutic Innovation.

An op-ed on the e-patient movement by **Tom Meehan, MD/MPH (1992)** was published in the spring issue of *Connecticut Medicine*. Tom is Chief Medical Officer of Qualidigm.

Congratulations to the East Shore Health Department on its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which was celebrated at an event on September 26. **Michael Pascucilla MPH (2002), CF-SP, RS**, has been the health director for the department since 2010.

**Giorelly Prado, MPH (2009)** is now Revenue Analytics Manager at Aetna.

**Kelly Rago, MPH (2013)** has been named co-chair of the CPHA Advocacy Committee. She currently works at the Connecticut Health Foundation as a Program Associate and serves on the Board for BikeWalk CT.

**Paula Schenck, MPH (1998)** received "Leadership and Service" recognition from the US Environmental Protection Agency at the School Health and Indoor Environments Leadership Development Network Summit (SHIELDS) in Washington, DC on June 19, 2014. She spoke there on the rollout of the EPA SHIELD Master Class initiative, a program she has helped develop.

**Janet Tate, MPH (1997), PhD** has joined the MPH Curriculum Committee. Janet received her doctoral degree in Epidemiology from Harvard School of Public Health and is working as an epidemiologist for the VA in West Haven.

**Gregory Wark, MPH (2012)** is a Consultant at SMC Partners in Hartford, CT.

**Meghan Wilson, MPH (2013)** is continuing her education at UConn Health this fall; she has begun her studies in the School of Medicine, Class of 2018.

## FACULTY NEWS



Each year, the Graduate Programs in Public Health awards the Joan Segal Award for Outstanding Faculty to an individual who, through their instructional and/or mentoring efforts, has had a significant impact on our public health students. We proudly announce that our recipient this year is **Dr. Helen Swede**. Helen earned her doctorate in Epidemiology and teaches two popular public health courses, *Cancer Epidemiology* and *Chronic Disease Control*.

**Jenn Cavallari, ScD** and **Jenny Garza, ScD** presented two papers at the 24<sup>th</sup> International Epidemiology in Occupational Health Conference (EPICOH) on June 24-27: "Cleaning tasks and respiratory, dermatological and musculoskeletal symptoms among custodians using traditional and green cleansers" (Cavallari J, Garza J, Wakai S, Simcox N, Schenck P, Welsh L, Meyer J, Morse T, Cherniack M); and "Acute Inflammatory response to secondhand smoke exposure among non-smoking workers: a repeated measures study" (Garza J, Zhang J, Fang S, Wong J, Christian DC, Cavallari J).



**Audrey Chapman, PhD**, Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care, presented a talk on "Core Health Obligations from the Perspectives of Human Rights and Public Health" in Storrs on September 4 for UConn's Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP). You can view this talk at: <http://www.chip.uconn.edu/lecture-9-4-14>.



Congratulations to **Susan Kiene, PhD, MPH** and her husband Tom Snyder on their September marriage on the beach. Susan, Assistant Professor of Community Medicine, will be leaving UConn at the end of September and moving to San Diego. She will be joining the School of Public Health at San

Diego State University as Associate Professor of Global Health in the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Division.

Congratulations to **Nick Warren, PhD** on his retirement. Nick taught occupational health courses, especially in the area of ergonomics, to MPH and PHD students in public health, as well as to students on the Storrs campus. He was formerly co-director of the PhD concentration in occupational and environmental health sciences.

**Hongjie Wang, MLS, MA** has been appointed a member of the Fulbright Scholar Regional Review Committee at the U.S. Department of State. He recently spent a semester in China as a Fulbright Scholar.



We note with sadness the passing of **Dr. Rene Jahiel**. The funeral took place on March 16, 2014 at Beth Olam (Shearith Israel) Cemetery in Queens, New York. For many years, Dr. Jahiel taught

electives in the MPH program and he was a strong presence at the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care. In writing to his children, Tom Babor, Department Chair, stated:

*Your father was an intellectual giant whose work will continue to inspire others as time goes on. His incisive mind, strong moral convictions and hard work made him a wonderful colleague to those of us who appreciated his genius. He may have lost his fight against cancer, but his ideas have begun to have an impact on those suffering from corporate-induced disease, disability and homelessness.*

His obituary can be read at:

[http://www.uchc.edu/broadcast/obituary\\_jahiel\\_3\\_27\\_14.pdf](http://www.uchc.edu/broadcast/obituary_jahiel_3_27_14.pdf).

Joan Segal, Editor  
Production: Barbara Case, Morgan Hollenbeck  
Spencer  
UConn Graduate Programs in Public Health  
263 Farmington Avenue  
Farmington, Connecticut 06030-6325  
Phone: (860) 679-1510  
Fax: (860) 679-1581  
Email: [publichealth@uchc.edu](mailto:publichealth@uchc.edu)

Web:

<http://www.commed.uchc.edu/ed/mph/index.html>