

Grant Round Up



Melissa Cheng – SBIRT Training Grant

Melissa Cheng, Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, has been awarded a screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment, or SBIRT, Training Grant from the Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. This grant will allow for the creation of hybrid (online and in-person) training sessions regarding education on substance abuse for healthcare providers in the state of Utah.

The \$205,000 grant has been awarded for two years and will begin in November 2017. The grant will fund trainings that will educate healthcare providers on how to universally screen for substance abuse, but also give them the skills as to what to do when patients answer yes to a substance abuse problem. The SBIRT Training Grant is a follow up to a three-year grant for \$1,000,000 that was awarded in 2015 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to help teach healthcare students about SBIRT.

Cheng, along with Rebecca Wilson at the University of Utah College of Nursing, and Sarah McCormick and Kathy Fortenberry at the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, will be working closely on creating trainings and content that will be used to educate healthcare providers on substance abuse. The trainings will be a series of seven courses with topics ranging from neurobiology of pain to addiction and theories of addiction treatment.

“We are really excited to start dialogue that healthcare providers need to have with their patients regarding substance abuse,” Cheng said.

Along with the trainings that will be created, Cheng will be giving a lecture titled, “SBIRT: Just as Important as a Sphygmomanometer.” Her lecture will focus on the importance of creating a future environment where patients are able to speak about substance use as freely as discussing blood pressure during visits to healthcare providers.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse shows that substance abuse costs the United States more than \$740 billion in costs related to crime, lost work productivity, health care, and more. The SBIRT Training Grant will allow for open dialogue and solutions to help begin reducing those costs one provider at a time.



Rod Handy – Federal OSHA Training Grant

Rod Handy, principle investigator of the Federal OSHA Training Grant, and co-investigators Connie Crandall and Matt These have been awarded a federal training grant by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, to develop a training program to help educate oil and gas workers on hazardous material handling and injury prevention.

The one-year grant was awarded for \$148,820 with an opportunity for a follow on year with 90 percent of the original grant value if things go well in the first year. The grant will make it possible for the grant team to develop five modules that will be targeted at oil and gas production and extraction companies and workers.

The modules will cover topics as follows:

1. Chemical hazards and global harmonization system
2. Ergonomics/muscular skeletal disorder
3. Thermal stress
4. Slips trips and falls
5. Safety plan

Each training module will be 45 minutes in length which will equate to a half day, onsite, in-person training. During the grant period, the trainings will be disseminated throughout oil and gas production and extraction facilities in OSHA's Region 8, which covers Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Utah, and Colorado.

The grant team has been created and will be instrumental in developing content for the modules and trainings.

"It is the grant team's overall goal to provide very timely and germane environmental health and safety training to material handlers and on-site workers in one of our nation's most important industries," Handy said.

Beyond Handy, Thiese, and Crandall, the grant team will also receive assistance from Department of Family and Preventive Medicine staff members Crystal Beall, Alicen Bringard, Tracy Rees, Tom Boeger, and Luz Dominguez, as well as doctoral students Andria Thatcher, Naomi Riches, and Jomey Ramsay.

After the grant period is completed, the materials will become property of OSHA where it will be used nationally to make other OSHA regions aware of potential dangers and help educate those across the country.



Susan Saffel-Shrier – Health and Human Services Grant

Susan Saffel-Shrier, a professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, was awarded a grant from The United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Community Living to study the transitions of care of older adults with malnutrition.

The \$250,000 grant was awarded in September 2017 and will continue for two years. It will allow for Saffel-Shrier and her team of registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs) to follow recently hospitalized older adults with malnutrition back into their home settings. The RDN team will be studying the impact of nutrition therapy on hospital readmissions.

"Malnutrition is both a public health and patient safety issue," Saffel-Shrier said.

The research will focus on older adult patients along the Wasatch Front region of Utah and will allow for coordination and collaborations with care coordinators, Utah Area Agencies on Aging, hospitals, and more throughout the community.

The grant will allow for a more holistic look into all the issues of malnutrition, such as physical, psychological, social, and environmental.

As research continues, the project has potential for additional funding based upon evidence-based outcomes

PAEA Awards – Doris Dalton and Amanda Maloney-Johns



Doris Dalton received the 2017 Administrative Support Staff Award from PAEA. This award, one of PAEA's newest, recognizes a program administrative support staff member who has made extraordinary contributions to PA education through their respective PA program.

Doris is an exemplary staff member who manages the ever-increasing applicant pool to our nationally ranked Physician Assistant Studies program. Our program receives close to 2000 applicants each year for 60 spots (44 in Salt Lake City and 16 at the St. George campus). Doris is always available to answer questions from applicants as well as continually developing and implementing admission policies and processes to make the selection efficient for applicant and reviewers.

Doris does not limit her service to just our program, additionally, she serves as a member of the Recruitment and Admissions Council of the Physician Assistant Education Association, and chairs the Enhancements Committee for the national Central Application Service for Physician Assistants, CASPA.



Amanda Maloney-Johns is the recipient of the 2017 PAEA Clinical Education Award. Amanda currently serves as Director of Clinical Education. In this role, she oversees all aspects of the clinical phase of the Physician Assistant Studies Program. She is passionate about inter-professional education (IPE), and has served on the IPE leadership team since 2012, and the IPE Advisory Committee since its inception. Additionally, she serves on several committees at the University level including the Advanced Practice Clinician Council and the School of Medicine Admissions Committee.

On a national level, Amanda served on the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) Committee for Clinical Education for 5 years. She also recently completed two terms on the Utah Academy of Physician Assistants (UAPA) Board of Directors.

Amanda has practiced clinically in chronic pain management and at the Solitude Ski Clinic. Currently, she is working clinically with the Utah Children's Project at the University of Utah. Amanda is dedicated to ensure our students have rewarding and relevant clinical experiences as part of their program experience.



AAPHP Award – Pam Lyon

On Sunday, November 5, 2017, Pam Lyon received an award for 8 years of exemplary service from the Association of Accredited Public Health Programs (AAPHP) at the American Public Health Association annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. The award was presented AAPHP president our very own Dr. Jim VanDerslice.

Lyon is one of the Administrative Program Coordinators in the Division of Public Health within the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. Lyon takes pride in her work coordinating all of the global health activities within the division. She also manages the division's learning abroad program logistics to ensure that participating students, faculty, and staff have everything covered from pre-trip preparation to any needs that may arise on a trip abroad.

“Clearly, Pam has been that person who has been material to the success of AAPHP by making sure that the day to day business is accomplished in an effective and efficient manner,” said Jim VanDerslice, PhD.

By: Kristen Steiner and Elizabeth Rabon
Public Relations
801.581.5321