Chair’s Corner

Dear Colleagues,

Spring feels like it is finally starting to take hold here in Utah even though we continue to experience waves of wintry precipitation here and there. I am thankful it has been nothing like what my former hometown of Minneapolis experienced the weekend of April 14 with more than 20 inches of snow and blizzard like conditions. As the weather and season start to show signs of growth and rebirth, it makes me reflect on the growth of our department.

Like the flora and fauna that rejoice in the newness of spring, our department has many initiatives that we have worked hard on over the last several months to ensure they are moving in the direction of our mission to optimize the quality of life through scholarship. As you thumb through this issue of the newsletter, I hope you are amazed by all the growth of many of our initiatives and programs that make our department a world-class department for students, faculty, staff, and donors.

Below are some of the achievements of which I am particularly proud.

As the month of May starts our Physician Assistant Studies Program will be welcoming 16 new students in our extension campus, Dixie State University, in St. George, Utah. In addition, we have three new faculty members and two new staff members ensuring students have exceptional experience during their time in the program. Another addition to our Physician Assistant Studies program is the classroom expansion. Construction kicked off the second week of April at 421 Wakara Way to create two new classrooms with distance learning capabilities, a student lounge area, and much needed faculty office space. As the Physician Assistant Studies program gets their schedules finalized, we hope to be able to make use the classrooms for some of our other department programs.

Not only are we expanding our presence in Utah, but we continue to expand around the globe. We are in the final phases of approval for the University of Utah Extended Master of Public Health Program at the Ensign College of Public Health. Once the program is formally approved, it will be the first Council of Education of Public Health (CEPH) approved program in Africa. This initiative has been led by our faculty and staff along with incredible donor support. The campus will host the Global Health Extreme Affordability Conference in July 2018 where global health stakeholders round the world will meet to share ideas of emerging health innovations and transformation. Additionally, our faculty will lead two student groups to Ghana as part of our Learning Abroad Global Scholars and Junior Global Scholars programs.

In addition to our presence in Africa, we continue to have a major presence at the University of Utah Asia Campus with our Masters of Public Health. In May, we have 12 students enrolled in the Exploring Public Health in Korea course that will be led by Dr. TP Singh. Dr. Singh will then lead half a dozen students to India to do work with the Mehar Baba Charitable Trust (MBCT) as part of their practicum work. Also, don’t miss the next issue of our Newsletter to hear details on the Nepal Clinical Rotation led by our Physician Assistant Studies and Public Health faculty members.

Last, but definitely not least, we want to celebrate our newest Blue Ridge standing (based on NIH funding sources). We moved up as a department from #7 to #4. Moving to a top 5 ranking was my 5-year goal, but we have done it within a year! Thank you to everyone in the department. You all have a role in supporting our research mission and this very sought after ranking. From staff to PIs, all of your work contributes to the difference our department makes in groundbreaking scholarship.

These accomplishments are merely the tip of the iceberg for the department. There is so much more we have accomplished together in the last several months. We are truly a world class department that shares the best of Utah with the rest of the world and brings back world class activities from around the globe back home to Utah. We have lots to celebrate this spring. As you read through this Newsletter, I hope you find yourself feeling proud of your contribution to these accomplishments!

Sincerely,

Kola

Kola
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Department Mission

The Department of Family and Preventive Medicine optimizes quality of life through scholarship that advances health and wellbeing in homes, workplaces, and communities.

The Department of Family and Preventive Medicine is committed to and accountable for promoting a culture of inclusiveness, diversity, and respect of all faculty, staff, students, and the communities we serve.

We Value and rely upon diversity and inclusion for the development, improvement, and sustainability of exceptional education, research, and healthcare for our diverse, ever changing local, regional, national, and international communities.
Welcome!

We would like to welcome all of those who have joined the department during January-March 2018! We are excited to continue to get to know you and have you as part of our team. Welcome!

Sarang Yoon
Division of OEH

Corby Bradshaw
Physician Assistant Studies

Matt Kerr
Division of OEH

Melissa Pringle
Administration

Forrest Rhinehart
Division of Public Health

Karen Winningham
Physician Assistant Studies

Sarang Kim Yoon, DO, MOH, is a clinical instructor in the Division of Occupational and Environmental Health. She earned her medical degree from Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2014, and completed her Internal Medicine internship at West Anaheim Medical Center and Occupational Medicine Residency at the U of U. Her research interests include musculoskeletal disorders, worker health, and wellness.

Corby Bradshaw is responsible for the IT equipment and coordination of IT at the St. George campus. He has been involved with computers and tech work for most of his life, most recently working for Dixie State University. Starting at the University of Utah in early 2018, he has facilitated the IVC system during classes, as well as developed tools for teachers and students to use that improve their educational experience. He is currently finishing his degree in IT.

Matt Kerr is the Director of the Mountain West OSHA Education Center for OEH. He has accumulated over 30 years of experience in the safety, health, and environmental fields, and is a specialist in the areas of construction, general industry (including oil & gas), disaster response, and maritime safety. Matt enjoys flyfishing, kayaking, hiking, traveling, mindless television, and comfort food.

Melissa Pringle is the Pre-Award Administrator for the department. She provides administrative support for the pre-award process associated with grants, contracts, and other external funding sources. She also identifies funding sources that match department faculty’s research interests. Melissa has a degree from Oregon State University in Exercise and Sport Science.

Forrest Rhinehart is the new Program Assistant for the Division of Public Health. Before joining the division in January, she graduated from the University of Utah with Bachelors’ degrees in Communication and International Studies. When she is not at work you will probably find her hanging out with dogs, attempting to cook, or playing in the mountains.

Karen Winningham is the Education Coordinator for the PA Division in St. George, UT. She has worked with the University of Utah for the past 18 years in the Continuing Education and Community Enrichment (CECE) department. She was born and raised in St. George and is excited to return home. She loves cooking, being outdoors, and is learning the ukulele.
Match Day

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our 10 new 2018 Family Medicine Interns who will be starting with the department in June 2018. We look forward to working with and learning from each of you!
Congratulations to the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine!

We received our Blue Ridge ranking for 2017 and are happy to announce that we moved up from a #7 ranking to #4.

The Blue Ridge ranking system ranks medical schools according to NIH Funded research by dollars. We want to thank all faculty, staff, and students who played a role in helping us achieve this great accomplishment.

We also want to congratulate Joseph Stanford, MD, MSPH; Mia Hashibe PhD; and Kola Okuyemi, MD, MPH, on their Blue Ridge rankings.

Did we miss an important event? Would you like to feature awards, research, and more?

Please email Kristen Steiner at kristen.steiner@hsc.utah.edu for future Newsletter submissions.
2018 Graduations

Public Health Graduation
May 17, 2018
Rice Eccles Tower

School of Medicine Graduation
May 18, 2018
Kingsbury Hall

Family Medicine Residency Graduation
June 29, 2018
Cottonwood Country Club

Ghana Graduation
July 14, 2018
Ensign Campus

Physician Assistant Studies Graduation
August 3, 2018
Rice Eccles Stadium

Happy One Year Anniversary,
Dr. Okuyemi
The Department Around the World

The Department of Family and Preventive Medicine was founded in 1970 at the University of Utah. Since then, the department has grown into what we each know today. As a department, our mission is to optimize the quality of life, advance health, and be committed and accountable in promoting inclusiveness, diversity, and respect. While those efforts begin behind a desk, the accomplishments of our department show that these efforts soon become qualities as individuals step out and get involved.

Although our department resides in Salt Lake City, Utah, its programs, residencies, and reach are located throughout the world. We have programs and campuses located in Kpong, Ghana; Incheon, South Korea; and St. George, Utah. Residencies range from a variety of states and countries from Alaska to Florida and Guatemala to Nepal, with each providing unique health care experiences and challenges.

As a department, we are proud of the global accomplishments and involvement our faculty, staff, and students play in our global programs. We truly have become a world-class department and we are excited to see our global reach continue to grow and expand.

The Department of Family and Preventive Medicine
Salt Lake City, Utah

The Department of Family and Preventive Medicine primarily resides at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah and houses four divisions: Family Medicine, Physician Assistant Studies Program, Public Health, and Occupational and Environmental Health.

The Division of Family Medicine provides training to residents and medical students, and also provides patient care through the division clinics and inpatient services. Currently the department houses residents and doctors at the Sugar House Clinic, Madsen Clinic, Centerville Clinic, and South Main Clinic. The division residency program combines hospital training with special training at university and children’s hospital across the state of Utah.

The Physician Assistant Program is one of the oldest in the country and is co-sponsored by the Utah Medical Association. The program is committed to training physician assistants who will provide quality care to patients in medically underserved and rural communities. Physician assistant training includes both didactic instruction and preceptorship training in a rural or underserved community.

The mission of the Division of Public Health is to promote and protect the health of communities in Utah and across the globe. The division collaborates with organizations around the state and throughout the world to achieve its mission through research, practice, and implementation.

The Division of Occupational and Environmental Health’s primary goal is to protect workers and their environment through research, service, and education. The division, established in 1977, serves as a national hub for safety and health education, research, and clinical practice. It services Health and Human Services Region 8 which includes Utah, Montana, North and South Dakota, Wyoming, and Colorado.

Each of these divisions help make up a department that has earned national recognition and made a difference worldwide. Without each student and faculty and staff member, the department would not be the worldwide example of advancing health and wellbeing in homes, workplaces, and communities.
The Division of Occupational and Environmental Health - Salt Lake City, Utah

The Division of Occupational and Environmental Health houses the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (RMCOEH). The center serves as a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) supported education and research center (ERC). As a national center, it serves Health and Human Services Region 8, which covers Utah, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Colorado.

The division was established to meet the needs for occupational and environmental safety and health programs in the West, but has now grown to meet the needs of individuals around the nation.

The division offers degrees such as a Master of Science in Occupational Health, Doctor of Philosophy in Occupational and Environmental Health, Graduate Certificate of Occupational Safety and Health, and more. The division also offers an Occupational Medicine Residency Program, allowing physicians to become specialized in occupational medicine. The residency program offers students residencies throughout the nation with hands on experience.

After the first year of training, research projects, and classes in the residency program, students have the opportunity to pick an industrial, population-based, or common clinical rotation. Rotations include opportunities such as working for Chevron in Texas; NASA in Florida; NIOSH in West Virginia, Ohio, or Alaska; Civil Aerospace Medical Institute in Oklahoma and more.

During rotation, residents can work with occupational medicine, safety, industrial hygiene, and management personnel. They are able to participate in task analyses, evaluate work-related injury and illness, review medical surveillance, and gain experience in administrative and management aspects of a variety of health care programs.

Because of the quality individuals who work in the division, the department and division name is known throughout the country.

St. George Extention of the Physician Assistant Studies Program - St. George, Utah

The St. George extension of Physician Assistant Studies Program is a collaboration between the University of Utah School of Medicine and Dixie State University. The program, recently accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistants, will provide opportunities for students, faculty, and staff located in Southern Utah.

With the recent accreditation, the inaugural class at the St. George extension will matriculate in May 2018. This will allow students and individuals involved to begin another chapter and produce more physician assistants throughout the state of Utah.

The division takes pride in their dedication to fulfilling its mission of improving the quality of health and access to care with a commitment to the medically underserved. With the St. George extension now in place, it will help the division and department provide better primary care services to rural and underserved communities throughout Utah. This collaboration also provides a chance for more collaboration and partnerships to serve those around us.
The University of Utah Asia Campus (UAC) offers a variety of both undergraduate and graduate programs and degrees. The Division of Public Health offers a Masters of Public Health (MPH) through the Asia Campus where students are able to learn, research, and experience much in South Korea. Public Health faculty rotate to the UAC to teach courses in five week blocks.

Through the Asia Campus, Public Health students have the opportunity to participate in a program centered around public health core knowledge and has become recognized by communities around the world. Students also have a great opportunity to fully engage in a global public health educational experience.

The University of Utah Extended Masters of Public Health (MPH) Program at Ensign College of Public Health is one of our many global representations. The Ensign College is located in Kpong, Ghana and was established to be a place where people and communities can create conditions for optimal health and wellness. It is a place where knowledge is shared and leaders are trained to advocate community health and prevent disease through partnerships with different organizations, neighboring African countries, and more.

Those attending the Ensign Campus for a degree in a Master of Public Health (MPH) not only gain knowledge and experience in the core fundamentals of Public Health, but have the opportunity to specialize their focus to meet their individual needs and goals.

Several faculty from the University of Utah campus, such as Dr. Steve Alder, PhD, and Sharon Talboys, PhD, MPH, work extensively at the Ensign campus teaching and being involved in programs, classes, and research.
Upcoming Events

David Satin
“A Case for Medical Students as Scribes: Ethics, Law, and Policy of EMR Documentation”
May 3, 2018
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Women Helping Women Clothing Donation Event
Department of Family & Preventive Medicine
May 7-18, 2018

Extreme Affordability: West Africa
“Impacting Health through Collaboration and Innovation”
July 8-10, 2018

Do you have an event coming up during April - June 2018?
Email details to kristen.steiner@hsc.utah.edu
Honors & Accolades

Grant Applications

GLAD Grant
Scott Benson, Jim VanDerslice, Tejinder Singh, and Sharon Talboys
Scott Benson, PhD, MD, MPH, along with Jim VanDerslice, PhD; Tejinder P. Singh, BDS, MDS, MPH; and Sharon Talboys, PhD, MPH were awarded a Global Learning Across the Disciplines (GLAD) Award from the University of Utah (UU) Office of Global Engagement. The award is designed to support efforts to integrate multi-disciplinary global learning into curricular activities.

This $10,000 award will support the development of a "WASH Academy" to promote education, practical training, and research in the areas of Water, Sanitation, and Health (WASH). Dr. Benson’s team envisioned the Academy to be the focal point for an experiential learning program that integrates West African WASH practitioners from government, NGOs, and villages, with UU undergraduate and graduate students for a week long boot camp at the Ensign College of Public Health Campus located in Ghana. The boot camp will include a mixed group of participants, organizations, and UU faculty and students from disparate disciplines such as behavioral sciences, public policy, economics, engineering, and public health.

The WASH Academy is part of a larger multidisciplinary effort to develop graduate education focused on the crosscutting themes that define the relationship between health, clean drinking water, proper sanitation, and hygiene behaviors. Two new courses focusing on these issues will serve as the cornerstone of a new graduate certificate in WASH Sciences. The certificate will be designed to integrate didactic learning in the US with the WASH Academy in Ghana. UU students will earn course credits for participating in the Academy’s boot camp and will have the opportunity to apply their skills to a WASH project in Ghana as part of the Division of Public Health Learning Abroad program.

The first activity of the WASH Academy will be a planning meeting to include stakeholders from communities, NGOs, academia, service providers, and government agencies to map out the Academy’s mission and activities. The planning meeting will be held in conjunction with the launch of the University of Utah Public Health MPH Program at the Ensign Global Campus in Ghana, Africa.

There is nothing better than celebrating the successes and hard work of friends and co-workers. In academics, we see many who work countless hours on writings, work late to meet deadlines, and attend endless meetings to be able to share their voice and make a difference in our community. Our “Honors & Accolades” section celebrates and highlights those who have done much to achieve much.

*Indicates Notice of Awards Received

*Domestic violence prevention initiative
PI(s): Steve Godin
Sponsor: Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake
Dates: 01/01/2018-09/30/2020

*Shoulder injuries among truck drivers: prevalence, incidence, and risk factors
PI(s): Matt Thiese
Sponsor: DHHS Centers for Disease & Control Prevention
Dates: 01/01/2018-12/31/2021

Parental psychological stress during pregnancy and offspring asthma risk
PIs: Karen Schliep
Sponsor: C-FAHR Faculty Pilot Grant
Dates: 03/01/2018-03/31/2019

Impact of maternal psychosocial stress on pregnancy and child health outcomes
PIs: Karen Schliep
Sponsor: NIH
Dates: 04/01/2018-03/31/2019

Glycemic control for clinics with pharmacists on care teams
PIs: Lisa Gren
Sponsor: CTSA
Dates: 04/01/2018-03/31/2019

PTQ research supplement
PIs: Kola Okuyemi
Sponsor: NIH-NHLBI
Dates: 4/1/2018-3/31/2019

* Indicates Notice of Awards Recieved
Wristband supplement project
Pls: Christy Porucznik
Sponsor: NIH-DHHS
Dates: 4/1/2018-3/30/2020

How do early and mid-life events impact Alzheimer’s disease and vascular dementia risk in women?
Pls: Karen Schiep
Sponsor: Utah Center for Aging
Dates: 07/01/2018-06/30/2019

*Using silicone wristbands as non-invasive, passive environmental monitors to evaluate seasonal and within-family correlation for environmental exposures
Pls: Soto (Porucznik)
Sponsor: ECHO supplement
Dates: 07/01/2018-06/30/2019

Indigenous community health workers engaged in health coaching with Native Americans with pre-diabetes: evaluation of an infused oral health curriculum with the “prevent T2 lifestyle change program”
Pls: Steve Godin
Sponsor: Burton Foundation
Dates: 07-01/2018-06/30/2019

Evaluation of airborne heavy metal concentrations at surface and underground mines in the Western US
Pls: Darrah Sleeth
Sponsor: Alpha Foundation for Mine Safety
Dates: 07/01/2018-12/31/2019

Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Centers
Pls: Kimberley Shoaf
Sponsor: University of Colorado at Denver
Dates: 7/1/2018-6/30/2022

Health systems of the future: modeling and including interdependencies in human-technological space
Pls: Kim Shoaf
Sponsor: NSF
Dates: 08/01/2018-07/31/2022

Novel strategies to describe rural and urban community factors contributing to cancer survival disparities in the mountain west
Pls: Carol Sweeney (Co-Pl: Jim VanDerslice)
Sponsor: NIH Cancer Institute
Dates: 09/01/2018-08/31/2020

PLAC-UTAH- prediabetes lifestyle and activity changes - using teledentistry to improve access to healthcare
Pls: Hanson (Co-Pl: Steve Godin)
Sponsor: HRSA
Dates: 09/01/2018-08/31/2022

The health effects and costs of air pollution on survivors of breast cancer
Pls: Anne Kirchoff (Co-Pl: Jim VanDerslice)
Sponsor: NIH Cancer Institute
Dates: 09/01/2018-08/31/2023

Health disparities in rural vs. urban gynecologic cancer survivors
Pls: Mia Hashibe (Co-Pl: Jim VanDerslice)
Sponsor: NIH
Dates: 09/01/2018-08/31/2023

Wasatch range offender re-entry program
Pls: Steve Godin
Sponsor: SAMSHA
Dates: 09/30/2018-09/29/2023

The independent, additive and synergistic effects of multiple environmental exposures on suicide: phenotypic and genetic vulnerabilities
Pls: Bakian (Co-Pl: Jim VanDerslice)
Sponsor: NIH/NIEHS
Dates: 12/01/2018-11/30/2023

Improving risk stratification and treatment response prediction in thyroid cancer through incorporation of molecular markers and clinical data
Pls: Mia Hashibe
Sponsor: NCI/NIH
Dates: 12/01/2018-11/30/2023

Healthy lifestyles to impact outcomes study (HELIOS)
Pls: Lisa Gren
Sponsor: Wake Forest University
Dates 12/01/2018-11/30/2025

Awards

2018 Mental Health Outreach Fellows
Jennifer Forbes

Jennifer Forbes, MHS, PA-C, Assistant Professor in the Division of Physician Assistant Studies, received the Mental Health Outreach Fellowship through the PA (Physician Assistant) Foundation. Forbes was 1 of 16 physician assistants selected to conduct outreach in their communities across the United States using the validated Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) curriculum.
The PA Foundation Mental Health Outreach Fellowship is designed to connect the clinical expertise and community engagement of physician assistants in areas in need of mental health assistance. As a Mental Health Outreach Fellow, Forbes will serve as a trainer and conduct community outreach and training to various groups in her community.

Beyond offering training and outreach courses using the MHFA curriculum, Forbes will also submit de-identified outcomes of the pre- and post-training surveys to assess how, and if, knowledge and behavior changed due to the training. Forbes will provide additional insight for ways to refine and expand the MHFA program from a health care provider’s perspective, as well as submit a MHFA poster presentation for the 2019 American Academy of Physician Assistants Conference.

**Physician Assistant Education Association Future Educator Fellow**

**Jose Escalante**

By: Darin Ryujin and Virgina Valentin

Jose Escalante, UPAP Class 47 (2018) has been named a Physician Assistant Education Association Future Educator Fellow. He is 1 of 15 recipients from a nationwide applicant pool.

Jose’s experience growing up as a young immigrant in marginalized Bakersfield, California motivated his pursuit for a career in healthcare and higher education. Throughout the year, Jose has been involved in inclusion and equity efforts. He has been the past president of PASSED, where he led students in outreach and educational activities that reached fellow students and communities in our area. Additionally, he was a student director of the Student Run Clinic at Malineh Free Clinic.

In addition, this year he was awarded the Physician Assistants for Latino Health Scholarship, the Hilmon Castle Award for the First Year PA student who demonstrated outstanding clinical performance. He was also nominated for the University of Utah Health Sciences Center Inclusive Excellence Award.

**Physician Assistant Education Association Future Educator Fellow**

**Alex Locke**

By: Darin Ryujin and Virgina Valentin

Alex Locke, UPAP Class 47 (2018) has been named a Physician Assistant Education Association Future Educator Fellow. She is 1 of 15 recipients from a nationwide applicant pool.

Prior to PA school Alex completed a master's degree in Oncological Sciences and worked as an R&D scientist and a clinical trial coordinator for the Huntsman Cancer Institute.

These experiences led Alex to PA school where she could become both a healthcare provider and an educator. In her application, Alex discussed her love and experience of teaching—including teaching her niece and nephew to tie their shoes, teaching novice rock climbers climbing safety, and teaching her patients about their cancer therapies. Alex plans to take these past experiences and develop them further as a Future Educator Fellow.

Alex is also the University of Utah student representative for the American Academy of Physician Assistants. As a student leader, Alex has represented Utah on a national level, led student events and local fund raisers throughout the year.

**Publications & Presentations**

**Publications**


Doran T, Quella A, Coombs JM. Commentaries on health services research. JAAPA 2018;31(4):1-2


Presentations & Posters


Paul Grundy Visits UU for a Special Lecture on Healthcare Transformation

On Feb. 14, the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine hosted Paul Grundy, MD, MPH, for a special lecture entitled, “Primary Care as the Foundation for Delivery Transformation,” at the University of Utah’s (UU) Health Sciences Education Building.

Grundy, Global Director of Healthcare Transformation at HealthTeamWorks, accompanied by HealthTeamWork colleagues, Bert Miuccio, CEO, and David Ehrenberger, CMO, gave a lecture regarding the many components and transformations of healthcare, and his journey through the healthcare system.

“The kind of care we want for ourselves is the kind we want for our mothers and the kind we want for others,” Grundy said.

Grundy began his lecture by discussing the early stages of his career, how he became interested in healthcare, and what caused him to look at the fundamentals of healthcare around the world. He shared his experiences in building relationships of trust, which would provide the foundation for his career and decades of opportunities to work with people around the globe on care integration.

At the close of the lecture, Ehrenberger shared some of his experiences on healthcare and the good, bad, and ugly that follow a career in the healthcare field.

“It is hard to be in healthcare these days,” Ehrenberger said. “Burnout is a real epidemic, but there is a real reward to working in it as well.”

The lecture was an opportunity for UU employees to hear different perspectives and ask questions of those from HealthTeamWorks who see and work with healthcare on multiple levels.

Dr. Paul Grundy, known as the Godfather of the Patient Center Medical Home (PCMH), has spent over four decades of his career focused on population health. He recently retired as CMO from IBM’s Health Care Life Science Industry where he founded the IBM Industry Academy.

He now serves as Global Director of Healthcare Transformation at HealthTeamWorks, a non-profit that delivers healthcare transformation strategies and resources to practices, groups, and networks.

“We are very fortunate that Dr. Grundy is part of the University of Utah family. He knows well the dynamic healthcare advances underway here, and sings praises of the U wherever he travels,” said Michael Magill, MD, Chair Emeritus of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.
University of Utah School of Medicine Physician Assistant Division continues their long-term collaboration with Nepal

Department of Family and Preventive faculty members Don Pedersen, PhD, PA; Richard Backman, MD; and Kathy Pedersen, MPAS, PA-C, were invited speakers at the “International Conference on Challenges and Prospects of Quality Education in Nepal in the Federalism Era.” Feb 23-24, 2018. The Higher Institutions and Secondary Schools Association (HISSAN) of Nepal organized the conference. It was held in Budanilkhanta, Kathmandu, Nepal. Nepal is in a transition period and one area of reform is an emphasis on quality education.

KP Sharma Oli, the Right Honorable Prime Minister of the Republic of Nepal, was on hand to inaugurate the program. The University of Utah was listed as a conference collaborator. University of Utah faculty discussed workforce capacity building, professional development, and new opportunities for Health Assistants (HA) in Nepal. The HA is an analogue of US Physician Assistants. The University of Utah has worked with the Health Assistant profession in Nepal since 2013, including research, collaborative projects, education, and health camps. In 2015, the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine provided a Health Studies Fund research grant for the 2015 study, “Career Prospects and Challenges of Health Assistants (HA) in Nepal.”

The University of Utah speakers’ topic was “A 50 Year History of Physician Assistant Education in the United States and Lessons Learned for the Health Assistant Profession in Nepal.” The UU group, along with research collaborators Dr. Ram Prasad Shrestha and Dr. Sujan Maharao of Nepal, also met with the Vice Chancellor and faculty of the new Nepal Open University (NOU) that will be embarking on a distance education effort to provide post-secondary education to the people of Nepal. An Advanced Health Assistant (AHA) curriculum is being proposed for Nepal with assistance from the University of Utah. The proposed 12-month curriculum will be delivered through the NOU and will include both didactic and clinical training to build capacity within the existing Nepal Health Assistant profession.

University of Utah’s Center for Clinical and Translational Science Partners with the National Research Mentoring Network to Hold Mentor Training

On Feb. 27, the University of Utah’s Center for Clinical and Translational Science collaborated with the National Research Mentoring Network to hold a one-day Research Mentor Training course. The course was held at the Williams Building where more than two dozen University of Utah employees from various departments were able to learn and participate in activities and discussions aimed at improving their mentorship skills and abilities.

Dr. Christine Sorkness, RPh, PharmD, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, along with Dr. Mitchell Feldman, MD, MPhil, FACP, from the University of California, San Francisco, facilitated the training to help attendees improve their mentorship skills.

Aside from the facilitators, participants included employees from the University of Utah’s Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, and more. Attendees also ranged from veteran mentors to those just starting mentoring programs and trainings.

The day began with a Culture Box activity where participants gathered with those at their tables and shared three items about themselves. The activity allowed attendees to break down barriers and feel more comfortable with those who they would be working closely with throughout the course of the day.

The remainder of the day included topics and discussions based around maintaining effective communication, aligning expectations, fostering independence, promoting professional development, and addressing equity, inclusion, and diversity as pertaining to mentoring.

As those working in academia will attest, there is no such thing as too much learning. The one-day mentor training allowed for colleagues and associates to learn and grow together in a shared area of interest that will be beneficial throughout various stages of their careers.
Utah AHEC is teaming up with the National AHEC Organization to offer an exciting new program, AHEC Scholars, which is committed to supporting tomorrow’s healthcare workforce. The primary goal of the AHEC Scholars Program is to recruit students in health professions students into the underserved urban or rural health workforce by supplementing their training with enhanced exposure to community-perspectives through an interdisciplinary cohort structure. This program will provide students with national recognition for work they are already doing in Utah’s underserved urban and rural communities AND access to professional networking, mentors, and interdisciplinary cohort activities.

Specifically, the AHEC Scholars Program facilitates and recognizes health professional students’ competence in the following six Core Topic Areas: Inter-Professional Education, Behavioral Health Integration, Social Determinants of Health, Cultural Competence, Practice Transformation, and New/Emerging Health Issues. After completing this program, students will be prepared to:

- Partner with other health professionals to address pressing population health issues
- Provide high quality services and care in transformed health systems
- Meet the health needs in Utah’s underserved urban and rural populations

For more information on how you or your students can participate in the AHEC Scholars Program, please contact Julie Koldewyn at Julie.koldewyn@utah.edu.

Thank You!

We want to extend a big thank you to everyone that contributed and helped with our second issue of the department Newsletter in any way!

For further submissions or inquiries, please email: kristen.steiner@hsc.utah.edu
IT Trick of the Trade

Sometimes you will want or need to clear your Internet browser’s cache. You can quickly clear your cache with a keyboard shortcut if you are using Internet Explorer, Edge, Google Chrome, or Mozilla Firefox.

While in your browser, press **Ctrl + Shift + Delete** simultaneously on the keyboard to open the appropriate window.
Patient Comments

“I love Frances [Frances Johnson, APRN]. She is very personable and easy to talk to. She listens to my concerns and helps me make the best choices for me. I could not ask for better. I love this clinic. I have only been there twice, but everyone is very kind and helpful. It is all run very efficiently. I have already told many friends and family members how much I like this clinic. I recommend it all the time.”
– Madsen Family Health Center patient

I have never had a bad experience while under the care of my primary care physician, Dr. Pippitt [Karly Pippitt, MD]. She thoroughly examines me, takes the time to listen to me, and clearly explains her ideas/diagnosis with me. She is an excellent doctor. Being a diagnosed schizophrenic, it is difficult to find a doctor that goes out of their way to make you feel at ease and actually listens to you instead of blaming your problems on mental illness. Until I found her, I dealt with doctors that literally backed away from me after discovering my prior diagnosis of mental illness. I am happy to report that Dr. Pippitt has always treated me with respect, kindness, and has never spoken to me in an accusatory manner. I firmly believe she is in this profession for the right reasons. I only wish more doctors showed the same compassion she does. I would be medically lost without her. I have also had the pleasure of meeting other doctors she has trained, most of whom are as thorough and compassionate as she is.”
– Sugarhouse Health Center patient