Expanding Health Research

Esther Chang, Qinging Hu, Seungmin Kim, and Krista Ocier presented their posters at the HCI/Nature Conference on Transdisciplinary Cancer Interception: Leveraging Biology to Improve Prevention

read more on page 17
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June 30, 2020

Dear DFPM Community:

As the Chair of our department, I spend a lot of time thinking about the future. And that’s appropriate—as members of the University, we are all invested in building the future. From the students and clinicians we train to the way we innovate and research, all of us are part of doing the work so that the next semester, next year, next decade will be better than today.

When problems arise in the present, part of the challenge of keeping mental resiliency is to be flexible in our expectations for the future. We have learned that difficult lesson in real time over the past few months, as many of us have seen the future we envisioned for ourselves change and—in some cases—disappear as we have grappled as a worldwide community with the COVID-19 pandemic. Our students and faculty have had to adapt to their classes moving online, and have had to grieve the loss of an in-person graduation. Some of us have seen our loved ones lose employment or become sick. Still others of us have had to grapple with the irretrievable loss of loved ones who fell prey to a disease that no one had even heard of a year ago.

When even the present is uncertain, building the future can seem like a frightening prospect. And it is true there are truths about the present moment that are daunting. As those who champion public health, we have a duty to look with honest eyes at the data-driven information and make practical, challenging decisions about the future. And yet, I believe there is the opportunity too for hope in our various professions—hope that our efforts will be enough to mitigate suffering, hope that our sacrifices will lessen challenges our community faces, hope that our collective work will find a solution to the challenges that face us today.

As you read through this newsletter, which chronicles the unique transition between our pre-pandemic experience and the current one, I hope you will see a story of triumph and resilience. True, it can be tempting to look at the smiling faces of the Physician Assistants in an enormous group as they celebrate their White Coat Ceremony and think, “How did we get here from there?” But I believe we can also envision what kind of future we want post-pandemic and ask ourselves “How do we get there from here?” The answers to that question are what will build our world’s future, piece by piece.

The future may be a place that none of us can ever fully imagine. I believe, however, that it will be a place where the good foundations we have built in our department will be stronger and better equipped to serve the people of the world. So, although like you I am at home working while I write this, missing your camaraderie and the power of your collaboration, I don’t feel like I’m simply waiting for the future. Whether we are juggling working from home
or serving on the frontlines, we are all working on making the world what it will be for the next three months and beyond. It is my hope that your goals for the future that is ahead of us will continue to inspire you to maintain the good work you are doing.

Sincerely,

Kola

Kola
Legislature votes to maintain funding for vital rural and underserved health outreach program

With the finalization of the Utah state budget, the Utah Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program is pleased to announce that it has been granted $800,000 of annual ongoing funding by the Utah Legislature. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Senator Evan J. Vickers (R-Dist. 28) and Stephen Lisonbee, Executive Director of the Office of Regional Services for Southern Utah University, the funding will allow the program to continue its mission of increasing the number of primary care health professionals in rural and underserved urban areas in Utah through an education pipeline.

Utah AHEC serves the entirety of Utah via a statewide consortium linking a Program Office based at the University of Utah with three regional AHEC Centers. Regional Centers and Directors include Northern Utah AHEC, based at Weber State University (Fred Henderson); Crossroads Utah AHEC at Salt Lake Community College (Mindy Bateman); and Southern Utah AHEC at Southern Utah University with an office at Dixie State University (Rita Osborn).

Commenting on the importance of the funding in support of AHEC’s work to enhance the supply of healthcare providers for rural and underserved communities, Ivette A. Lopez, PhD, AHEC Deputy Director, said, “This is a recognition of the work of our Center Directors and staff, to help our young people become the much needed health professionals of the future. This is also in recognition of the diligent work of Utah AHEC Program Director, Michael Magill, MD, who has been a champion of the AHEC and steadfast in the care of his favorite patient: the state of Utah.” Rita Osborn, Director of the Southern Utah AHEC, concurred, adding, “We know that these funds will equate to additional health providers for Utah at all levels. Our focus is on the critical need for health workforce in Utah and Utah AHEC is well positioned to increase the workforce especially in underrepresented urban areas and in rural communities.”

Utah AHEC wants to ensure that future health professionals are equipped to meet the needs of our state with interprofessional teamwork informed by the social factors driving the health of communities. The Utah AHEC has partnered with health professions programs of many institutions across the state since 1996 to encourage students to enter the healthcare field. Utah AHEC reaches thousands of K-12 students every year and offers programs for undergraduate and graduate students interested in pursuing health careers in rural and underserved Utah. AHEC has a strong track record of not only
recruiting students from Utah, but retaining them in underserved parts of the state. We envision health inequities being tackled from primary care settings, led by graduates as they practice their professions.

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADDS TWO CONCENTRATIONS & A CERTIFICATE

author: Kelsey Townsend

The Division of Public Health will be adding two Master of Public Health (MPH) concentration areas and one new certificate to their program.

The division has been actively involved in these two topic areas, making the establishment of these concentrations the next step in the development of our degree offerings. In the area of Global Health we have run Learning Abroad in Ghana, India, and Peru for over 10 years, as well as a full MPH degree at the Utah Asia Campus. Public Health faculty are also actively involved in Community Health through contracts and joint projects with state and local health jurisdictions, providing workforce assessment and training (through the Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center), design and interpretation of community health needs assessments, and program evaluations (such as with the Urban Indian Center).

Although the Global Health and Community Health emphases are exclusively for MPH students, any interested individuals who have completed a bachelor’s degree and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher will be eligible to apply for the WASH certificate program.

FAMILY MEDICINE WELCOMES NEW INTERN CLASS OF 2020-2021

The Family Medicine Division is pleased to announce their new intern class of 2020-2021.

The 10 interns joining the program come from locations across the country and are excited to begin their residency. "Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to bring in our new class of interns, and special thanks to our residents, who spend so many hours recruiting and talking with each individual applicant," says Kirsten Stoesser, MD, Program Director of the Family Medicine Residency program, “We’ve got a really great group who will be joining us.”
ONLINE CERT PROGRAM LAUNCHES

author: Rachel Brown

In February, the University of Utah and Merit (a verified identity platform) joined with the National Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to introduce OnlineCert: an online and in-person hybrid training program that prepares the next generation of emergency response volunteers. The program is the first of its kind to issue only digital credentials, allowing greater communication, real-time information sharing between state agencies and qualified volunteers, and more efficient crisis response.

Developed by the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (RMCOEH) at the University of Utah, the Utah Division of Emergency Management, and 360Immersive, the hybrid online/in-person CERT course makes volunteer training easier by allowing participants to take the classroom coursework online and at any time and receive their credentials in a portable, secure, and easily-verifiable format via the Merit platform.

The hybrid CERT training program follows federal FEMA training standards and educates future volunteer responders on disaster preparedness and skills including fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. OnlineCERT has already been adopted across many states and regions over the past two years. Additionally, the program is now being included in a national pilot study, managed through the National CERT Association and FEMA National Offices, to assess the feasibility of rolling the program out on a national scale.

Sponsored by a grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, OnlineCERT sets an example for organizations across the country seeking to improve CERT training offerings. The addition of digital credentials further brings new efficiencies and promises improved participant retention and a better training experience.

“As we looked for opportunities to provide training in emergency preparedness and response, we quickly discovered the difficulties nearly every geographic region has in providing CERT training to its citizens,” said Matthew Hughes, M.D., the OnlineCERT program director. “CERT trainees are generally busy with work, family or other full-time obligations and must figure out how to attend training classes that are usually held at night or on weekends for extended

...
The Division of Public Health has joined the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH). The mission of ASPPH is to strengthen the capacity of members by advancing leadership, excellence, and collaboration for academic public health. Participating in ASPPH provides access to important national resources, including support for accreditation, political advocacy, and student recruitment. Dr. Lacey said that “Joining ASPPH will go a long way in increasing the visibility of our program and in communicating the public health impact of the great work of our faculty, staff, and students.”

The University of Utah Physician Assistant Program (UPAP) has a strong showing in the 2021 report, ranking 4th in the nation, coming behind only Baylor College of Medicine and University of Iowa and Duke University, which tied for first ranking. The securing of a fourth-ranked spot among its peers means that the Physician Assistant Program is the highest ranked graduate program at the University of Utah. The next closest program at the U is the Midwifery program in the College of Nursing, which was ranked #9 among its peers.

“I am amazed and proud to be a faculty in the Physician Assistant Studies division,” says Virginia Valentin, DrPH, PA-C. “We are the highest ranked graduate program at the U! This would not be possible without the amazing faculty and staff that work at UPAP.”

Like all the divisions in our department, the Physician Assistant program managed the challenge of shifting to an online format due to COVID-19 restrictions in March. Physician Assistant faculty and staff worked tirelessly to maintain the high standard of training throughout the transition.

“I’ve been very impressed with the program.
I feel like the transition to online has been unbelievably smooth,” said one Physician Assistant student from Class 50. “I’m very grateful for all the efforts that have taken place to keep us on track as much as possible. I know it’s a day-by-day process, but I feel like it’s going well.”

New Hires and Titles
January-June 2020

New Hires
Rona Bern  Research Analyst
Nidia Zavala Gonzalez  Office Assistant
Lily Gu  Biostatistician
Elise Hilton  Administrative Assistant
Fatemeh Kazemiparkouhi  Postdoc
Nasim Parsinejad  Biostatistician
Alec Trollan  Graduate Assistant
Bin Yan  Graduate Research Assistant

New Titles
Alzina Koricu  Graduate Research Assistant
Felianne Hipol  Graduate Research Assistant

ANNIVERSARIES

5 Years Service Award
Rebecca Abbey  FAMILY MEDICINE
April Sanders-Aboulila  PUBLIC HEALTH
Rebecca Abbey  FAMILY MEDICINE
Jordan Knox  FAMILY MEDICINE
Erin McAdams  FAMILY MEDICINE
Karen Schlep  FAMILY MEDICINE

10 Years Service Award
Anne Berger  PUBLIC HEALTH
Dan Clawson  CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION
Doris Dalton  PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM
Jocelyn Romano  CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

15 Years Service Award
Christy Porucznik  PUBLIC HEALTH

25 Years Service Award
Anne Randall  PUBLIC HEALTH

40 Years Service Award
Larry Bonnette  ADMINISTRATION
What is the role of the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM)?
ABFM certifies over 95,000 Family Physicians as meeting high standards for professionalism, cognitive knowledge, continued learning, and practice improvement. It is the second largest specialty board in the United States. Founded in 1969, it was the first board to require periodic recertification, now called “Continuous Certification.” All boards now require diplomates to participate in continuous certification activities such as CME and practice improvement and to periodically recertify. Board certification is a key means for Family Physicians to demonstrate they hold up their part of the social contract of a profession: in exchange for the privilege of self-regulation, professionals commit to serve patients’ needs over our own, and meet high standards of learning, knowledge, and practice. Board certification is how we meet this commitment.

What else does ABFM do?
ABFM sets eligibility requirements to apply for Board Certification. This means that ABFM is very involved in setting standards for family medicine residency programs through requirements of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). In addition, and unlike many boards, ABFM conducts a great deal of research on: the evolving nature of Family Practice; the key features by which Family Medicine improves care and lowers cost, such as continuity and comprehensiveness of care; and educational innovation, such as support for the Length of Training Pilot (3- vs. 4-year residencies).

The board also operates the Center for Professionalism and Value, a care quality and policy institute in Washington, DC, and major Family Medicine leadership and researcher development programs such as the Pisacano Scholars Leadership Program for outstanding medical school graduates entering Family Medicine residencies, and terrific short-term research positions for students, residents, and faculty (talk to me if you’re interested!).

What’s new at ABFM?
A lot! Most significant is the development of the Family Medicine Certification Longitudinal Assessment (FMCLA) as an alternative to the every-10-year high stakes certification examination. Diplomates participating in FMCLA receive 25 questions electronically every quarter, answer questions (“open book”) at their leisure, get immediate feedback and educational material about the answers, and if they achieve a passing grade on 300 questions taken over 4 years, they can opt out of the high stakes single-day exam. This has proven to be VERY popular, with over 70% of eligible diplomates choosing this path. Other developments of note include a significantly expanded parental leave policy for residents, expanded practice improvement options, and complete rewrite of knowledge self assessment resources. Finally, ABFM is pairing up with the American Academy of Family Physicians to lead the “family of fam-
Steven Lacey, PhD, MS joined the Division of Public Health as Division Chief in February 2020. In this interview, he discusses his move to Utah and his goals for the division.

What has the move to the department and Utah been like?

[Laughter] Turbulent! COVID has really touched every aspect of my arrival, both personally and professionally. Personally, because it has slowed my physical transition in several ways. Professionally, because it has influenced nearly every conversation and decision I have made here to date, and means that some aspects of my own learning and in effecting change has been slowed. I had been in Utah just three or four weeks when I wrote the memo sending my entire team home to work remotely. So, it’s been turbulent.

But I’m super grateful for those first couple of weeks at the office. I was able to sit down with nearly every faculty and staff member – just enough time to get to know a little about each of them as individuals. And while I haven’t quite made it to Moab or Capitol Reef because of the pandemic, it’s not lost on me that Utah is stunning, and it will be waiting for me when we get on the other side of the mess.

What are the differences between your old position and your new one? What are you looking forward to?

My time at Indiana University was very much a ‘start-up’ environment – a new program in a new school, it was really a blank sheet of paper. I led an environmental health department with a small faculty and one staff member. Utah, by contrast, is a much more mature program, with a much bigger faculty and staff, and the larger organization of the School of Medicine is more complex. Leading a broader public health program is exactly where I want to be at this point in my career, so by all accounts this continues to prove to be a fantastic opportunity for me.

I’m looking forward to setting goals for the Division, and building a strategy to get us there. And I want to align the goals of the Division to push behind the larger goals of the Department.
And, I’m looking forward to connecting with people in more meaningful ways, and giving Skype a rest.

What is the advantage of the U having a Public Health program?

Every state simply needs a resource like our public health program, to keep advancing disease prevention and health promotion. But the real advantage lies in the public health program’s unique positioning within the larger department. That is, when you look across the divisions, we are truly at the intersection of prevention and primary care, and in that is tremendous opportunity.

What do you see as the role of a Division Chief in Public Health?

The role of the Division Chief is to push behind the work of each member of the team – faculty, staff, students – to help them deliver public health impact. My job is to help develop the structural supports to help each team member be their most ambitious selves in contributing to the common good. The other half of the job is to look out for the interests of the larger department, while protecting and pushing behind one’s own team. From my lens, I have a great complement of fellow chiefs to work with to make that happen.

What do you hope will happen in the Division of Public Health over the next 5 years?

Over the course of this year I will continue to learn, and we will build a strategy with metrics that will guide us forward. I intend to grow our student body – not growth just for growth’s sake, but growth to provide our community with the public health workforce it needs, and growth that affords the resources to let us act on all of the other great ideas that people want to see come to life. I would like to see more interdisciplinary work across the divisions, particularly through research – again, we have a real opportunity at this intersection of prevention and primary care. I would like to move the needle on diversity, and I would like to put our budget on a sustainable path. And I want to elevate the visibility of the work we do in the Division.

If we are successful in these efforts, this will affect our program’s national rankings – and rankings matter because it helps feed this cycle of attracting great students, instructors, investigators, and meaningful work.

I hope in five years we are looking back and celebrating our successes, and having a thoughtful conversation about what the Division needs next.

THE NEW NORMAL

As Dr. Lacey mentions, COVID-19 drastically changed the working experience at DFPM. Here, Dr. Virginia Valentin joins an online meeting from offices left empty after employees took their work home to practice safe social distancing.

read more on pages 33-44
Despite the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine had a busy first part of 2020. From welcoming ceremonies to developing new programs, the department demonstrated its commitment to its value of expanding the possibilities of health.

January - June 2020

Physician Assistant

In January, Physician Assistants at the University of Utah celebrated their 2020 White Coat Ceremony. In this ceremony, students beginning clinical work receive the white coat they will use during their rotations and celebrate the next stage of their training.

The ceremony this year featured Dr. David Owen, MD, Clinical Vice Department Chair, as a keynote speaker. Dr. Owen talked about the impact the PA class could have on their future patients, and the impact those patients would likely have on students as they expanded their knowledge and practice.

In addition to Dr. Owen’s remarks, Amanda Moloney Johns, MPAS, PA-C, spoke to the students regarding expectations for their upcoming Friday clinic rotations. Dan Crouse, MPAS, PA-C, led the students in the Physician Assistant Oath and Richard Backman, MD, concluded the ceremony with his remarks.

NRMN/Utah Mentoring Study

The University of Utah and the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine were hosts of an NIH-funded study in January of 2020. The study, titled “University of Utah Grant...”
Physician Assistant

In January of this year, students in the Physician Assistant Program joined their colleagues in the Utah Academy for their annual visit to the Utah State Capitol Building. While there, the students had the opportunity to listen to legislators and industry leaders on issues of public health, and network with their peers as they learn more about the Physician Assistant profession.

Day on the Hill

In January of this year, students in the Physician Assistant Program joined their colleagues in the Utah Academy for their annual visit to the Utah State Capitol Building. While there, the students had the opportunity to listen to legislators and industry leaders on issues of public health, and network with their peers as they learn more about the Physician Assistant profession.

U Giving Campaign: Meghan Arnold Memorial Fund

The Division of Public Health joined the University of Utah’s Giving Day on February 25th to encourage donorship to the Meghan Arnold Memorial Fund.

Public Health student Meghan Arnold was passionate about the health of the world, and her work in improving water and sanitation helped vulnerable populations from India to Ghana. When Meghan unexpectedly died in a hiking accident, the Division of Public Health at the U began collecting for an endowment in her honor to benefit other students studying global health.

The campaign saw over 25 donors contribute...
to the fund and a greater awareness of the global impact of Utah’s programs.

Thanks to the generosity of these and other donors, the Megan Arnold Memorial Fund is close to endowment status. The division hopes to build on the fund in future years’s development efforts.

**DR. SARAH HAWLEY MEMORIAL CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN & LECTURE**

Members of the Division of Family Medicine and the community gathered on February 26, 2020 for the first annual Dr. Sarah Hawley Memorial Lecture. The lecture series commemorates Sarah Hawley, MD, a Family Medicine resident whose life was cut short when she was killed in 2019. The yearly lectureship focuses on subjects Dr. Hawley was passionate about, including women’s and children’s health and wilderness medicine.

The Memorial Lecture this year was presented by Jacqueline Rohrer, MD, and Natalie Bee, PA-C, and was titled “Kids in the Outdoors.” The lecture was informed by Dr. Rohrer and Natalie Bee’s personal knowledge of Dr. Hawley, as well as photos and other inspirations shared by her father, who was also in attendance. After the lecture, attendees visited the tree planted in 2019 in Dr. Hawley’s memory at the Red Butte Gardens.

The Dr. Sarah Hawley Memorial Lecture is funded by a memorial endowment which is currently accepting donations. A $5,000
matching grant is in effect. The Division of Family Medicine invites all those wishing to honor Dr. Hawley’s vision to visit the memorial fund’s crowdfunding page and contribute. Donations help maintain the lecture as a yearly event.

**RESEARCH MENTOR TRAINING**

In conjunction with the Center for Clinical and Translational Science, DFPM faculty and staff helped develop and administer the University’s third Research Mentor Training in March. Bringing together U employees from across the health sciences and beyond, the unique training program built mentoring skills and helped identify barriers in mentor/mentee communication. The day-long training included faculty and staff.

The participants of the day-long training were invited to role-play different mentoring scenarios and introduced to research on the most effective mentoring techniques. The modules were presented by mentoring experts Jan Abramson, Maureen Murtaugh, PhD, and Nael Abdelsamad, MD.

**CELEBRATING DIVERSITY ART EXHIBIT**

Don Pedersen, PhD, PA, Emeritus Professor of the Physician Assistant Program, was the subject of an art exhibit that took place in the Eccles Health Science Library during the month of March.

Titled “Celebrating Diversity: Cultures and Connections,” the exhibit featured many of Dr. Pedersen’s oil paintings of the people he has met during his travels promoting global health. The exhibit was posted in the Main Level Gallery of the Health Science Library, and a reception was held there on March 11.

Dr. Pedersen’s artist statement summarizes the role of art in providing a bridge between people from different cultures: “Although outside appearances may be dissimilar, spending hours on a piece reinforces the fact that below the surface all differences melt away. Within the basic substrate of humanity the same human feelings, desires, hopes, fears, and dreams are present. Capturing not just the image but also the mood and feeling of the subject is my special interest and increases my connectedness with others of the world’s people.”

**“Village Matriarch” Artwork by Don Pedersen**
In March, Esther Chang, Qingqing Hu, Seung-min Kim, and Krista Ocier presented their posters at the HCI/Nature Conference on Transdisciplinary Cancer Interception: Leveraging Biology to Improve Prevention and Detection.

The conference, one of the last to be held at HCI before the COVID-19 pandemic, brought researchers together to discuss the origins and development of cancer cells in the body.
STUDENTS VOLUNTEER AT URBAN INDIAN CENTER

Students from the Physician Assistant (UPAP) program volunteered their time in April week at the Urban Indian Center in Salt Lake. The students were on hand to collect, organize, and disinfect supplies and dry goods donated to the Navajo Nation.

PA students Marla Morillo, Jocelyn Cortez, Kia Wilson, Cameron Bennett, Jillian Barker, and Noah Dobson were the volunteers for this act of service. The items that they helped prepare will go to help some of those communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic in Utah.

ART FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AMPLIFIER CAMPAIGN

To celebrate their partnership, Public Health ran an “Art for Public Health” campaign during the week of May 4-8. During this week, the DFPM community was encouraged to use Amplifier artwork on social media to reinforce good health communication to our friends, families, and community members.

“It was wonderful to see our students engage with public health artwork and use it to share their public health knowledge with their communities,” says Elizabeth Johnson, who ran the campaign. “Our students had a positive experiences working with public health artwork. They used the art as a tool to further spread public health information to their community.”
Physician assistants serve diverse groups of patients, and many of our students will have the opportunity to provide healthcare to communities that have different challenges than those of large Utah cities.

To help inform and prepare, Revina Talker, PA-C gave a special presentation titled “The Navajo Health Nation and Covid-19” to the PA faculty and Classes 50 and 51 in June. There are many health challenges that face the Navajo Nation, including a lack of running water and electricity, co-morbidities for those who become sick with COVID-19, and few facilities to take care of the very sickest patients.

In response to the widespread protests following the police killing of George Floyd, key members of the department announced in June that they are convening a working group to begin to address racial inequities in our department. The group, which includes members from division and administration leadership, will challenge frameworks of systemic racism, determine appropriate responses, and set a timeframe for action.

“The objective is to not let these issues that are currently a national conversation fade into the background,” reads the announcement. The working group will draw on local and national resources to develop the department’s efforts to identify and reduce the impact of systemic racism in the department.

DFPM STUDENT POSTER AWARD WINNERS

Constestants in the DFPM Student Poster competition worked hard to develop and present posters of their research to faculty and peers. Competition was in three categories. Winners of these categories are listed below.

Seungmin Kim
- BEST MASTERS-LEVEL POSTER
  Long-term Diabetes Risk Among Cervical Cancer Survivors in a Population-Based Cohort Study

Esther Chun-Pin Chang
- BEST PHD-LEVEL POSTER
  Adverse Reproductive Outcomes Among Young Female Cancer Survivors in a Population-Based Cohort Study

Lindsay Yanke, MD, PGY3
- BEST MD-LEVEL POSTER
  Optimizing Safe Prescribing of HIV Pre-Exposure Pophylaxis (PrEP)
Graduations for the department divisions moved online for 2020. Despite the change of venue, students and their families were still able to gather to celebrate the special occasions.
In early 2020, Shaun Curran, MPAS, PA-C of the Physician Assistant program visited India to further an investigation into the emergency health system there. Possibilities interviewed Shaun on his experience in global health.
What was the purpose of the emergency medicine project you participated in?

Emergency medicine within India is involving. For many patients in India, community hospitals are the first point of contact for any type of emergency complaint. The purpose of the trip was to evaluate a community hospital in rural India and gather baseline data through direct observation of their preparedness of providing emergency care. We worked within the state of Gujarat.

In what ways is the medical experience different in India than the States?

This was my first time experiencing global medicine. Therefore, the way I viewed medicine was through a narrow lens, as my experiences have only been through Western medicine. My time there allowed to appreciate how clinicians provide care with limited resources, exposure to the health system in India, and also differences in patient flow. However, I was able to view some similarities from my experience to my experience in the US. For example, some patients traveled a fair range to receive care. There is also a private sector for healthcare in India, and care is monetized just like in the US. This was a very enriching experience to be able to compare and contrast two completely different cultures and systems.

What sort of impact did your work in India have?

There is still much to be done! My impact right now is more on an individual level. We are working with the key health care personnel within the hospital to train doctors and nurses to take care of emergencies, as well as make sure they have the necessary supplies to provide evidence-based care. Once we improve training, equip the ER with more resources, and implement care processes that work best for the team and hospital workflow, we hope to see improvement in clinical outcomes that can serve as a standard for all rural India community hospitals.

What is the importance of having global medicine experience?

This was an enriching and empowering experience. I encourage anyone who has the means to experience a global medicine experience to do so. However, my opinion is that the experience should done for the right reasons. The experience should benefit the community more than the individual. Whatever services that are completed should be meaningful, impactful, and self-sufficient for the community. Ultimately, the care and outcomes in the community are a result of the healthcare workers in the hospital. Success comes from the energy and commitment of the community, not from the person who is traveling.

What would you say to other medical practitioners considering a global medicine experience such as this one?

I think the answer to this question is reflected above. Empower, advise, and assist the community in their needs. It is far more impactful to teach life saving skills to the staff that can impact the lives of the community than setting up shop for 1 week, providing care, then leaving.
The nationwide shutdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic did little to slow the energy and ambition of DFPM faculty and staff. In fact, the first half of 2020 saw members of our community attain achievements at an accelerated rate. Read about these achievements below!

**Achievements and Awards**

**DR. CHARLES ROGERS AWARDED MULTIPLE HONORS**

Marcus Garvey Black Star Excellence Award

The Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) of the University of Utah awarded Public Health Assistant Professor Charles R. Rogers, PhD, MPH, MS, MCHES, the Marcus Garvey Black Star Excellence Award at their inaugural BFSA Banquet in February. The Black Star Line (BSL) was a steamship corporation established in 1919 by Pan-Africanist Marcus Garvey, & completely owned, operated, and financed by people of African descent. Garvey saw that Blacks across the globe were largely being exploited & left out of the global economy. Thus, he founded the BSL to partly remedy this situation by facilitating the shipment of goods among the far-flung people of the African Diaspora, thereby fostering the growth of a self-reliant and resilient global Black economy.

“I was humbled to recently receive the first ever Marcus Garvey Black Star Excellence Award from the inaugural Black Faculty and Staff Appreciation Celebration at the University of Utah,” says Dr. Rogers of the honor. “I will continue to pledge allegiance to the grind to assure my work is impactful while concurrently aiding in ‘building & broadcasting the U’ across the globe!”

International Educator Award

Dr. Rogers was also selected as the recipient of the International Educator Award by the LaJune Thomas Lange International Leadership Institute. The prestigious award celebrates an educator whose work has contributed significantly to international understanding, cooperation, friendship, and development.

“I am honored to formally join a distinguished group of recipients in 2020 who have made significant contributions to business & community development globally,” says Dr. Rogers. “As the 2020 International Educator Award recipient, I reflect on my second capacity building trip to Kenya in 2015 that transformed my approach to both eliminating & educating others on cancer health disparities. In this work, one must not draw weary & pace themselves, as it’s truly a marathon & not a sprint...traveling [to Kenya] -- it leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller. Thank you for your collaboration with me the past 6 years & the opportunity to serve.”

Associate Member, Mixed Methods Program

In addition to the awards above, in June Dr. Rogers was invited as an Associate Member of the esteemed University of Michigan Mixed
Highlight of Research Work by HCI

Rounding out a stellar period of achievements, Dr. Rogers also had his team's research highlighted in June by Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI). Dr. Rogers’s work, captured in HCI’s press release entitled “A Study of Early-Onset Colorectal Cancer in Young Adult Men Reveals ‘Hotspots’ of Death in the United States,” revealed contributors to the rise of colorectal cancer of young men, especially among African Americans. This research led to a mapping of places in the U.S. where men experiencing early-onset colorectal cancer (CRC) have higher mortality rates. The article was mentioned in many national and international news stories following its publication in the American Journal of Cancer Research.

In the article, Dr. Rogers says, “If young men are not already doing so, adults younger than 50 should have conversations with health care providers about early detection screening for CRC. This is especially the case if they have any symptoms of CRC, a family history of the disease, or if they live in the ‘hotspot’ counties we have identified for early-onset CRC.”

DRS SHARON TALBOYS AND T.P. SINGH RECIEVE SEED GRANT AWARD

Authors: Sharon Talboys and T.P. Singh

Dr. Sharon Talboys and Dr. T.P. Singh from the Division of Public Health and their interdisciplinary team of well-qualified researchers have received the VPR Interdisciplinary Seed Grant Award (1U4U Initiative) funding of $50,000.00 for their project: “Sexual Harassment in Public Spaces: A Comparative Study of India, Ghana, and South Korea.” The goal of this project is to advance global understanding of the prevalence and health and economic consequences of sexual harassment in public spaces, and to elevate its due place in the narrative of human rights for women and girls.

Drs. Talboys and Singh have experience in conducting population-based epidemiologic studies in India and Africa, and successfully established international research partnerships there. The team includes Dr. Bhattacharya (Co-PI) and Dr. Berik from the Economics Department, who bring expertise in the study of spousal violence in India and gender and development, respectively. The team also includes Dr. Strenio, a University of Utah alum, whose Economics Department PhD dissertation was on the long-term economic consequences of dating violence. Two doctoral students will be funded, one each from Public Health and Economics.

This opportunity will enhance formal research
collaboration between the Division of Public Health in the School of Medicine and the Department of Economics in the School of Social and Behavioral Science. The research team aims to advance the research agenda of health and economic consequences of violence against women in Utah and the Global South. The team will leverage the “Global U” footprint in Utah, South Korea, Ghana, and India.

**FACULTY MEMBERS SUPPORTED AS CORE EDUCATORS**

Ivette Lopez, PhD, MPH, received continued support as a Core Educator for Community Engaged Learning from the Utah School of Medicine in March. This distinction means that Dr. Lopez is part of a select cadre of seasoned instructors who deliver enriching domain subjects and knowledge to students, faculty, staff and communities using effective educational and curricular methods.

“I am honored to collaborate with so many professors who are continually trying to find better ways to foment forward, transformative learning. The generosity of those involved is inspiring, and I am privileged to have the opportunity” says Dr. Lopez of the impact Core Educators can have in training new medical workers.

In addition to granting Dr. Lopez’s continued support, the Core Educator group has been joined by another department faculty member: Lisa Gren, PhD of the Public Health division. Dr. Gren’s appointment to Core Educator status reflects her dedication to medical training and the pedagogical mission of the School of Medicine. Dr. Gren’s appointment as a Core Educator began on June 1, 2020.

**DR. KATHERINE FORTENBERRY SELECTED AS A MENTOR FOR SOCIETY OF TEACHERS OF FAMILY MEDICINE**

Katherine Fortenberry, PhD, was selected as a mentor for the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine as part of the New Faculty Scholars Program. The program works to develop future Family Medicine leaders by training those with leadership potential in the field. New Faculty Scholars attend a training conference each spring to network and build leadership skills. As a mentor for the program, Dr. Fortenberry will be able to share her significant leadership skills and experience with the rising cohort of family medicine practitioners in the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine group.

**DR. JOSEPH ALLEN SELECTED AS SIOP FELLOW, PUBLISHES BOOK**

Joseph A. Allen, PhD, was selected in March as a fellow of the Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP). The fellowship recognizes Dr. Allen’s efforts to advance research in the field of industrial/organization (I/O) psychology and promote workplace well-being.

“In a world where teams are more and more leveraged by organizations to solve complex problems, I/O Psychology, and the work I do, is here to help optimize these teams in order...
to achieve the best, most innovative, and creative results,” says Allen.

SIOP Fellows are chosen based on their outstanding service, collaboration, and dedication to I/O psychology research.

Managing Meetings in Organizations Volume 20
Dr. Allen also published Managing Meetings in Organizations, Volume 20 along with collaborators Nale Lehmann-Willenbrock and Annika L. Meinecke from the University of Hamburg, Germany.

From the book’s description: Groups and teams are the backbone of modern organizations and the driving force behind innovation. Employees come together to pool their efforts, join forces, develop creative ideas, and make decisions in one key social context: the workplace meeting. This volume presents novel perspectives and state-of-the-art research insights into the management of meetings in the workplace.

Managing Meetings in Organizations sheds light on key trends with regards to the changing nature of work and highlights how these trends map on to new challenges for managing effective meetings. The twelve chapters that compose this volume cover four overarching topics: conceptual foundations, the intersection of individual and team processes, diversity and gender, and leadership and strategy in and through meetings.

DR. AMY LOCKE VOTED VICE-CHAIR OF ACADEMIC CONSORTIUM FOR INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE AND HEALTH

The Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine and Health welcomed Amy Locke, MD, FAFFP as the Academic Consortium’s Vice-Chair for 2020-2022 in March. The mission of the Academic Consortium is to advance the principles and practices of integrative healthcare within academic institutions.

“I look forward in the coming years to working to move the field of integrative medicine forward as a routine part of academic medical care,” says Dr. Locke. “Utah is a leader in considering outside the box thinking in how to incorporate evidence based therapies from a variety of disciplines to improve the health of patients and communities. It is a great honor to be elected as Vice-Chair for the Consortium. I look forward to continuing to share and champion the great work of Utah’s teams.”

DR. KAREN SCHLIEP GIVEN HCI GRANT, APPOINTED EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Women’s Cancers Center Grant Awarded
Karen Schliep, PhD, MSPH learned in March that she had earned a grant from the University of Utah HCI Women’s Cancers Center. Along with her Co-PI Kathryn Maurer, MD of the Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology, Dr. Schliep was awarded $35,000 for a year-long study entitled “Population and pedigree insight into endometriosis, infertility, and women’s ovarian cancer risk.”

The grant is awarded to collaborative research that focuses on women’s cancers.

Utah Women’s Health Review
In addition to her grant news, Dr. Schliep was also informed that she had been appointed as Editor-in-Chief for the Utah Women’s Health Review.
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDENT RANA HABBOUSH FEATURED IN UTAHMED MAGAZINE

The Utah Med magazine Winter 2020 edition, released in March, has an article featuring Physician Assistant student Rana Habboush, who is a second-year student in the program.

The article chronicles Rana’s long journey from her career as a surgeon in her home country of Iraq, to her experience as a physician and refugee health provider in Jordan, to her eventual arrival in the States and her acceptance to the Physician Assistant program at the U in 2018.

From the article:

“Rana’s active engagement, wealth of life experience, and past medical knowledge has really enriched the entire class,” said Jennifer Coombs, PhD, PA-C, MPAS, associate professor in the Physician Assistant program. “She’s a leader.”

“I love the mission of the U,” Habboush said. “Everyone here has been so supportive. We are all focused on helping people, regardless of their background. This has been one of the best education experiences I have ever had.”

DR. ANDREW MERRYWEATHER AWARDED BENNION CENTER HONOR

Andrew Merryweather, PhD, Head of the Ergonomics Safety Lab, received the Bennion Center Distinguished Faculty Service Award in March. The award, which is presented yearly at University of Utah commencements, recognizes faculty members who demonstrate active community service and the use of service as a teaching tool. Dr. Merryweather currently serves as the head of the Ergonomics and Safety program in the division.

Dr. Merryweather was awarded the Service Award at the 151st University of Utah Commencement in April. In addition to the award, Dr. Merryweather also received a $1,000 gift that will be made to the non-profit or charitable organization of his choice.

AHEC AND CONNECT2HEALTH TEAM NAMED SEMIFINALIST IN AMERICAN DREAM CHALLENGE

The American Dream Challenge, a grant competition, has announced the semifinalists of the competition, and one of the semifinalists is a team with strong ties to the department.
The team’s grant proposal is titled “Connect to Collect” and includes department programs and adjacent initiatives, such as AHEC and Connect2Health.

“Connect to Collect” proposes to increase the participation rate in the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit programs through partnerships with the health care system, grass roots community organizations, and new information technology. “This is a novel approach to directly addressing low income as a social determinant of health and has multigenerational health benefits,” says Michael Magill, MD, of DFPM and member of the grant team.

The proposal joins four other Utah semifinalist proposals that cover topics as broad as mental and physical health, student success, and employee development. The teams received $20,000 to refine their ideas in preparation for the semifinalist competition. Among the five proposals, the Connect 2 Collect team were in a group of three proposals which were given the status of “local finalists” and were awarded $30,000 for the local competition.

As semifinalists, the team is eligible to compete against Utah semifinalists and semifinalists from three other universities: University of Ohio, University of Wisconsin, and Arizona State University. Five finalists from this group will be selected to compete in New York City for the grant money. Although the competitions are being delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the team remains confident that when the competition happens, their forward-thinking proposal will have a strong showing against their competitors.

DR. MELISSA CHENG INVITED TO SPEAK AT SILICON SLOPES

In January of this year, Melissa Cheng, MD, MOH, MHS was invited to the annual Tech Summit held at the Silicon Slopes Conference. Dr. Cheng’s presentation, titled “Opiods in the Workplace” drew on her experience as Medical Director of the Occupational Medical Clinic at the University of Utah.

The Tech Summit is a globally recognized, two-day summit that addresses issues of high-tech labor in the state and across the world. The 2020 Summit hosted more than 20,000 attendees and included an address by Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg.
DR. JOSÉ RODRÍGUEZ NAMED AVP OF HEDI

José E. Rodríguez, MD, FAAFP, has been appointed Associate Vice President (AVP) for Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (HEDI) at University of Utah Health. He has served as Interim Associate Vice President since August 2018. Dr. Rodríguez is a professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine and has extensive background in diversity work in the health care arena. In addition to his HEDI position, he is a Family Physician and Associate Medical Director at U of U Health’s Redwood Health Center.

Dr. Rodríguez told the University that he is looking forward to capitalizing on the tremendous work that has already been done by the program, and building on past efforts as we move toward a more diverse campus for health sciences students and faculty.

DR. KIMBERELY SHOAF APPOINTED TO NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kimberley Shoaf, MPH, DrPH of the Public Health division has been appointed to the National Construction Safety Team Advisory Committee (NCST) for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). This is a federal advisory committee that requires an appointment approval from the White House.

On Oct. 1, 2002 President Bush authorized the NIST to establish teams to investigate building failures. These committees are modeled after those of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) for investigating transportation accidents. The National Construction Safety Team gives NIST the responsibility to dispatch teams of experts, where appropriate and practical, within 48 hours after major building disasters. Under the law, the NIST Director, in consultation with the U.S. Fire Administration and other appropriate federal agencies, maintains a standing advisory committee of as many as 12 persons to advise him or her on carrying out the act, and to review procedures and reports issued.

The NCST Advisory Committee advises NIST on the best way to carry out investigations of building failures conducted under the authorities of the NCST Act. Members are selected based on their technical expertise and experience, established records of distinguished professional service, and their knowledge of issues affecting NIST studies.

DR. CHRISTY PORUCZNIK ELECTED PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC SENATE

Public Health faculty Christy Porucznik, PhD, MSPH was elected President-Elect of the Academic Senate for a term beginning in July.

The Academic Senate is a high-level governing body of the University and is responsible for setting educational policies. It also has oversight of the University as a whole and is a powerful mechanism for improving the University at all levels. Dr. Porucznik’s appointment is a testament to her many achievements in her distinguished service at the department and University.
Kim Brunisholz, PhD was announced as the president of the U Alumni Association on April 29, 2020. Dr. Brunisholz is an alumna of the Public Health division, earning her PhD in 2015. Dr. Brunisholz currently works as a senior scientist and federally funded researcher with the Intermountain Healthcare Delivery Institute.

Dr. Brunisholz begins her term as president on July 1, 2020. The announcement also mentions Glenn Seninger, who will act as president-elect.

DOREEN EGAN AWARDED EMERGING DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP

In May, Public Health student Doreen Toomalatai Egan was granted an Emerging Diversity Scholars Fellowship by the Graduate School Diversity Office for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The Emerging Diversity Scholars Fellowship recognizes the excellent academic work of historically underrepresented graduate students. The competitive fellowship offers up to $8,100 of tuition and academic-related expenses.

DRS. JESSICA KING AND SUNDAY AZAGBA WIN MENTORSHIP K01 AWARD

Jessica King, PhD, an assistant professor in Health-Kinesiology-Recreation, has been awarded a K01 entitled “The Impact of Cigar Pack Quantity on Tobacco Use Behaviors.” This award was achieved under the mentorship of Public Health associate professor Sunday Azagba, PhD.

“Mentors are evaluated as part of the decision-making process for this award. The mentoring team received very favorable reviews, which contributed to the success in obtaining the award,” says Dr. King. “Mentors and mentees need to show an established relationship, so collaborating on manuscripts and proposals is helpful. Additionally, it’s important for each mentor to have a specific role that is relevant to their strengths; I think we did a good job of highlighting this to show why the mentoring team is qualified and well-suited for their roles.”

OEH FACULTY RECEIVE AWARDS AT DIVISION GRADUATION

In May this year, Occupational and Environmental Health faculty were celebrated for their commitment to excellent teaching and mentorship. Three faculty in particular were recognized for their exceptional instruction and received Faculty Instructor and Mentor awards as part of the graduation ceremonies.

ANDREW PHILLIPS, MD, MOH
MOH Faculty Instructor of the Year

LEON PAHLER, PhD, MPH, CIH
MSOH Faculty Instructor of the Year

RACHAEL JONES, PhD, CIH
OEHS Mentor of the Year
DR. FARES QEADAN RECEIVES MULTIPLE AWARDS

Fares Qeadan, PhD, of the Public Health Division was recently awarded NIH funding for his ECHO OIF proposal, titled “Improved Single and Multiple Imputation Methods (ISaMIM) for Missing Dichotomous and Polytomous Data.” The project start date will be September 1, 2020.

In what marked a stellar month of accomplishments, Dr. Qeadan also received funding for a proposal. The proposal, titled “Effects of medication assisted treatment on opioid overdose rates among rural populations in Utah,” was chosen to be funded by the VPR Interdisciplinary Seed Grant Program.

DRS. SUNDAY AZAGBA AND FARES QEADAN RECEIVE PROPOSAL RECOGNITION

A project in which Fares Qeadan, PhD collaborated with Sunday Azagba, PhD was discussed by NCI and scored with the 10th percentile ranking. The R01 is titled “Assessing the Impact of State Preemption Laws.” Dr. Azagba is the PI for the grant, and Dr. Qeadan is Co-I.

“This is a special grant to me, and I know it is to Sunday as well, because this was my first collaboration with other faculty at DFPM,” says Dr. Qeadan. “Many congratulations to Sunday for such a well-deserved score. Thanks for inviting me to collaborate with you on this grant even when I was still in a different institution, and I hope that all grants we did together (almost 8 of them) will get funded at some point.”

DR. PHUNG MATTHEWS SELECTED FOR CAMBIA GROVE INNOVATOR FELLOWSHIP

Phung Matthews, PharmD, a member of Public Health’s Charles R. Rogers Lab, was recently selected for the elite Cambia Grove Innovator Fellowship. Fellows in this year’s program will focus on digital health care, and will be well positioned for leadership as healthcare moves increasingly toward digital services.

DR. KARLY PIPPITT GIVEN TEACHING AWARD BY THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Dr. Karly Pippitt, MD, FAAFP was recently awarded the Leonardo W. Jarco, MD, Distinguished Teaching Award at the University of Utah School of Medicine Dean’s Reception. The award is presented yearly to an outstanding medical educator who demonstrates exceptional skill and dedication in teaching and advising medical students, interns, residents or fellows.

DRS. KARA FRAME AND VIRGINIA VALENTIN CHOSEN AS EDUCATOR FELLOWS

The Academy of Health Science Educators (AHSE) is a community that advances excellence and value in health science education. Specifically, the academy seeks to create leadership and academic prestige among University of Utah health instructors.
Two department faculty members, Virginia Valentin, DRPH, PA-C and Kara Frame, MD were named as Fellows of the academy in Spring 2020.

To achieve the status of Fellows, Drs. Valentin and Frame had to pass a rigorous application and review process. Fellows of AHSE are chosen based on their status as outstanding educators and are responsible for developing academy activities and outreach. Fellow terms are five years, with the option to renew.

HEALTH STUDIES FUND Awardees

Researchers from across the department were awarded Health Studies Fund Awards in April. These awards recognize and fund innovative research in the fields of Family and Preventive Medicine. The faculty listed below all received Research Pilot Awards.

Trenton Honda, PhD, MMS, PA-C


Christy Porucznik, PhD, MSPH

Co-PIs: James Vanderslice, PhD; Trenton Honda, PhD, MMS, PA-C; Marcus Pezzolesi, PhD, MPH; Fares Qeadan, PhD

Associations Between Air Pollution and Diabetes Disease Trajectory, Severity, and Complications in Utah

Sonja Van Hala, MD, MPH, FAAFP

Feasibility and Impact of Implementing a Self-Assessment Educational Tool into the Leadership Curricula of Three Residency Programs

DISTURBED SLEEP?

When circumstances are challenging, one of the first places many of us feel the pinch is in our sleep patterns. Uncertainty and anxiety have a negative effect on our sleep, which in turn leaves us less able to manage stress and can open us up to other negative health results.

Fortunately, Kelly Baron, PhD, MPH, DBSM of Public Health has studied sleep and has some answers for how to make sure our sleep patterns are healthy. In March, Dr. Baron spoke to Utah’s The Scope Radio podcast, where she shared methods of dealing with stress-related sleep disturbance. Her research was also featured in an Apartment Therapy article.

So, how to maintain good sleep patterns? Dr. Baron suggests the following steps.

- establish a consistent sleep schedule
- be as active as you are able to
- institute a news and social media stop time
- replace late evening/night onscreen time with a book

Tried all that and still lying awake? Maybe it’s time to stop trying. If you spend 15 minutes in bed and still can’t sleep, get up and do something else until you feel tired again. That way, the stress of getting to sleep won’t contribute to your lack of sleep, and your next experience in bed is more likely to be a peaceful and restful one.
The first case of COVID-19 community spread was found in Utah on March 14, 2020. Despite initial success in flattening the curve, Utah cases of the disease soon increased, leading to Utah being named a “red zone” state of uncontrolled virus transmission by the White House.

The COVID-19 pandemic rewrote the rules of human behavior worldwide, placing unprecedented limitations on employment and work functions, social interactions, economic arrangements, and clinical care.

As guardians of community and public health, the department faces the challenge of a worldwide and local pandemic with courage, research, and goodwill.

In this special section, Possibilities explores the successes, challenges, and mitigation efforts of the department over the past four months as faculty, staff, and students grapple with the unique situations created by the outbreak of the novel coronavirus.

DEPARTMENT SUCCESS
in the time of COVID-19
DEPARTMENT COMMITTEES AND UTAH AHEC ORGANIZE MASK DONATIONS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Members of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine Community Engagement and Diversity and Inclusion Committees, as well as Utah Area Health Education Center (Utah AHEC), have spearheaded an initiative to provide cloth masks for community health workers serving the state’s most vulnerable populations.

“One Saturday in mid-March, I received a text from a community health worker that asked if I had any home-made masks, as she needed them for the elders in her community,” says Ivette Lopez, PhD, Deputy-Director for the Utah AHEC. “That led me to realize that while there were volunteers providing masks for workers in clinical settings, few people were paying attention to the protective needs of community health workers, who operate outside of clinical settings. I worried about whether they had access to the masks they needed to keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe.”

That worry led Dr. Lopez and her associate Tatiana Allen, Program Manager of Utah AHEC, to research how to provide the needed masks quickly, efficiently, and cheaply to those working on the front lines of underserved communities. They familiarized themselves with the CDC’s home-sewn mask pattern and researched which fabrics and elastics met the CDC’s safety standards for masks. Then, they sent out a call for volunteers to help piece and sew the masks together.

The call for volunteers started relatively small, but soon word spread as those participating recruited their friends and family to the effort. “This willingness to help is common in Utah communities,” says Dr. Lopez. “We just put out the queries, and the response has been touching.”

The masks created by the volunteers are donated by the group to a relatively small but enormously important group of health workers: community health workers that serve minority populations in Utah. These workers are especially vulnerable because the populations they serve may have not yet received messaging about the need for protective masks, which places the community health worker at greater risk. By having a ready supply of no-cost protective masks, community health workers can provide themselves and their community members a higher level of safety without depleting their already strained resources. “As community health workers wear and distribute the masks among the most vulnerable, like elders,” says Tatiana Allen, “they are also educating the public on how they must wear a mask all the time outside their home.”

To date, the group has donated over 750 masks, which have gone to community health workers and high-risk individuals such as cancer survivors and elders in these communities. Despite the success of the program, for Dr. Lopez the effort pales in comparison to the brave work being done by community health workers across the state. “We wanted to
do what we could to help fill the resource gap for the selfless community health workers who work with minority and high-risk persons in the state, many of whom already suffer from conditions linked to health disparities."

**DFPM DONATION DRIVE FOR NAVAJO NATION HEALTH CLINIC**

As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads throughout the United States, some communities are suffering disproportionately to their size and density. One such area is that of the Navajo Nation, a territory covering the Four Corners region of Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. Despite their relative isolation and aggressive testing, the Navajo people have the third-highest infection rate in the country, outside the epicenters of New York and New Jersey, and have suffered more fatalities than fourteen other states with much larger populations.

As medical supplies and resources are used to combat the pandemic, it removes resources from other areas of healthcare in the region. Particularly hard hit are obstetric clinics, where important items such as protective equipment and diapers are in short supply.

The Division of Public Health at the University of Utah has had a long history of partnership with the Navajo Nation and faculty and staff alike have come together to provide needed medical supplies to the area. Under the direction of Dr. Kimberley Shoaf, the Division has organized an Amazon link for donations of diapers and PPE to be sent to the Kayenta Health Center in Arizona. Additionally, she discovered that many of the nurses working in Indian Health Service clinics and hospitals in the Navajo Nation are sleeping in their cars to limit their travel times and to protect their families from COVID-19. The Division has sent 50 toiletry kits to these nurses to help make their lives a little more comfortable while they battle this pandemic and provide care to this uniquely valuable and vulnerable population in our region.

“We are thankful to these amazing health care workers and hope that these kits show how grateful we are for their sacrifices,” says Dr. Shoaf of the impact of these kits.

**DR. IVETTE LOPEZ FEATURED ON PULSO LATINO**

Ivette Lopez, PhD, MPH of the Public Health division was invited to the popular Spanish-language talk show Pulso Latino to discuss COVID-19 and the importance of social distancing during the pandemic. Her inter-

"I wanted to let you know that the toiletry supplies were received and I disseminated to nursing staff at Gallup Indian Medical Center and some of my own nursing staff at an Alternate Care Facility that we set up to care for overflow COVID patients. The nurses were so grateful and it was so nice to see their faces light up. I can’t explain how much this kind gesture meant to all of us here. The kits were absolutely wonderful, I loved the idea and even as I rounded the ACF I noticed they were put to great use."

**MYRA FRANCISCO**
Gallup Indian Medical Center
Community view had over six hundred Facebook views in fewer than 24 hours after it posted, which is in addition to the many regular radio viewers who listen in from places as far away as Chile.

PA GRADUATES AND THE NEW YORK OUTBREAK

In April, Intermountain Health’s COVID-19 Response Team, including DFPM workers and graduates, traveled to the pandemic hot-spots of New York, providing much-needed relief for healthcare workers in one of the hardest-hit areas in the country. Follow along as caregivers from Intermountain’s COVID-19 Response Team offer a glimpse into the COVID-19 pandemic in New York and share their experiences from the frontlines. Below is a post from Fernando Rivero, a recent graduate from our Physician Assistant Program.

Day one is done. Three of us worked at the Allen Presbyterian Hospital; it is in the northern part of Manhattan Island bordering the Bronx. It is a place that has gotten hit the hardest. It’s a small 25 bed community Hospital. Last week they had over 100 patients in the ER at one time. They currently have about 50 — about a dozen on ventilators waiting to go to the ICU, and unfortunately for some of them, waiting to die. We feel very appreciated and well utilized. It is very humbling.

PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERS WITH AMPLIFIER FOR COVID-19 ART CAMPAIGN

The University of Utah’s Division of Public Health has teamed up with Amplifier, a nonprofit design lab that builds art and media experiments to amplify the most important movements of our time. As a rapid response effort to the COVID-19 pandemic, Amplifier has issued a call for top art curators and grassroots artists from around the world to submit art to their COVID-19 mental health and public safety promotion campaign. Working with Amplifier founder Aaron Huey, the Division of Public Health is lending material support to the organization and is helping spread the word to our public health and healthcare communities in Utah and across the globe about this important effort.

Amplifier’s Global Open Call solicits artwork that teaches and celebrates the public health interventions that make ending the pandemic possible. Artists are invited to submit their work reflecting the best practices for COVID-19 safety and well-being. Artists will compete for 60 cash rewards of $1,000 each, and their work will be judged by the public as well as a specially picked curatorial team that includes many public health experts, including colleagues from Partners in Health, WHO, and the United Nations.

“Our mission at Utah has always been to promote and protect the health of communities in the state and around the globe,” says
Steven Lacey, PhD, Division Chief for Public Health. “Images have an incredible ability to make people stop and pay attention like nothing else does. Art isn’t scientist-to-scientist conversation, it’s something that everyone can access, and powerful art makes people take action.”

Cleo Barnett, Executive Director of the Seattle-based Amplifier, adds, “Society is challenged to picture what resilience looks like. We can widely distribute these images online, and in public spaces, and also provide them to those that need them the most — healthcare workers and patients, homeschooling families, and others who are directly impacted.” Already, artists and Amplifier followers are using the art in their communities to spread public health awareness. “We have people projecting the images on buildings, displaying the posters in their yards, putting up images in their apartment windows,” says Emily Goulding, Amplifier’s Communications Director. “It’s heartwarming to see.”

Artwork submitted to the global call will be used to remind the public of health practices keeping communities safe during the pandemic, such as handwashing, physical distancing, and sheltering in place. The organization is already looking forward to developing an artistic response for future public health communication needs as the pandemic progresses. “The things that will be important for the public to do on a large scale — such as antibody testing and vaccinations, as they become available — will be the next stage in the public health response,” says Dr. Lacey. “We will need an enormous campaign to inform and encourage the public to take these steps. Partnering with Amplifier is an opportunity to help produce one of the most innovative COVID-19 public communication campaigns in the world while helping individuals access the information they need to stay strong, safe, and united.”

OEH FACULTY SPEAK TO SALT LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

One of the most complicated and controversial questions of the pandemic is how to maintain worker safety and maintain the economy given the prevalence of COVID-19 in our society.

In April, Kurt Hegmann, MD, MPH and Mat-
theew Thiese, PhD, MSPH spoke to the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce as part of the “Utah Leads Together” informational webinar series designed to determine the best ways to keep Utah’s workforce protected while still maintaining employment and economic function. The webinar, titled “Creating a Safe and Healthy Work Environment,” addressed the considerations businesses need to be aware of before they can open safely.

TRACING

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERS WITH UDOH TO TRACE COVID-19 CONTACTS

The Division of Public Health at the University of Utah announced that they are partnering with the Utah Department of Health to train and field 100 or more workers as contact tracers. These workers will join the State’s effort to conduct contact tracing of those who test positive for COVID-19 and active monitoring of individuals who may have had contact with a COVID-19 positive individual.

“As we start to open society and get back out there, there’s going to be more cases and a lot more contacts, so even while many people may feel that we’re on the downslope of this, the epidemiological work is on the upswing,” said Dr. Sharon Talboys, Assistant Professor of Public Health and director of the project. “With this program we’re filling a big need and are proud to be part of that effort.”

Those hired to the program will receive training in state- and CDC-approved measures for contact tracers. The program is expected to have these new contact tracers fully trained and deployed within a week. “Testing, contact tracing, and monitoring those who have had contact with someone who has the SARS-CoV-2 virus is a key element of keeping our state safe,” said Dr. Kimberley Shoaf, Professor of Public Health, who specializes in public health emergencies and is co-directing the project with Dr. Talboys. “To do this well, we need a cadre of well-trained individuals who can communicate with the public and maintain the confidentiality of the information they receive.”

SEARCHING THE SEWERS FOR COVID-19

Dr. James VanDerslice and Dr. Jennifer Weidhaas, professor of engineering at the U, are looking for evidence of the COVID-19 pandemic in an unusual place: Utah sewers.

Adventuring into the sewers may sound like a strange way to stay ahead of a pandemic, but in actuality the research work being done by Drs. VanDerslice and Weidhaas is a clever way of addressing a common problem of responding to widespread disease. One of the most pressing challenges in managing a pandemic is getting accurate information about the extent of the infection in a community and how quickly disease spreads from person to person.

COVID-19 is particularly difficult to track, because many experience only mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. Generally speaking, in the United States, researchers hoping to understand the scope and prevalence of the disease must rely on testing numbers from different sites or reports of infection rates in hospitals. This reliance can create a false picture of the disease, because it overlooks those who don’t test and don’t end up in the hospital but still carry the COVID-19 virus. Whether or not a person is symptomatic or undergoes testing, however, they are still
shedding virus fragments. Testing the sewers for viral remnants of the COVID-19 virus gives vital information about the scope of the pandemic in a particular area. The data Drs. VanDerslice and Weidhaas gather is meant to help state and local officials understand where the outbreak is moving in the state, as well as how many individuals may be infected without showing symptoms.

The work of the researchers has heightened interest in this innovative way of receiving accurate information about the spread of COVID-19 in the Wasatch Front and beyond. The researchers spoke with KUER, and were featured on a Silicon Slopes Live video podcast in June to discuss their work tracking the COVID-19 pandemic in Utah through testing wastewater.

The purpose of the study is to determine the frequency of COVID-19 virus infection and illness among health care professionals and first responders. This in turn will help develop an accurate picture of the extent of the infection’s spread and its impact on emergency services. Having real information about the threat to our first responders is a powerful way for keeping our security systems safe and disease-free.

OEH FACULTY MEMBER CONTRACTED TO TEST HEALTHCARE WORKERS

First responders are key to a community’s response to threats such as a pandemic, and so understanding the threat of the pandemic to healthcare workers and other first responders is essential in preparing and planning pandemic response. Thanks to funding from the CDC and Abt Associates, a faculty member in the OEH division is helping expand our understanding of this vital group.

Sarang Yoon, DO, MOH was granted the project in May, and has been hard at work gathering the participants needed to provide a full study. Included in the study are healthcare professionals with direct contact with patients, from front desk workers to attending physicians, and first responders including fire fighters, police officers, EMTs, and paramedics The group expects to enroll over 400 of these participants and track their exposures to COVID-19. As part of the study, participants will be surveyed and regularly tested for COVID-19 with a combination of nasal and blood tests.
ADAPTING

FLUID BODY/FLUID MIND PROGRAM FOR DFPM EMPLOYEES

The switch to online-only work brought with it many benefits and many challenges. One major challenge seemed to be the development of a flexibility in adapting to a new and changing workstyle. In order to help address this, DFPM Central Administration rolled out a new program in May called the “Fluid Body, Fluid Mind Program.” This innovative way of staying mentally alert and physically engaged gave DFPM employees three challenges to complete every week: mindfulness, physical activity, and hydration. Those who completed the three challenges weekly for six weeks could count their participation in the program as part of their WellU requirement.

Over fifty employees participated in the program, making the commitment to their own mental and physical well-being even in the stressful early days of the pandemic in Utah. Many who participated in the program found that this commitment helped center their thinking and reduced feelings of disconnect, fear, and alienation. Although the program has now officially ended, the program developers hope that those who participated have been able to maintain the good habits the program encouraged.

In recognition of the PA program’s excellence in reaching out to students of all backgrounds during the pandemic, the PAEA Diversity and Inclusion Commission has identified the program as “an exemplar in implementing strategies to recognize and address the needs of its students, faculty, and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.” The PA program can add this commendation to the growing list of commendations for its pedagogy.

PA PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTED FOR EXCELLENT PROGRAMMING RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic hits different groups of people unevenly, with a disproportionate toll on those already suffering from inequity. Assistant professor Darin T. Ryujin, MS, MPAS, PA-C recently shared the success the Physician Assistant program at the U has had addressing these inequities with the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA).

“[W]hen programs are rallying around students, faculty, and staff, social justice should be at the forefront of thought, planning, and action. Social justice purports the implementation of fair procedures, but fair procedures do not always provide benefit for all, which is why a proper understanding of justice and injustice is important when procedure is centered around neutrality. By possessing this knowledge, fairness is no longer linked with bias and decisions are blind to race, sexual minority, gender, socioeconomic, and/or ethnicity status to name a few.”

DARIN RYUJIN, MPAS, PA-C

“Diversity and Inclusion-Centered PA Programmatic Response During the COVID-19 Pandemic”
In March, DFPM Administration joined groups statewide in closing offices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the help of a tireless IT team and the patience and ingenuity of DFPM employees, department operations relocated with very few glitches. Below, employees share their “new normal” offices and their reflections on how work has changed during the pandemic.

My workplace and “colleagues.” “This too shall pass” is their constant reminder.

T. P. SINGH

This is me at my desk. My dog is sleeping in the chair. My seedlings are under the grow light. The natural light is helping me feel sane. There are things I like about working from home: my commute time is down to about 30 seconds, I can wear jeans every day. Things I don’t like: popping out of my office to go ask someone in person, missing all my work family so much.

JENNIFER LEISER

Here’s a picture of my workstation. A total of five MacBook Pro computers, one Linux workstation, one iPad Pro, one ChromeBook, three webcams, and four different microphones.

IVETTE LOPEZ

TAKING OUR WORK HOME
JOCELYN ROMANO

I miss seeing people. Every Monday and Wednesday when I would have been lecturing, I grieve again. Have been trying to channel my energy into making great food for my family. Big thanks to Dr. Gren for the sourdough starter she left on my porch!

CHRISTY PORUCZNIK

That’s a homemade COVID-19 mask in my hands. Working at home was great for the first week. Now it is challenging to get enough exercise to be as good as walking from my office to the mail room. But the Kitty is thrilled that I am home.

MARLENE EGGER

I am fortunate to have a small cozy study at home to work in. I sit in the same chair for seeing patients online, attending virtual meetings and appointments, and trying to keep writing. Looking out the window, I can see Mount Olympus. I have been watching the advance along the horizon with each successive sunrise (except on cloudy days). One challenge is not to spend too much time reading about COVID-19.

JOSEPH STANFORD

I miss seeing people. Every Monday and Wednesday when I would have been lecturing, I grieve again. Have been trying to channel my energy into making great food for my family. Big thanks to Dr. Gren for the sourdough starter she left on my porch!

KAREN SCHLIEP

I am not working from home during a crisis. I am at home, during a crisis, trying to work.
RESEARCH

FORECASTING THE EPIDEMIC IN UTAH

One of the biggest questions of the pandemic is: Will our local experience with the COVID-19 outbreak be similar to the experience of other places in the world which have already seen their rates of infection peak?

To tackle this question for Utah, researchers from across DFPM divisions collaborated to provide forecast scenarios for the pattern of the virus here. The article, titled “Naive Forecast for COVID-19 in Utah Based on the South Korea and Italy Models—the Fluctuation between Two Extremes” was published in May in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

DFPM faculty who contributed to the publication are listed below.

- Fares Qeadan, PhD
- Trenton Honda, PhD, MMS, PA-C
- Lisa H. Gren, PhD
- L. Scott Benson, MD, PhD, MPH
- James A. Vanderslice, PhD
- Christina Porucznik, PhD, MSPH
- A. Blake Waters, PhD, MPA
- Steven Lacey, PhD, MS
- Kimberley Shoaf, MPH, DrPH

CDC GRANT TO STUDY HOUSEHOLD TRANSMISSION AWARDED TO DRS. PORUCZNIK AND STANFORD

Christy Porucznik, PhD, MSPH and Joseph Stanford, MD, MSPH have been selected as one of only two sites nationwide to lead a study of household transmission of SARS-CoV2 within their existing Utah Children’s Project cohort. Over the course of the next year they expect to enroll approximately 100 families, both adults and children, into the study. Participants will repeatedly self-collect nasal swabs that will be shipped to a lab to be analyzed for evidence of COVID-19 infection. The other site is at Columbia University in New York. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is funding this study through a contract mechanism with Abt Associates. Final details of the protocol and budget will be decided in the coming weeks. We anticipate that this project will bring about $500k in total costs to the Division of Public Health and support for two doctoral students, as well as portions of some faculty and staff.

Two other groups at the University of Utah are engaged in similar projects under this mechanism with CDC-Abt, including a study of first responders being led by Sarang Yoon, DO, MOH in the Division of Occupational and Environmental Health (DFPM) and a study of pregnant women and infants being led by Dr. Varner in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

DR. FARES QEADAN AWARDED FREE ACCESS TO CERNER COVID-19 DATA

Data is paramount to managing the COVID-19 crisis, and Public Health assistant professor Fares Qeadan, PhD, was awarded access to an extensive data set related to the outbreak. As a result of the award, Dr. Qeadan can now access a wealth of de-identified data from 68 million+ patients, including lab results, underlying illnesses and
chronic conditions, and clinical complications.

The data, gathered by healthcare technology company Cerner and Amazon Web Services, is accessible only to those researchers whose proposals are accepted by the companies. Dr. Qeadan’s proposal, entitled, “The Intersection of Opioids and COVID-19,” was one of only 45 proposals to be awarded in the United States.

DFPM SCHOLARS AWARDED COVID-19 SPECIFIC GRANTS

The University of Utah recently awarded $1.3 million in grants for COVID-19 related research. Several DFPM researchers were granted funding as part of this award push. The excellent work being done by our DFPM researchers goes a long way toward mitigating the pandemic crisis.

KELLY GLAZER BARON, PHD, MPH, DBSM
Sleep, Diet and Physical Activity During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Relationships with Psychological Adjustment and Illness Prevention Behaviors

RACHAEL M. JONES, PHD, CIH
Healthcare Workers’ Exposures to SARS-CoV-2 and Effectiveness of Exposure Controls

DARRAH K. SLEETH, PHD, MPH, CIH
Performance Testing of Alternative Respiratory Protection during a Pandemic

SHARON L. TALBOYS, PHD, MPH
Domestic Violence in the Age of COVID-19: Understanding Consequences of Stay-at-home Orders

JAMES A VANDERSLICE, PHD
Development of Near Real-time Prediction Models of COVID-19 Spread in Utah

COLLEEN FITZGERALD
Peripheral Hypoxia Inducible Factor-1 and In Vivo Brain Energy Metabolism in Patients with Severe vs. Asymptomatic Cases of SARS-CoV2

DRS RACHAEL JONES AND LEON PAHLER TEST PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

The innovative new technology of 3D printing has helped healthcare workers across the world manage the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite its high-tech origin, however, 3D-printed PPE still requires rigorous testing to make certain that it is safe to use in COVID-19 wards. OEH’s Rachael Jones, PhD, CIH and Leon Pahler, PhD, MPH, CIH were up to the challenge, testing locally printed PPE materials for safety and efficacy, working in conjunction with the Center for Medical Innovation.
The need for career development for junior faculty in cancer-related fields is well documented. Researchers with training in leadership and mentorship are much more likely to be successful in their careers and an asset to their medical communities.

To help provide this development, the Utah Advanced Course on Mentoring, Leadership, and Cancer-related Health Disparities was recently granted funds by the National Cancer Institute at National Institutes of Health (NIH). The course, run by Drs. Okuyemi and Hashibe of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, will make use of evidence-based programs to enhance the leadership, mentorship, and cancer-related database training among a select group of junior faculty recruited from institutes in the U.S.

Participants in the three-year program will learn leadership and mentoring skills through educational experiences administered in person and through new technologies. The program will build participants’ understanding of, and proficiency in, critical career development skills such as providing culturally aware mentoring, managing conflicts, and preparing competitive grant proposals.

In addition to leadership and mentoring training, participants will be introduced to the use of cancer-related databases such as cancer registries (SEER*Stat), healthcare claims, SEER-Medicare, and cancer epidemiology consortia.
Publications

JANUARY


Kim J, Stevens P, Carbone PS, Jones KB. (2020). Health care use and spending of pediatric patients with an intellectual or developmental disability. Med Care PMID: 31934953 DOI: 10.1097/MLR.0000000000001293


Rogers CR, Blackburn BE, Huntington M, Curtin K,


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**MARCH**


**APRIL**


**MAY**


Bullying victimization and e-cigarette use among middle and high school students. J Sch Health. PMID: 32406087 DOI: 10.1111/josh.12902


Ahmed J, Wong LP, Chua YP, Yasmin A, Channa N, VanDerslice JA. (2020). Estimation of Hepatitis A virus infection prevalence through drinking water supply of primary schools of Sindh, Pakistan. Hepat Mon. 20(5) DOI: 10.5812/hepatmon.98412


**“Deep Dive” continued from page 10**

ily medicine” (including an alphabet soup of national family medicine organizations: ACOFM, ADFM, AFMRD, STFM) laying the groundwork for the next revision of the AC-GME requirements, which will set the standard for training of family physicians for the next 10-15 years.

**What is ABFM doing in response to the COVID-19 epidemic?**

ABFM is granting 1-year deferrals meeting MOC requirements for diplomates in response to the epidemic. It is providing great flexibility for residents to meet the need to respond to the epidemic without jeopardizing their board eligibility. We are also very concerned with understanding and ameliorating the impact of the epidemic, especially on vulnerable small independent family practices across the country.

**What do you like about serving on the Board of Directors of ABFM?**

First, I get to spend time with as outstanding a group of leaders of our discipline as can be found anywhere. We are incredibly fortunate to have a board that stands for the best that family doctors can be, and is in a position to help bring it about. Check out the bios of board members at www.theabfm.org and you’ll see 11 diverse, accomplished, and incredibly dedicated volunteer family physician board members. In addition, we are the only board to have as our “secret weapons,” members from other boards (Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, Ob/Gyn, and Psychiatry and Neurology) and two incredibly strong public members. It’s always stimulating and challenging to try to keep up with the great ideas from this wonderful group of thinkers. Plus, they’re amazingly nice people to be around! Next, the full-time staff of ABFM are simply the best anywhere – what they do on behalf of our discipline can hardly be measured. And finally, it is a great privilege to be part of creating the future of Family Medicine to achieve the “Quadruple Aim” for health of the nation: better health, better care, smarter spending, and a sustainable, satisfied primary care workforce. I am very proud and grateful to be part of the ABFM!
Keeping track of all the great things happening in the department is a monumental job. We work hard to keep everyone informed of all the different events and opportunities across the divisions, but we need your help!

Please let us know about your recent events, initiatives, accomplishments, and challenges. We have many different ways to share this information with your colleagues, including the Weekly Update email, social media platforms, and the quarterly Newsletter.

If you have an item to share, notify Danny Nelson (danny.nelson@utah.edu). Deadlines for posting items are listed below.

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<th>Platform</th>
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<td>Weekly Update</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Media</td>
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<td>Newsletter</td>
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Volume 3, Issue 4 of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine’s Newsletter will feature stories of events, initiatives, and achievements that took place across our department in the months of July through September of 2020.

The DFPM communications team is currently gathering stories from these months to include in the upcoming Newsletter. Make sure your event, announcement, or shoutout has a place in the Newsletter by contacting Danny Nelson with your material.

We want to extend a big “Thank You” to everyone that contributed to and helped with the latest issue of the department newsletter. We couldn’t do it without you!
The Department of Family and Preventive Medicine was founded in 1970, making it one of the oldest and most established family medicine departments in the country.

The department houses the Divisions of Family Medicine, Physician Assistant Studies, Public Health, and Occupational and Environmental Health, each of which upholds the department’s values and mission of improving health in communities across the world.