Public Health Newsletter

November 2016

Division News

Drs. Heidi Hanson and Yelena Wu Featured in Algorithms for Innovation

Division of Public Health faculty, Heidi Hanson, PhD, MS and Yelena Wu, PhD, were featured in the Algorithms for Innovation article, Fueling the Fire: Fostering Women in Science. The article features young female scientists that are thriving in the University Health Sciences.
More photos of our events, booth, students and faculty from the APHA 2016 annual meeting and expo.

Faculty Highlight

Dr. David Sundwall Goes on the Record
About the Election with ASTHO
With the transition to a new presidential administration, ASTHO continues to advance its nonpartisan agenda to transform state and territorial public health. Past ASTHO President David Sundwall (alumni-UT) discusses the election and the importance of public health as we look to the future.

Alumni Highlight

Public Health Alumni Publishes Study on Cancer Survivors
Makenzie Hawkins completed her Master of Science in Public Health in December 2015 from the University of Utah. She currently works as a clinical research coordinator at the Huntsman Cancer Institute on projects involving head and neck cancers, hereditary gastrointestinal cancers, and lung cancers. Makenzie recently published *Do cancer survivors develop healthier lifestyle behaviors than the cancer-free population in the PLCO study?* in the Journal of Cancer Survivorship.
Utah Public Health Student Ambassadors Update

Utah Public Health Student Ambassadors (UPHSA) has had an exciting fall semester. In its second year as a student group, we have already surpassed the amount of students reached last year. We started the year off on campus at Plazafest and traveled to BYU and Sandy to speak to high school students about public health. Our last event of the semester takes place at Dixie State in St. George on December 1-2. We currently have two presentations, one about epidemiology and another on injury prevention, which we have partnered with Primary Children’s Hospital. For the spring semester, we want to keep the momentum going. Information about future events will be distributed through the Division of Public Health newsletter and announcements sent out by Jill Stephenson and Hailey McCormick.

We are calling for more students to be involved with UPHSA and are also working on a presentation with Huntsman Cancer Institute on skin cancer prevention. If you are interested in more information or how to be involved, contact us at UPHSA@utah.edu or check out our website at uphsainfo.wixsite.com/uphsa
UTAH

October 2016

Division News

Utah

The Division of Public Health is at APHA! More news to follow next month.
CDC funds 34 innovative projects to combat antibiotic resistance
Division of Public Health's Associate Chief of Research, James A. VanDerslice, Ph.D., has been announced as one of the lead investigators participating in the projects funded by the CDC. The project will study two river systems to investigate whether inputs of animal wastes from run-off and human wastes from wastewater treatment plants increase the number of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. They will also use an advanced genetic analytical method (shotgun metagenomics) to determine the relative abundance of specific genes that convey resistance to commonly-used antibiotics, and to assess how waste discharges, including discharges of antibiotics, antibacterial cleaners and heavy metals, are associated with the abundance of resistant bacteria and antibiotic-resistance genes. The collaborative project includes researchers: Dr. Jim VanDerslice (Division of Public Health, Dept of Family and Preventive Medicine), Dr. Windy Tanner (Division of Epidemiology, Dept of Internal Medicine) and Dr. William Brazelton (Dept of Biology).

Alumni Highlight

The Division of Public Health held a gala in honor of the launch of the alumni association! The Alumni raised over $800 for student scholarships. Special thanks to all who attended and tune in for more news.
Public Health Graduate Rises Corporate Ladder at PEGUS Research
Kimberly Anderson, graduate of the Division of Public Health, has risen through the ranks at PEGUS Research to become vice president of clinical operations. She joined the company in its call center, but loved the work and the company so much she completed a bachelor’s degree and a master’s in public health in order to progress within the firm.

Student Highlight

Rachel T. Forrest

UPHA Highlights Public Health Student
Division of Public Health student, Rachel T. Forrest was highlighted in the UPHA October 2016 Newsletter. Rachel was born and raised in the Salt Lake Valley and was first introduced to public health in her 10th grade health class. From that point on, she was inspired to create healthier lives for her family, friends, and community. After earning her associate degree at Salt Lake Community College she continued her education at the University of Utah earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Promotion and Education.
Utah

New Advisor in the Division of Public Health

The Division of Public Health is pleased to welcome a new Academic Advisor, Hailey McCormick, to our team. Hailey will be advising students in the MSPH, Master of Statistics in Biostatistics and PhD programs. She was previously employed at Western Governors University as an Enrollment Counselor, where she was responsible for recruiting prospective students for undergraduate and master’s health profession programs. Hailey graduated from Southern Utah University with her Master of Public Administration with an emphasis in student services.

Asia

Students from the Asia Campus Celebrate Chuseok: Korean Thanksgiving Day

Chuseok, also known as Korean Thanksgiving Day, is one of the most important and festive holidays of the year. This year, Chuseok falls on Thursday, September 19th, but the holiday period actually lasts for three days in total – including the day before and after Chuseok.
Research News

Drs. Porucznik and Stanford Announced as Lead Principal Investigators on $3.1 Million Award to Study Children's Health

The September 21, 2016 the University of Utah released that a $3.1 million award was received from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study children's health in conjunction with the national launch of the Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) initiative.

Alumni Highlight

Save the Date

1st Annual Public Health Alumni Association Gala

October 26, 2016
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
The Officers Club
University of Utah

Join the Division of Public Health for the inaugural event of the Alumni Association. The launch will be commerorated with a dinner gala at The University of Utah's Officers Club. Come mingle with old friends and help build your alumni association.

Official Launch of the Public Health Alumni Association

The Division of Public Health has officially launched the Alumni Association. The association will be holding its first annual gala to introduce the association and celebrate 40+ years of Public Health education.
June

New Faculty at Public Health

Dr. Steven Godin joined the Division of Public Health within the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at the University of Utah School of Medicine in July, 2016. Beyond teaching in the graduate public health programs on the main campus and Asian campus, Dr. Godin’s role will be to build the undergraduate public health programs (tracks include: nutrition, global health, health policy, and environmental) so they become CEPH (Council on Education in Public Health) accredited. Prior to arriving at the U of U, Dr. Godin served on faculty within the Department of Health Studies faculty at East Stroudsburg University (ESU) both as an undergraduate BSPH coordinator (1994-2007) and graduate MPH program director (2007-2015).

Asia

A new semester started at the Division of Public Health in Asia! We are welcoming new students to the program.
Public Health Faculty Participate in Childhood Cancer Research

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (August 30, 2016) - The St. Baldrick’s Foundation, a volunteer-powered and donor-centered charity dedicated to raising money for childhood cancer research, is proud to award a $90,650 St. Baldrick’s Research Grant to support the work of Anne Kirchhoff, Ph.D., a researcher at Huntsman Cancer Institute and the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Utah.

With the grant from St. Baldrick’s, Dr. Kirchhoff and her research team from the University of Utah, including Drs. Judy Ou, Heidi Hanson, and Jim VanDerslice, will be the first to study the relationship between air pollution, pulmonary health issues, and childhood cancer survivors. Using a unique epidemiologic resource, the Utah Population Database, her project aims to identify pulmonary health risks due to air pollution among childhood cancer survivors, which will help inform effects to prevent morbidity in this growing population.

SPARK Study Newsletter

Dr. Wu and her research team recently completed a study on children at risk for melanoma to identify factors that impact children’s engagement in melanoma preventive behaviors (the SPARK Study). This study was funded in part by a F. Marian Bishop grant from the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at the University of Utah awarded to Dr. Wu. The team held 6 focus groups with 39 parents and 6 groups with 37 children on melanoma prevention and the obstacles families face when implementing melanoma preventive behaviors. Participating children had a parent who had a history of melanoma.
Public Health Student Awarded Outstanding Student Abstract at ASM Microbe Conference

Public Health student, Natalie Griswold, was awarded the Outstanding Student Abstract award at the ASM Microbe conference in Boston, MA June 16-20th. Natalie traveled with colleague, Becky Buxton, who was also involved in the research in Ghana. The award is given to only about 40 people of the 3300 posters presented during the entire conference.
Ensign College of Public Health Graduation

Ensign College of Public Health, located in Kpong, Ghana, held the graduation ceremony of its first class of Master of Public Health graduates on July 16, 2016. The program focuses on public health disciplines including epidemiology, environmental public health, global public health, and foundations of public health. Graduates of the college will become leaders in their country and impact change in a variety of Public Health disciplines which will impact Public Health reforms in the county. Congratulations graduates!

Health 2 Go Official Launch

Health 2 Go (H2Go) official launch was held on July 14, 2016 in Ghana.
Dr. Carlos Gonclaves

DFPM Global Partners' DFPM Visiting Scholar

Dr. Carlos Gonclaves, a physician of Portuguese descent from Angola and trained in Cuba, is the DFPM Global Partners’ upcoming DFPM visiting scholar. Dr. Carlos plans to be in Utah for the most of fall semester 2016, under the DPFM Global Partners Program that connects resources of the University of Utah to provide education and clinical care. Visiting Scholars attend coursework across the DFPM Divisions: Public Health, Family Medicine, Physician Assistant and Occupational Medicine.

Student Highlight

Public Health Student in Peace Corps

Public Health graduate and former research assistant, Alison Kemp, recently joined the Peace Corps. Alison has dreamed of becoming a Peace Corps volunteer and deployed to Swaziland, Africa. Alison’s blog, *Travelin’ the Globe*, highlights and documents her experiences and reflections in Swaziland with her host family and experiences with locals.
Division of Public Health graduates and siblings, Sam and Jennifer Plumb, were featured in the Spring 2016 edition of Continuum, the magazine of the University of Utah. Their personal experience with a family member who passed away due to an overdose inspired them to found the nonprofit Utah Naloxone.

Asia Campus

Asia Campus MSPH student, Jihye Park, with Drs. Stanford and Schliep attended the 2016 Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER) Annual Meeting. They presented their poster and research on Perceived Stress and Time to Pregnancy.
Fifteen years ago Professor Steve Alder and Rick Haskins envisioned doing good for Ghana. Having been involved in projects engaging the community, they wanted to immerse with the culture, working closely with the healthcare system already in place, rather than create a new, little program that did more for humanitarian's sake than for the actual needs of the people.

Malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea are the leading causes of global death for children under-5 years of age with malnutrition reported to be a contributing factor in almost half of all under-5 deaths. Lack of access to healthcare and poor-health household practices have also affected the health of most people in Ghana. To combat these issues, Health 2 Go (H2Go) was the culmination of that vision, based off of the World Health Organization's strategy of Integrated Management of Children's Illness (IMCI). This pilot program, in collaboration with Rick Haskins' organization, Cast a Pebble, along with the University of Utah, Ensign College of Public Health and Ghana Health Services, aims to reduce childhood morbidity and mortality in Ghana. It hopes to evolve into a nationwide program, building upon its sponsored relationship with Ghana Health Services, as it bridges the gap between the healthcare system and the community.
Sun Safety and Avoidance of Skin Cancer in Schools (SASS) Project

Division of Public Health faculty member, Yelena Wu, Ph.D., was awarded a new grant, skin cancer prevention in Utah schools: The sun safety and avoidance of skin cancer in schools (SASS) project, from the Utah Department of Health through the Cancer Control Program. The project focuses on working with a rural and urban Utah school districts to address skin cancer prevention policies and educational programming in the schools. With Utah having the highest rate of melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer in the country, we are excited to see Dr. Wu make her mark in the community.

Ruth L. Kirchstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Primary Care Research Fellowship

The Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at The University of Utah School of Medicine was recently awarded a Ruth L. Kirchstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Primary Care Research Fellowship designed to train professionals for careers in research and academic medicine. This five-year grant will support up to two fellows a year with stipends, tuition, and fees as well as salary support for faculty and funding for a local primary care research conference.
The Salt Lake Tribune recently published an Op-Ed titled Abortion bans lead to disability and death by MD/MPH candidate at the University of Utah, Tenley Rawlings Klc. Tenley recounts her experience on a global health learning abroad trip as a first year medical student working with local Ghanaian women on pregnancy issues in a local clinic.