

Alumni Notes

1950s

Dan Funderburk, M.D., B.A. '50 "Thanks to Bill Griffiths and Dorothy Nyswander for transferring my interest in public health into the practice of medicine."

Walter F. Wong, B.S. '54, retired from the Monterey County Health Department on April 1, 2002, after 46 years of service, of which he spent 31 as director of environmental health. In 1998 he received the Monterey County's Medical Societies Annual Community Service Award, making him the first non-physician ever to receive the award.

Virginia S. Blatchford, M.P.H. '58 "My daughter, Natalie B. Ratz, an intensive neonatal nutritionist (dietitian) at Rush-Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago, gave birth to twin boys on May 14, 2003. Their names are John and Joseph Ratz. They are not identical. I am enjoying the thrills of being a first-time grandmother!"

Ruth T. Hembekides, M.P.H. '59 "My 32 years as a public health nutritionist took me around the world. The variety of experiences were very challenging. I am now enjoying retirement."

1960s

Elaine Base, M.P.H. '64, writes children's stories and poetry.

Rosalind "Bobbie" Singer, M.P.H. '64, served 10 years as the Medicare beneficiary representative on the board of CMRI (California Medical Review Inc.), the quality improvement organization for Medicare in California. She is also on the senior advisory committee of Kaiser Oakland and consults on programs at the Over 60 Health Center.

Robert C. Harrell, M.P.H. '67, retired as assistant director of the San Joaquin local health district, environmental health division.

1970s

Sylvia Levinson, M.P.H. '72 "Volunteer with Red Cross — with 9/11 and mental health worker at present."

Michael E. Williams, M.S. '75, M.P.H. '73 "Opening a wine country office in October 2003 in Healdsburg, California."

Melody Chasen, M.P.H. '76, is CEO of UPI Government Group, which is installing the system known as CS-SURS/J-SURS in West Virginia, its tenth state. The system is used by state Medicaid Agencies to assist program managers in identifying providers and recipients who are abusing the Medicaid program.

Daniel Janik, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H. '76, was awarded a Ph.D. in education in linguistics from Bircham International University in Madrid, Spain. His dissertation was entitled "A Neurobiological Theory and Method of Language Acquisition." Janik teaches at Intercultural Communications College (ICC) in Honolulu. He says, "What started as a part-time job at ICC teaching American Academic English to international students has resulted in an entirely new theory and method of teaching."

1980s

Laura Lee Conway, Ph.D., M.P.H. '83 "I went further to earn a second master's in therapeutic recreation and a Ph.D. in the psychology of leisure. I work directly with psychiatric clients and am supervisor of recreational therapy on a 22-bed acute ward. I also teach psychology courses at a local college. I love my work and am very happily married."

Maria K. Sakovich, M.P.H. '83, volunteers for the Richmond Museum of History in Richmond, California, where she recently put together an exhibit honoring the contributions of the city's Italian-American community. She is interested in immigration history as well

as community history, Russian history, and family histories. She received a master's degree in history from Sonoma State University, for which she wrote a thesis about non-Asian immigrants at Angel Island Immigration Station.

Irva Hertz-Piccioletto, Ph.D. '89, M.A. '85, M.P.H. '84, is principal investigator for a major NIH-funded case control study of autism and gene/environment interactions. She is also principal investigator for two other studies: a large cohort study of PCBs and early child development in Slovakia and a cohort study of air pollution and early childhood morbidity.

1990s

David Paul Pryor, M.D., M.P.H. '90 "After working as a staff physician with Kaiser Permanente, I have been an associate medical director with WellPoint Health Networks in Thousand Oaks, California, since 2001."

Betty Shindel-Brandt, M.D., M.P.H. '91, and her husband and two children live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She currently works as a radiologist specializing in women's health focused on breast cancer and mammography/breast imaging.

Gargi Pahuja, M.P.H. '98, is a J.D. student enrolled in the Health Law Program at Seton Hall University.

2000s

Jennifer Armstrong-Wells, M.D., M.P.H. '01, is a pediatric resident at UCSF. She will be conducting research in neuroepidemiology and starting a child neurology fellowship at UCSF in 2005. She has a daughter, Amelia. 🍷

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