

Faculty News and Notes

Smoking increases risk of TB infection, finds new study

People who smoke have a greater risk of becoming infected with tuberculosis (TB) and of having that infection turn into active TB disease, according to an analysis led by **Michael Bates, Ph.D. '91, M.P.H. '89**, adjunct professor of epidemiology. The authors of the study, published in the February 26, 2007, issue of the journal *Archives of Internal Medicine*, analyzed 24 studies that included details about smoking and TB outcomes. They found that smokers have a 73 percent greater chance of becoming infected than do nonsmokers. For those who are infected, the chances of developing active TB disease are about 50 percent greater in smokers compared with nonsmokers. Overall, a smoker has about a 2.5 times greater risk of contracting active TB than does a nonsmoker in the same population. This study was supported by the Fogarty International Center Global Tobacco Control Research and Training Program and the UC Center for Occupational and Environmental Health.

Most California parents support HPV vaccination for daughters, finds study

California parents voiced strong support for vaccinating their daughters with the new human papillomavirus vaccine, according to an article published in the February, 2007 issue of the *Journal of Adolescent Health*. The study, by **Norman Constantine, Ph.D.**, clinical professor of community health and human development, and **Petra Jerman, Ph.D., M.P.H '06**, questioned 512 randomly selected parents statewide. The researchers found that three-quarters of parents support HPV vaccination by the recommended age of 13, and 82 percent support vaccination by the age of 16. The majority of parents from all racial-ethnic groups, both genders, all income and educational levels, and all religious denominations, including Evangelical Christians, supported vaccination. The study unveiled several specific concerns of the 18 percent of parents who were unsupportive. Pragmatic concerns about effects on sexual behavior, vaccine safety concerns, moral concerns about sexual behavior, and denial of need were all mentioned by non-supportive parents.

Bloom Receives Psycho-Oncology Award



Professor of health policy and management **Joan Bloom, Ph.D.**, has been honored with the Bernard Fox Memorial Award by the International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS).

Bloom was selected in recognition of her contributions to the field of psycho-oncology research. Her most recent contributions have been in the field of survivorship research, where her work has focused on survivors of Hodgkin's disease and on younger women with breast cancer. She will receive the award at the IPOS 9th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology in London on September 18, 2007. A paper based on her presentation at the award plenary will be published in the journal *Psycho-Oncology*.

Dietary patterns of adolescent girls are examined in several studies

Adjunct professor **Patricia Crawford, Dr.P.H. '94, R.D.**, codirector of the Dr. Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Center for Weight and Health (CWH), is an author of several recent studies looking at certain dietary habits in adolescent girls. One study, published June 12, 2007, in an advance online issue of the *International Journal of Obesity*, looked at the relationship between meal frequency and body mass index (BMI) in black and white adolescent girls, finding that girls who ate three or more meals on more days had lower BMI. Another study, published in the February 2006 issue of *Journal of Pediatrics*, looked at beverage intake in adolescent girls. This study found that milk consumption decreased and soda intake increased between childhood and adolescence; also that increased soda consumption predicted greater body mass index and lower calcium intake in adolescent girls.

A study published in the February 2007 *Journal of Nutrition*, looked at adolescent dietary patterns and adiposity in young black women and young white women. CWH's **Lorrene Ritchie, Ph.D.**, is first author of the study; other authors include CWH codirector **May Wang, Dr.P.H. '93, R.D.**

The authors found that a cumulative pattern of food intake consistent with recommendations for general health (high intake of fruit, vegetables, dairy, grains without added fats, and a low intake of sweetened drinks, fried foods, burgers, and pizza) was related to lower adiposity, but this pattern was followed by only a minority of adolescent girls.

Bioethicist offers steps to help doctors move past anger with patients

Doctors are human, and are thus susceptible to the same feelings of anger and frustration that plague all of us from time to time. But what happens when those emotions are directed at patients under their care? Associate professor of bioethics **Jodi Halpern, M.D., Ph.D.**, addresses this dilemma in an article, "Empathy and Patient-Physician Conflicts," appearing in the May 2007 issue of the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. She noted that doctors may experience a range of negative emotions when confronted with patients who, for instance, refuse necessary treatment or are angry. Physicians also frequently feel overworked, said Halpern, and they may blame a patient for contributing to their workload.

Studies look at association of obesity and socioeconomic status in Mexico



In the United States, higher socioeconomic status is associated with decreased prevalence of obesity. But in a recent study by **Lia Fernald, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of public health nutrition, reported in *Social Science and Medicine*, the reverse association was evident in low-income Mexican adults living on less than \$2 per day. In both men and women, body mass index (BMI) was positively associated with education, occupation, quality of housing conditions, household assets, and subjective social status. The combined prevalence of overweight and obesity was over 70 percent in women greater than 35 years old with some educational attainment, compared with a prevalence of 45 percent in younger women with no educa-

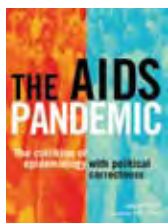
tion. The analyses suggest that the consumption of alcoholic and carbonated sugar beverages may partially explain the positive association between socioeconomic status and BMI.

The prevalence of obesity is also high in low-income pre-school-aged children and exists concurrently with malnutrition. In the May issue of the *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, another paper by Fernald reported that the prevalence of concurrent overweight or obesity and stunting (malnutrition) was approximately 5 percent in non-indigenous children, and over 10 percent in indigenous children 24-60 months. The factors associated with coexisting stunting and overweight or obesity were lower socioeconomic status, lower maternal age, education, intelligence (vocabulary), and perceived social status, shorter maternal height, and larger household size.

Halpin tapped for presidential candidate's health care committee

Professor of health policy **Helen Halpin, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.**, has been invited to join the Health Care Policy Committee for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's campaign. The committee will prepare briefing papers and draft policy proposals for the senator. Halpin is providing expertise on prevention and public health, eligibility and benefits for the public plan, and the impact of the reform on those who have adequate coverage, those who are underinsured, and those who are uninsured.

AIDS book challenges UNAIDS reporting



Clinical professor **James Chin, M.D., M.P.H. '61**, former chief of the Surveillance, Forecasting, and Impact Assessment unit of the Global Programme on AIDS of the World Health Organization, has written a book titled *The AIDS Pandemic: the collision of epidemiology with political correctness* (Raddcliffe-Oxford, 2007). The book asserts that the AIDS pandemic has been distorted by UNAIDS and most AIDS activists in order to support a myth of

high potential risk of HIV epidemics spreading into the general population. Chin says that AIDS has a different pattern in different countries based on behaviors, and for some countries it is better to target high-risk groups than dilute resources in interventions aimed at the general population. He also says that rates of disease projected by public health agencies are often higher than the epidemiology would support; and that social determinants, while playing an important role in all health outcomes, are less relevant for AIDS transmission than patterns of sexual behavior and opportunities for parenteral exposure.

Feachem knighted for his leadership of the Global Fund

Richard Feachem, C.B.E., B.Sc., Ph.D., D.Sc. (Med), FEng, FICE, FIWEM, HonFFPHM, professor of international health, was named Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This honor recognizes his role in leading the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria from its inception. Feachem has worked in international health and development for more than 30 years and has published extensively on public health and health policy. He took up his position as the first executive director of the Global Fund in July 2002, having served as the founding director of the Institute for Global Health at UCSF and UC Berkeley.

Study looks at characteristics of neighborhoods and obesity risk

Assistant adjunct professor **May Wang, Dr.P.H. '93, R.D.**, codirector of the Dr. Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Center for Weight and Health, is first author of a study that looks at whether socioeconomic and food-related physical characteristics of the neighborhood were associated with body mass index (BMI) independently of individual-level sociodemographic and behavioral characteristics. The study, published in the June 2007 issue of the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, found that living in low socioeconomic neighborhoods, where there is a high density of small grocery and convenience stores and healthy food is not readily available, is associated with increased obesity risk.

However, living close to supermarkets, which typically carry fresh produce and healthy foods, is not associated with a lower risk of obesity. The findings also suggest that women may be more sensitive to the effects of the neighborhood environment.

Harris Named to NIH Study Section

Associate professor **Eva Harris, Ph.D.**, has been appointed to the International and Cooperative Projects-1 Study Section, Center for Scientific Review, at the National Institutes of Health. Study sections review grant applications submitted to the NIH, make recommendations on these applications to the appropriate NIH national advisory council or board (in this case the Fogarty International Center), and survey the status of research in their fields of science. Members are selected on the basis of their demonstrated competence and achievement in their scientific disciplines.

Jackson urges transformation of American communities

Richard Jackson, M.D., M.P.H. '79, adjunct professor of environmental health sciences and health policy and management, has been spreading the message about the need for California and American communities to become more health friendly in every sense: sustainable, walkable, and health supportive. Jackson published an editorial in the March 9, 2007 issue of *Science* and spoke at venues throughout the country, including medical schools at Yale and Stanford, and health departments in Los Angeles, San Joaquin, Napa, and Yolo counties. Jackson, a pediatrician, is on the board of directors of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and has given talks at AIA meetings in several states. He also recently became the academic lead for the School of Public Health's Dr.P.H. Program.

Mack travels to Japan to discuss design of innovative curriculum

Kevin Mack, M.D., director of the Office of Educational Technology in the UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program (JMP) and former director of curriculum, was instrumental in designing the

continued on page 40

Faculty News and Notes, continued

contextually integrated case-based curriculum for pre-clinical medical schools on behalf of the JMP. He was asked by the Kyoto University Consortium to present the theoretical underpinnings of inquiry-driven learning and to describe the evolution of a curriculum from the small-group didactic environment to an entirely case-based, problem-based curriculum. The consortium also asked Mack to discuss the use of technology in monitoring student progress, core content acquisition, and faculty development issues that arise from this type of curricular innovation.

Kaskutas honored for contributions to addiction medicine

At the 38th Annual Medical-Scientific conference of the American Society of Addiction Medicine, adjunct professor **Lee Ann Kasutas, Dr.P.H. '92**, delivered the keynote plenary address and received the 2007 Brinkley Smithers Distinguished Scientist Award for contributions to the field of addiction medicine. The annual award recognizes an individual who has made highly meritorious contributions in advancing the scientific understanding of alcoholism, its prevention and treatment. Kaskutas is director of training at the Alcohol Resource Group in Berkeley and is principal investigator of the NIAAA training grant, "Graduate Research Training on Alcohol Problems," at UC Berkeley.

Medical education program brings care to urban underserved

In Fall 2006, the UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program (JMP) and UCSF School of Medicine launched the Program in Medical Education for the Urban Underserved (PRIME-US). The pilot program is part of a statewide initiative of the UC Office of the President to expand all UC medical school classes by approximately 10 percent to help meet the health care needs of California's growing population and increase California's pool of physicians committed to caring for the underserved. Associate clinical professor **Karen Sokal-Gutierrez, M.D., M.P.H.**, is the campus site director for the program. PRIME-US is a special track for four students in the JMP and six at UCSF each year. The PRIME-US curriculum includes biweekly seminars and community-based activities that explore the health and health care of

urban underserved populations; a longitudinal clinical experience based at a site focused on providing care for underserved populations; master's research thesis work related to health care issues for the urban underserved; clinical clerkships in underserved community hospitals and clinics; and strong academic and social support. The pilot class of PRIME-US has completed its first year of the program, and the first official class has just entered.

Health Research for Action center receives multiple recognitions



Health Research for Action, a center headed by **Linda Neuhauser, Dr.P.H. '88**, and **S. Leonard Syme, Ph.D.**, was awarded four prestigious 2007 Hermes Creative Awards by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals.

These international awards recognize outstanding achievement in the concept, writing, and design of traditional media and emerging technologies. The center received two Hermes Creative Platinum Awards—the competition's highest honor—for an issue of its newsletter, *Perspectives*, that focused on environmental health tracking, and for its consumer health guide, *Parents Guide*, produced for California's First 5. The other two awards were for *California's HMO Guide for Seniors* and another issue of *Perspectives*, this one focusing on seniors and the hospital-to-home experience.

Robinson named editor-in-chief of leading health policy journal



James C. Robinson, Ph.D., M.P.H. '81, the Kaiser Permanente Distinguished Professor of Health Economics, has been named editor-in-chief of *Health Affairs*. The peer-reviewed journal, for which Robinson has been a contributing editor, explores health policy issues of current concern in both domestic and international spheres and appears bimonthly in print and on the Web. Since its first issue in Winter 1981, *Health Affairs* has grown into the nation's leading journal of health policy, with more than 16 million online

page views per year. It is published by Project HOPE, an international health education and humanitarian assistance organization.

Dr. P.H. Program recognizes outstanding faculty and community members

On June 8, 2007, the School's Dr.P.H. Program held its first annual awards dinner to recognize faculty and community members selected by the students for their contributions to the program. Professor **Meredith Minkler, Dr.P.H. '75**, was awarded a Golden Apple for her numerous contributions to the program. Under her leadership, the program saw increases in funding, student diversity, and community involvement, as well as an expanded curriculum. Thanks to her mentorship, Dr.P.H. students have worked with health departments from several cities and counties to work on pressing public health issues through the Dr.P.H. in Action program.

Associate dean **Denise Herd, Ph.D.**, received the Distinguished School of Public Health Faculty Award for her excellence in mentorship and contribution to Dr.P.H. education and for being a constant source of academic support, an advocate for increased diversity within the program, and a great mentor to Dr.P.H. students in community-based practice and translational research. **Norm Constantine, Ph.D.**, clinical professor at the School, and **Kurt Organista, Ph.D.**, associate professor in the School of Social Welfare, received the Distinguished Academic Partner Award for their excellence in translational and transdisciplinary research and action with the Dr.P.H. Program. **Cheri Pies, Dr.P.H. '93**, was awarded special recognition by the class that entered the Dr.P.H. Program in 2005. They cited her extraordinary mentorship; her commitment to enabling them to fulfill their academic and personal goals, as a group and as individuals; and the example of public health leadership she sets, both inside and outside the classroom. **Sarah Samuels, Dr.P.H. '82**, of Samuels and Associates, and **Fr. Rigoberto Caloca-Rivas, Ph.D.**, of the nonprofit Multicultural Institute, received the Distinguished Community Member Excellence Award for their partnership with the program to solve public health problems.

Implementation of electronic medical records systems discussed in new book



Thomas Rundall, Ph.D., Henry J. Kaiser Professor of Organized Health Systems, has coauthored *Implementing an Electronic Medical Record System: Successes, Failures, Lessons* (Radcliffe-Oxford, 2007),

the only detailed account of the actual implementation of an electronic medical records system in a large health organization. Focusing on the importance of organizational culture and leadership, the authors use qualitative methods to report the experiences of clinicians, managers, and implementation team members. Coauthors are **Tim Scott Ph.D.**, **Thomas M. Vogt, M.D., Ph.D.**, and **John Hsu, M.D., M.B.A., M.S.C.E.**

New book examines role of private voluntary health insurance



Richard M. Scheffler, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Health Economics & Public Policy, has edited the book, *Private Voluntary Health Insurance in Development: Friend or Foe?*, with **Alexander S. Preker,**

M.D., Ph.D., of the World Bank, and **Mark C. Bassett, M.A., FRSA**, of the British United Provident Association. Private voluntary health insurance already plays an important role in the health sector of many low and middle income countries. The book reviews the context under which private insurance could contribute to an improvement in the financial sustainability of the health sector, financial protection against the costs of illness, household income smoothing, access to care, and market productivity. This volume, published by the World Bank, is the third in a series of in-depth reviews of the role of health care financing in providing access for low-income populations to needed healthcare, protecting them from the impoverishing effects of illness, and addressing the important issues of social exclusion in government financed programs.

Cancer death rates remain high decades after exposure to arsenic, new study finds

Death rates from lung and bladder cancer remained high decades after residents in northern Chile were exposed to high levels of arsenic in their drinking water, according to a new study by researchers from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health and the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago. That the mortality risks remained elevated long after exposure to high levels of arsenic ended indicates a clear pattern of latency in health effects that had not been known before, said the authors of the study, which appeared in the June 12, 2007, issue of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.


Allan Smith, M.D., Ph.D., professor of epidemiology and head of UC Berkeley's Arsenic Health Effects Research Program, is the study's principal investigator and an author of the paper. **Guillermo Marshall, Ph.D.**, professor and dean of the Faculty of Mathematics at Chile's Pontificia Universidad Católica, is lead author. Coauthors are **Catterina Ferreccio, M.D., M.P.H.**, of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile; and **Yan Yuan, M.P.H. '01**, **Michael Bates, Ph.D. '91**, **M.P.H. '89**, **Craig Steinmaus, M.D., M.P.H. '97**, **Steve Selvin, Ph.D. '70**, and **Jane Liaw, M.P.H. '00**, from UC Berkeley's School of Public Health. The work was supported by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the UC Center for Occupational and Environmental Health.

Vignettes recall history of epidemiology



Since September 2006, professor emeritus and former dean **Warren Winkelstein, M.D., M.P.H.**, has been writing a new feature, "Vignette,"

in the journal *Epidemiology*. The vignettes are brief illustrated notes about important historical figures or events relevant to the field of epidemiology. Published vignettes have included "Alice Hamilton: Pioneer Occupational Epidemiologist," "Janet Elizabeth Lane-Clayton: A Forgotten Epidemiologic

Pioneer," "Joseph James Kinyoun: First Director of the National Institutes of Health," "The Halifax Explosion," and "Austin Flint: Clinician Turned Epidemiologist." 

Dean's Office News

On July 1, 2007, two faculty members began serving in the Dean's Office in new roles:



Thomas Rundall, Ph.D., Henry J. Kaiser Professor of Organized Health Systems, has been appointed the School of Public Health's first executive associate

dean. In this capacity, he will work with **Dean Stephen Shortell, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, to oversee all aspects of faculty review, promotion, and recruitment; academic planning; and policies and practices. Rundall has served the School and the Berkeley campus for more than 20 years, including several stints as chair of the School's Division of Health Policy and Management and directing the UC Berkeley Center for Health Research.



Associate professor **Eva Harris, Ph.D.**, will serve as associate dean for research. In this capacity, she will help facilitate the work of the various research centers within

the School; develop effective mechanisms for communicating research opportunities as well as the results of the School's research; and work with other members of the Dean's Office in supporting the research enterprise of the School. Harris, the recipient of numerous awards for her research on dengue fever, including a MacArthur Foundation "genius" award, has been at the School for nine years and is chair of the School's newly created Center for Global Public Health. 