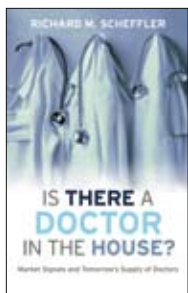


News and Notes

Book looks at market signals and future supply of doctors



Richard M. Scheffler, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Health Economics and Public Policy and director of the Nicholas C. Petris Center on Health Care Markets and Consumer Welfare, has published,

Is There A Doctor In The House? Market Signals and Tomorrow's Supply of Doctors, (Stanford University Press, September 2008). The book shows how shifts in market power underlie the changes that have been seen in the health workforce, and how those shifts will affect the future availability of doctors. Scheffler's book asserts that the United States is not suffering from a doctor shortage—it is seeing the results of decades of misguided public policies that have created a health care marketplace that often fails to deliver the right number of doctors, of the right specialty, in the right locations.

Atlas provides guide to modern contraception



Malcolm Potts, M.B., B.Chir., Ph.D., F.R.C.O.G., Bixby Professor of Population and Family Planning, along with Pramilla Senanayake, an international consultant in

sexual and reproductive health, has edited the second edition of the *Atlas of Contraception* (Informa Healthcare, 2008). Filled with full-color photographs and illustrations, the new edition guides the reader through the various contraceptive options available and provides valuable educational resources on family planning and practice methods, in-depth contraceptive analysis, contraceptive counseling, reproductive health issues, and preventive medicine.

New center for green chemistry established

Under the aegis of the Berkeley Institute on the Environment, the campus has established the UC Berkeley Center for Green Chemistry, the first of its kind in the nation. The Center for Green Chemistry brings together faculty and researchers from the College of Chemistry, the School of Public Health, the College of Natural Resources, the Haas School of Business, and the School of Law. Interdisciplinary collaborations will aim to advance the field of green chemistry: the design, manufacture, and use of chemicals and products to reduce or eliminate adverse effects on human health and ecosystems. Research scientists **Michael P. Wilson, Ph.D. '03, M.P.H. '93**, and **Megan Schwarzman, M.D., M.P.H. '07**, and professors **S. Katharine Hammond, Ph.D., C.I.H., Robert C. Spear, Ph.D.**, and **Kirk R. Smith, Ph.D. '77, M.P.H. '72**, were instrumental in the development of the new center.

Second edition of community-based participatory research book published

A second edition of *Community-Based Participatory Research for Health* (Jossey-Bass, October 2008), edited by **Meredith Minkler, Dr.P.H. '75**, and **Nina Wallerstein, Dr.P.H. '88**, was published this past fall. The book presents a complete and practical overview of the theory and application of community-based participatory research in public health. It includes information on planning and conducting research, core research methods, working with communities, and promoting social change, in addition to an appendix of tools. Minkler is professor and director of health and social behavior at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, and Wallerstein is director of the Center for Participatory Research and professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center in Albuquerque.

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Certificate program draws health care leaders from around the world

Senior health care leaders convened in Berkeley in January 2009 to hear from renowned faculty and guest speakers. The **Global Health Leadership Forum** is a certificate-based health program focusing on key health policy and management issues. It is offered by the UC Berkeley School of Public Health in conjunction with Barcelona Graduate School of Economics and the Universitat Pompeu Fabra Economics and Health Research Center. The program's alumni include 170 leaders from 40 countries, representing senior health leaders of nations and global organizations, and senior executives of enterprises such as insurance, pharmaceutical, and health care delivery. The next session of the Global Health Leadership Program will be held in Barcelona, June 28 to July 4, 2009. Visit ghlf.berkeley.edu for more information.



Participants and faculty at the January 2009 summit of the Global Health Leadership Forum

News and Notes, continued

Roundtable on Healthy People 2020 holds first meeting

The UC Berkeley Public Health Roundtable on Healthy People 2020 held its initial meeting on December 19, 2008. The roundtable provides a neutral venue for key public health stakeholders—including leaders of the State of California Department of Public Health, local health departments, community-based service organizations, foundations, advocacy organizations, and schools of public health—to discuss the implications of Healthy People 2020 for future efforts to improve the health status of the California population. A second roundtable was held April 10, 2009. [↪](#)



Back row (left to right): Jeffrey Oxendine, UC Berkeley School of Public Health (SPH); Arthur Reingold, SPH; Linda Neuhauser, SPH; Jason Corburn, UC Berkeley Department of City and Regional Planning; Michael Hughes, CDC; Loel Solomon, Kaiser Permanente; Meredith Minkler, SPH; Wendel Brunner, Contra Costa Health Services; Marion Standish, The California Endowment; Tomas Aragon, SPH; William Satariano, SPH; Linda Rudolph, California Department of Public Health; Janet Berreman, City of Berkeley Public Health Division; Carmen Nevarez, Public Health Institute. Front row (left to right): Mark Horton, California Department of Public Health; Dean Stephen Shortell, SPH; Thomas Rundall, SPH

Recent Grants and Contracts

Below are some research projects at the School that have recently received funding:

Cytomegalovirus Virulence in Immunodeficient Hosts

\$1,896,524 from NIH/National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases
PI: Fenyong Liu

The California Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Initiative Program Evaluation

\$1,036,750 from the Blue Shield of California Foundation
PI: Helen Halpin

Evaluation of MHSA Program Implementation

\$1,000,000 from the California Department of Mental Health
PI: Richard Scheffler

Study of Emerging Networks in Outbreak Response

\$726,706 from the National Science Foundation
PIs: Christopher Ansell, Arthur Reingold, and Ann Keller

California Senior Leaders Program to Recognize and Train Senior Leaders to Improve the Health of the Aging Population in California

\$435,000 from the California Wellness Foundation
PI: Meredith Minkler

Community Pedestrian Safety Training Project

\$384,405 from the California Office of Traffic Safety
PI: David Ragland

A Patient-Centered Strategy to Reduce Diabetes Disparities in Chinese Americans

\$352,621 from NIH/National Institute of Nursing Research
PI: Susan Ivey

Connecting the Dots: A Comprehensive Approach to Increase Health Professions Workforce Diversity in California

\$345,334 from the Public Health Institute/The California Endowment
PI: Stephen M. Shortell

Advancing Community-Based Participatory Research as a Strategy for Policy and Systems Change: Bringing Place-based Work to Scale

\$250,082 from The California Endowment
PI: Meredith Minkler

Migration and Health Research Program

\$250,000 from the Government of Mexico
PD: Xochitl Castaneda

The National Young Worker Safety Resource Center; Providing Health and Safety Training and Information to Young Workers and their Employers

\$236,111 from Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PD: Robin Baker

Kudos!

Bloom named to NIH study section

Joan Bloom, Ph.D., is serving as a member of the Community-Level Health Promotion Study Section of the NIH Center for Scientific Review. The study section reviews applications that test the efficacy of interventions that focus on the prevention of health risk behaviors and/or adherence to disease treatments across the lifespan. Members are selected on the basis of their demonstrated competence and achievement in their scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals, and other significant scientific activities, achievements, and honors. Bloom's term began in July 2008 and ends in June 2012.



Buffler organizes course, elected treasurer for International Epidemiology Association

Patricia Buffler, Ph.D. '73, M.P.H. '65, and her colleagues Eduardo Franco from McGill University and Jorn Olsen from the UCLA School of Public Health, organized a course on "Epidemiologic Research Methods and New Directors" for the International Epidemiology Association (IEA). The course was offered immediately prior to the 18th World Congress of Epidemiology, which was held September 20–21, 2008, in Porto Alegre, Brazil. A record number of registrants participated in the course, which featured more than 25 of the world's leading epidemiologists as faculty members. Buffler, who completed her tenure as IEA's North American regional councilor, was elected the association's treasurer for a term ending in 2011.

Doctoral program honors faculty with Golden Apple Awards

The Golden Apple Awards, presented by the Doctor of Public Health program, were established by the program's students to

express their appreciation for faculty support and mentorship. Lee Kaskutas, Dr.P.H. '92, associate adjunct professor and director of training at the Alcohol Research Group, received the Distinguished Academic Partner Award; Cheri Pies, Dr.P.H. '93, M.S.W., School of Public Health lecturer and director of Family, Maternal, and Child Health Programs for Contra Costa Health Services, received the Distinguished Community Member Award; and Joan Bloom, Ph.D., professor and chair of health policy and management, received the Distinguished School of Public Health Faculty Award.

Hammond recognized for work in industrial hygiene and secondhand smoke exposure



S. Katharine Hammond, Ph.D., C.I.H., professor and chair of environmental health sciences, was honored by the American Industrial Hygiene Association with the Henry

F. Smyth Jr. Award for her contributions to the industrial hygiene profession. Hammond's early work centered on the pulmonary effects of exposures to silicon carbide in manufacturing, the carcinogenic potential of diesel exhaust exposures in railroad workers, the effects of exposure to solvents among boat builders, and the effects of exposure to machining fluids in the automobile industry.

Hammond also received the Dr. William Cahan Distinguished Professor award from the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute (FAMRI). The award—\$600,000 over three years—will support Hammond's research into the health effects of flight attendants' exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke during their flying careers. Hammond's work on two major studies of secondhand smoke exposure on commercial airlines led to the banning of smoking on domestic flights and was instrumental in the litigation resulting in the formation of FAMRI.

McKone recognized for work in exposure assessment, appointed to NRC committee

The International Society of Exposure Science (ISES) presented Thomas McKone, Ph.D., adjunct professor of environmental health sciences, with the 2008 Jerome J. Wesolowski Award at the society's annual conference in Pasadena, California. McKone, a senior staff scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, was honored for exceptional contributions to the knowledge and practice of human exposure assessment.

In addition, the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academies of Science named McKone to a prestigious national committee charged with determining the true costs and benefits of energy production and consumption.

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Kudos!, continued

Minkler honored for leadership in community-based public health

Professor of health and social behavior **Meredith Minkler, Dr.P.H. '75**, received the Tom Bruce award from the Community-Based Public Health Caucus of the American Public Health Association for her tireless work over several decades to support the high-quality development and diffusion of community-based participatory research projects in public health. She has also mentored a multitude of researchers and practitioners, and built partnerships between universities, local communities, and funders.

Nuru-Jeter receives mentoring award



Assistant professor **Amani Nuru-Jeter, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, received the Sarlo Distinguished Graduate Student Mentoring Award, which recognizes UC Berkeley

faculty for their vital role in mentoring graduate students and training future faculty. The awards are sponsored by a grant from The Sarlo Foundation, a supporting foundation of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, and Sonoma Counties. Nuru-Jeter was recognized for her passion for research, electrifying presence in the classroom, and wise mentoring, and was extolled as a role model, particularly for female students and students of color.

Penhoet named to stem cell oversight board, elected to American Academy of Arts & Sciences

Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi appointed Professor Emeritus **Edward E. Penhoet, Ph.D.**, former dean of the School, to serve as a commercial life sciences representative on the Independent Citizen's Oversight Committee (ICOC), which governs the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine. Penhoet was

previously vice chairman of the ICOC, a position in which he served for nearly four years after being nominated by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

In April 2009, the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, one of the nation's most prestigious honorary societies, announced Penhoet's election as an academy fellow. He will be inducted at a ceremony on October 10, 2009, at the academy's headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Reingold elected president of epidemiologic society, appointed to top committees

Arthur Reingold, M.D., associate dean for research and head of the Epidemiology Division, was elected president of the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER), an appointment that was announced at the society's 41st annual meeting in Chicago. SER was established in 1968 as a forum for sharing the latest in epidemiologic research, and is committed to keeping epidemiologists at the vanguard of scientific developments.

Reingold is also a member of a new Institute of Medicine committee evaluating the next National Vaccine Plan for the United States; he is serving on a new subcommittee of the WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Pandemic Influenza Vaccines; and he is a member of the National Biosurveillance Advisory Committee for the CDC and chair of its Task Force on Animals, Food, and Vectors.

Smith honored for contributions to climate-change research

Professor of global environmental health **Kirk R. Smith, Ph.D. '77, M.P.H. '72**, was one of approximately 45 East Bay scientists and academics honored at a dinner and ceremony held by the United Nations Association of the East Bay on October 24, 2008, at UC Berkeley's International House. The honorees all contributed to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's massive, ongoing reports on climate

change, which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore. Smith led three of his fellow East Bay prizewinners in a discussion of the value of the climate change panel, not just in reaching scientific conclusions about the dangers of climate change, but as a model for the process of bringing worldwide expertise and consensus to bear on urgent global issues. The evening also marked the 63rd anniversary of the UN's founding in 1945.

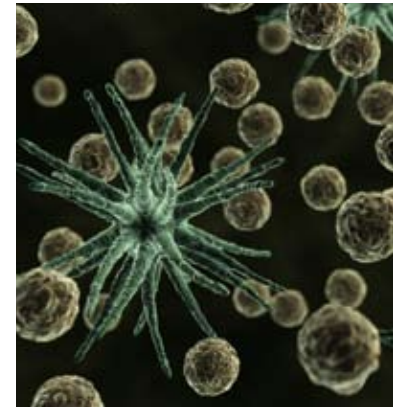
Superfund researchers receive toxicology awards

The Northern California Chapter of the Society of Toxicology presented its Young Investigator Award to three postdoctoral scholars in the UC Berkeley Superfund Program, which is led by Professor of Toxicology **Martyn T. Smith. Zhiying Ji, Ph.D.**, was awarded first place; **Xuefeng Ren, Ph.D.**, was awarded second place; and **Matthew North, Ph.D.**, received third place. Ren also received Postdoctoral Competition Award from the Carcinogenesis Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology at the society's annual meeting in March 2009.

Wilson, Schwarzman appointed to California green chemistry panel

Michael P. Wilson, Ph.D. '03, M.P.H. '93, and **Megan Schwarzman, M.D., M.P.H. '07**, were among 27 members appointed to the California's new Green Ribbon Science Panel, Cal/EPA's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced in April 2009. The advisory panel was created for California's Green Chemistry program, an innovative approach to removing or reducing toxic chemicals in products sold in California, and was established with passage of two landmark Green Chemistry laws signed last year by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The panel will provide advice and act as a resource to DTSC and the California Environmental Policy Council in developing green chemistry regulations. 

Research Highlights



Child safety seats reduce risk of death and generally outperform seatbelts

A new study confirms that child safety seats are highly effective in reducing the risk of death among children three years of age or younger involved in motor vehicle collisions. **Thomas Rice, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, of the Traffic Safety Center and co-researcher Craig L. Anderson of UC Irvine, examined data spanning 10 years (1996–2005) from the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration Fatality Analysis Reporting System. They found that unrestrained children age three or younger were three times more likely to die during serious traffic crashes than age-matched children using child safety seats. Child safety seats appear to outperform seat belts in preventing fatalities for children age one year or younger, but not for children two or three years old, among whom seat belts were roughly as effective as child safety seats. The authors emphasize that because several other studies have found that safety seats are better than seat belts at preventing non-fatal injuries, parents should continue to use safety seats when at all possible. The findings were published online in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Long-term ozone exposure linked to higher risk of death, finds nationwide study

Long-term exposure to ground-level ozone, a major component of smog, is associated with

an increased risk of death from respiratory ailments, according to a new nationwide study led by **Michael Jerrett, Ph.D.**, associate professor of environmental health sciences. The study, published in the March 12, 2009, issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, analyzed the risk of death for both ozone and fine particulate matter, two of the most prevalent components of air pollution. The study followed nearly 450,000 people for two decades and covered 96 metropolitan regions in the United States. The researchers found that people living in areas with the highest concentrations of ozone, such as the Los Angeles metropolitan area and California's Central Valley, had a 25 to 30 percent greater annual risk of dying from respiratory diseases compared with people from regions with the lowest levels of the pollutant. Those locations included the Great Plains area and regions near San Francisco and Seattle.

Inexpensive flooring change improves child health in urban slums

Replacing dirt floors with cement in the homes of urban slums makes for more comfortable living—but more importantly, it significantly improves children's health by interrupting the transmission of intestinal parasites and boosts youngsters' cognitive abilities, according to a new study conducted for UC Berkeley's Center of Evaluation for Global Action. Dirt floors facilitate the spread of parasitic illness. **Paul Gertler, Ph.D.**, the Li Ka Shing Professor of Economics in the Haas School of Business and the School of Public Health, led the investigation. The study, detailed in the article,

"Housing, Health and Happiness," in the February 2009 *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, concludes that replacing dirt floors with cement appears to be at least as effective for health as nutritional supplements and as helpful for brain development as early childhood development programs. Not only are young children better off when their homes have concrete rather than dirt floors, but the study also found that their mothers are less depressed, less stressed, and happier.

Babies born in pollen and mold seasons have greater odds of developing asthma symptoms

Newborns whose first few months of life coincide with high pollen and mold seasons are at increased risk of developing early symptoms of asthma, suggests a new study led by **Kim Harley, Ph.D. '04, M.P.H. '98**, associate director of health effects research at UC Berkeley's Center for Children's Environmental Health Research. Researchers found that children born in the high mold season, which generally encompasses the fall and winter months, have three times the odds of developing wheezing—often an early sign of asthma—by age two compared with those born at other times of the year. The study results, reported online, February 24, 2009, in the journal *Thorax*, may help shed light on why babies born in the fall and winter appear to have a higher risk of eventually developing asthma than children born in the summer. Numerous factors have been linked to asthma

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Research Highlights, continued

risk, including heredity and exposure to air pollution, animal dander, and tobacco smoke. A 2008 study of birth and medical records found that babies born in the fall are at greater risk of later developing childhood asthma. That study suggested an influence from early exposure to respiratory viruses, which is more common during the peak of cold and flu season.



Studies link maternity leave with fewer C-sections and increased breastfeeding

Two new studies suggest that taking maternity leave before and after the birth of a baby is a good investment in terms of health benefits for both mothers and newborns. One study found that women who started their leave in the last month of pregnancy were less likely to have cesarean deliveries, while another found that new mothers were more likely to establish breastfeeding the longer they delayed their return to work. Both papers were part of the Juggling Work and Life During Pregnancy study, funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration and led by **Sylvia Guendelman, Ph.D., M.S.W.**, professor of maternal and child health.

New report highlights health disparities among California's Asian populations

The most comprehensive assessment of health disparities among the state's diverse Asian

populations was released in April 2009 by California Assemblymember Mike Eng and the California Asian Pacific Islander Joint Legislative Caucus. One of the report's authors, **Winston Tseng, Ph.D.**, a research scientist at the Health Research for Action center, said that lack of data about Asians makes it difficult to understand the health risks of different Asian subgroups. According to *The State of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Health in California Report*, Asians now comprise 14 percent of the state's population. The report's authors, all members of the University's AAPI Policy Multi-Campus Research Program, said that Asians are usually combined into one or two large racial categories. Doing so doesn't differentiate between more than a dozen ethnic subgroups, which "differ significantly from one another in terms of demographics, health status, and health care needs."

ADHD medication can improve math and reading scores, study suggests

Pediatricians and educators have long known that psycho-stimulant medications can help children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) concentrate on learning for short periods of time. But a new UC Berkeley study has found evidence that grade schoolers with ADHD who take medications can actually improve their long-term academic achievement, and make greater gains in standardized math and reading scores than students with ADHD who do not take medications. The study,



published in the May 2009 issue of the journal *Pediatrics*, was funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. Authors include **Richard Scheffler, Ph.D.**, director of the campus's Nicholas C. Petris Center on Health Care Markets and Consumer Welfare, and Petris Center researchers **Timothy Brown, Ph.D. '99**, and **Brent Fulton, Ph.D., M.B.A.**

Report weighs in on increasing overweight and obesity issues in California

The *Legislative Task Force on Diabetes & Obesity Report to the California Legislature*, a 42-page report being distributed to California lawmakers, covers the impact of obesity and



diabetes in the state. It was written by task force members **M.R.C. Greenwood** of UC Davis, **Patricia B. Crawford, Dr.P.H. '94, R.D.**, codirector of the Dr. Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Center for Weight and Health at UC Berkeley, and **Rudy Ortiz** of UC Merced. The report includes recommendations on how to combat the problems that lead to obesity—for example, developing tax incentive programs to encourage employers to adopt policies that make healthy eating and physical activity easier for workers, increasing meal reimbursement for schools that provide fresh fruits and vegetables to students for breakfast and lunch, increasing school funding for physical education, and creating a public education campaign that encourages healthy lifestyle choices. 🌱