



Welcome back to the spring semester!

Welcome back to the Spring 2 academic session! We hope you had the opportunity to enjoy a fantastic spring break filled with many wonderful experiences as well as the chance to take a little break prior to the final stretch of the semester. There are so many great events and incredible academic opportunities that will take place in this final quarter of the school year. We wish everyone in our department community the very best as you venture forward.

Symposium on Advances in Endometrial Cancer Epidemiology and Biology

On March 17 & 18th, HSPH's **Immaculata De Vivo** hosted the **Advances in Endometrial Cancer Epidemiology and Biology Symposium**. The overall goal of the symposium was to identify priorities for future research that will have a strong impact on risk of and outcomes from endometrial cancer. Dr. De Vivo gave the opening and closing remarks, and also gave a presentation of her work on GWAS and XWAS results. Other notable speakers included Drs. **David Hunter**, **Peter Kraft**, and **Jennifer Prescott**, all members of the Program in Genetic Epidemiology and Statistical Genetics (**PGSG**). Many other researchers from multiple disciplines (epidemiologists, clinicians, and medical doctors) traveled from all over the country to attend the symposium. Karen Lu from MD



Dr. Immaculata De Vivo

Anderson Cancer Center, Sara Olson of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and Wendy Setiawan from the University of Southern California were all co-organizers. The event was a huge success, and there is already talk of planning the next one!



Richa Gawande and Ellie Caniglia

Innovative Tuberculosis and HIV Studies Conducted by Student Researchers

SD candidates Ellie Caniglia and Richa Gawande were recently highlighted by **HSPH News** for the fascinating studies on infectious diseases they are conducting. Author Marge Dwyer states in the article, "For both Caniglia and Gawande, the scientific explorations reflect their desire to find answers to urgent public health questions that they hope will lead to new ways to treat and prevent infectious diseases, especially those impacting impoverished countries." Richa and Ellie, among many other students, represent the hopeful future and possibilities of scientific research. Read the full article [here](#).

Admissions Announcements

Recently, the Department of Epidemiology admitted another group of truly exceptional students to become an integral part of the department with the coming of the 2014-2015 academic year. This year's admissions process presented an incredible group of candidates and sparked significant growth in applicants to Epi area concentrations such as **RPP Epidemiology**, **NeuroPsych Epi** and **Epi Methods**. Many thanks to all who were involved this year. We are looking forward to welcoming the newest members of our community.

Department News & Recognition

"Best of CEBP"

- Written by corresponding authors, **Dr. Andreas Pettersson** and SD candidate **Rebecca Graff**, The TMPRSS2:ERG Rearrangement, ERG Expression, and Prostate Cancer Outcomes: A Cohort Study and Meta-analysis, *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*, September 2012 21; 1497 was one of the most highly-cited Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention articles published in 2012.

CROI presentations

- There were many CROI presentations that came out of ID Epi this month. Dr. **Megan Murray** presented on "The Genetics and Pathogenesis of MDR and XDR TB Drug Resistance." **Julia W. Wu** presented on "Acquired Drug-Resistance Mutations and Mortality Among HIV Patients On First-Line ART." **Cynthia X. Shi** presented on "Prevalence and Risk Factors of Hepatitis C Virus Infection in China's National Methadone Program."
- Also at CROI, **Kathryn Rough** was asked to be part of a panel called "Women in HIV Research" with the International Foundation for Alternative Research in AIDS Inc. She was asked to participate after the organization saw her poster, "Steady Decline: Temporal Changes in Substance Use by HIV-Positive Pregnant Women in the US."

AACR Integrative Molecular Epidemiology Workshop in Boston: August 11-15th

- This workshop is designed to accelerate the training of the next generation of cancer researchers, who must be well-skilled in the integration of biology and epidemiology in studies of etiology and outcome. Co-Directed by Epi Professor **Peter Kraft**, the workshop directors and faculty (including Epi Associate Professor **Lorelei Mucci**) are working hard to create another great learning experience.

Radical Prostatectomy or Watchful Waiting in Early Prostate Cancer

- Jennifer Rider**, assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology, recently co-authored a paper that generated a great deal of press which shines a light on this important issue in public health.

Grant and Award Updates

- Dr. **JoAnn Manson** and Dr. **Julie Buring** have received the best score possible (1st percentile) on the 5-yr renewal application of the VITamin D and Omega-3 Trial (VITAL), which is testing the role of vitamin D and omega-3 supplementation in reducing risks of cancer and CVD in U.S. men and women nationwide.
- The renewal of the Training Grant in Cancer Epidemiology, led by **Meir Stampfer**, received a score of 15, and will be funded for another five years. This is the *longest* running cancer training grant in the US, now in its 38th year!
- Rulla Tamimi** and **Francine Laden** are co-PIs on a new grant funded by Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Their study is titled "Environmental exposures, early proliferative changes and breast cancer risk".
- In the past year, **Dariush Mozaffarian** has received *five* new grants, together totaling \$7 million in direct costs.
- Kelly Anne Hirko** was awarded the Bicentennial Fund Travel Award to conduct collaborative research on breast cancer and obesity in Mexico. Her postdoc mentors are **Lisa Signorello** and **Heather Eliassen**.



Save the date!

- Upcoming Epi Department Seminar List**
- PGSG Seminar Series**

Almost Famous– Speaking to the Media

On **Tuesday, March 25th** at 5:30pm in **FXBG11**, the department will host a seminar and discussion on tips, tricks to remember when speaking to the media. **Eric Rimm** will present and discussion will take place after.

Admitted Student Open House

On **Friday April 4th**, join us in welcoming our newly admitted students into the Department of Epidemiology. An HSPH Open House reception for all admitted students, current students, alumni and faculty will be held from **3:30-5:30** in the **Kresge Cafeteria**– we will look forward to seeing you all there!

HSPH Student Causality Club

In the Epi Library on **April 9th at 3:30pm** this club will meet to discuss external validity, transportability, selection diagrams (causal graphs for reasoning about transportability) and multiple versions of treatment. Miguel Hernan will be present to discuss his paper. All interested participants may contact [Anders Huitfeldt](#).

Department Written Exam-of Epidemiology

Exam Dates: Thursday May 22nd and Friday May 23rd
 Written Exam Study Sessions:

March 26th: Kresge 204, 5:30-7:30pm
 Murray Mittleman

March 27th: Kresge 210, 12:30-1:30pm
 Fran Cook

April 3rd: Kresge 212, 12:30-1:30pm
 Donna Spiegelman

April 10th: Kresge 212, 5:30-7:30pm
 Miguel Hernan

Weekly ID Epi Marination Sessions

Join fellow students, postdocs and ID faculty every *Tuesday* and *Friday* from **3:00 to 3:30pm** in the HSPH Faculty Lounge



Students at a recent department social event

Epi Accomplishments!

Spring Dissertation Defense Schedule

Don't miss these fascinating dissertations from our graduating SD candidates in the Department of Epidemiology!

Isha Argawal—March 31st, 10:15am Kresge 907 “Exploring the associations between diabetes, fibrosis-related biomarkers and cardiovascular disease”

Eric Shiroma—March 31st, 3:00pm Kresge 907 “Physical activity, cardiovascular disease, and type 2 diabetes: A closer examination of the 2008 US Federal Guidelines”

Fan Mu—April 8th, 3:00pm SBS Conference Room “Endometriosis and Cardiovascular Disease”

Peter Wahl—April 4th, 12:00pm Kresge 203 “Overcoming Challenges of Utilizing Electronic Health Records for Confounding Control in Observational Comparative Effectiveness Research”

Ibironke Olofin—April 7th, 10:00am FXB G10 “Nutritional status and interventions in relation to infectious disease and mortality”

Dae Hyun Kim—April 10th, 1:30pm FXB G13 “Lifestyle and Clinical Predictors of Functional Status in Older Adults”

Batool Haider—April 16th, 2:00pm SPH2 317 “Risk of Adverse Outcomes Among HIV-Positive and HIV-Negative Adults”

SD students who recently defended their dissertations:

Audrey Gaskins, Jason Wong, Sarah Markt, Nadia Abuelezam, Brittany Charlton, Rebecca Graff, Guido Falcone, Qian Li
Congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone in your academic journey!

In other Epi news...

- The **3rd Annual Outreach Conference to Increase Diversity in Science** will be hosted in Boston this year! The exciting and unique conference will begin on **Friday, May 2nd** with a professional development session, to be held at the Westin Copley hotel. On **Saturday, May 3rd**, there will be a day of didactic presentations, held at the Harvard School of Public Health.
- The department is now accepting applications for the Spring 2014 round of the **Rose Traveling Fellowship Program** in Chronic Disease Epidemiology and Biostatistics. The deadline is **Tuesday, April 1, 2014**.
- **HSPH Reel Epi and Pharmoco-Epi Student Organizations** recently led a joint event to watch the Oscar-winning film, *Dallas Buyers Club*. They discussed topics related to conducting clinical trials during this time, the stigma of the disease, as well as the interplay among members of the community, scientists, medical doctors, and federal agencies. This awesome group hopes to host another event in **April** and plans to meet during the summer months as well!
- Congratulations to postdoc **Tom Ahearn** and his wife who had a lovely baby girl— **Eleanor Ahearn**.
- Remember to sign up to be a peer mentor through the department's **Epi Buddy Program!** We are so excited to make this year's program better than ever with even more opportunities for communication among new and current students and regular “Epi Buddy” social events.



Eleanor Ahearn



Cancer and Cardiovascular Teams had fun competing at a recent curling event hosted by the two Epi groups. CVD Epi won gold!



JoAnn Manson, Dariush Mozaffarian and Frank Hu discussing imminent changes to food labels at a recent HSPH Forum