

Epicenter

Department of Epidemiology Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 4, August 2017



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HARVARD
T.H. CHAN

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Department of Epidemiology

Graduation

Congratulations to the 2017 Graduates from the Department of Epidemiology

The Department of Epidemiology would like to extend a warm and sincere congratulations to the graduates of 2017. This year we conferred 16 Doctor of Sciences in Epidemiology, 1 Doctor of Science in Epidemiology and Environmental Health, 2 Doctors of Science in Epidemiology and Nutrition. We also graduated 50 Masters of Science in Epidemiology. We wish all of our graduates the best of luck as they pursue additional academic endeavors or begin working in the Public Health Field.

Doctors of Science - Epidemiology

- ◇ Bibi Alamiri, "Neurological Soft Signs, Cognition in Childhood, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Lifetime Major Depressive Disorder."
- ◇ Carla Philips Bezold, "Natural Environments and Health in Adolescents and Young Adults."
- ◇ Qiuzhi 'Rose' Chang, "Genomic Epidemiology and Transmission Dynamics of Health care Associated Pathogens."
- ◇ Sumona Chaudhury, "The Neuro-development and Mental Health of Children Affected by HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa."
- ◇ Natalie Cecilia Dupré, "Air Pollution in Relation to Mammographic Density, Breast Cancer Survival, and Breast Tissue Gene Expression."
- ◇ Yen-Chen Feng, "Statistical Analysis and Methods for Human-Omics Data."
- ◇ Iris Yurie Kim, "Lifestyle, Genetics, and Their Interactions in Determining Parkinson's Disease Risk."
- ◇ Amber Grace Kunkel, "Optimal Use of New and Existing Drugs for Tuberculosis Control."
- ◇ Joshua Kueiyu Lin, "Clinical Pharmacoepidemiology Linking Electronic Health Records with Claims Data."
- ◇ Wenjie Ma, "Novel Nutritional and Lifestyle Factors for Cardiometabolic Risk in Prospective Cohorts and Randomized Clinical Trial."
- ◇ Yoonyoung Park, "Utilization and Safety of Anti-psychotic Medications in Special Populations."
- ◇ Corey Michael Peak, "Optimizing Interventions to Control Emerging Infectious Diseases."
- ◇ Kathryn Rough, "Comparative Safety of Anti-retroviral Drugs to Treat HIV During Pregnancy."
- ◇ Jennifer Jacqueline Stuart, "Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy and Maternal Cardiovascular Disease."
- ◇ Weike Wang, "Hyperinsulinemia Dietary and Lifestyle Scores and Cancer Risk."
- ◇ Rachel Margaret Zack, "Barriers and Opportunities for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in Low- and High-Income Countries."
- ◇ Emilie Sela Zoltick, "Nutritional and Lifestyle Factors for Cancer Incidence and Survival."

Doctors of Science - Epidemiology and Environmental Health

- ◇ Yara Riad Abu Awad, "Air Pollution: From Exposure to Health"

Doctor of Science - Epidemiology and Nutrition

- ◇ Donghoon Lee, "Predicted Lean Body Mass and Fat Mass: Novel Insights into Obesity, Chronic Disease, and Mortality Research."

Doctor of Science - Nutrition and Epidemiology

- ◇ Yu-Han Chiu, "Pesticide Residues in Fruits and Vegetables: Assessment and Their Associations with Reproductive Health Outcomes."

Masters of Science - Epidemiology

- ◇ Siddique Akbar Abbasi
- ◇ Noor Amer Al-Alusi
- ◇ Leah Geraldine Barresi
- ◇ Alexandra Lynn Bellows
- ◇ Mathias Carl Christian Blom
- ◇ Kimberly Gold Blumenthal
- ◇ Anna Cameron
- ◇ Caitlin Sheaulin Chan
- ◇ Neal Anjan Chatterjee
- ◇ Peter Glendon Davison
- ◇ Stijn Willem De Jonge
- ◇ Elizabeth Wicker Diemer
- ◇ Darine El-Chaar
- ◇ Michael Richard Filbin
- ◇ Amy Lorraine Flynn
- ◇ Cristina Iuliana Gall
- ◇ Kathryn Marie Gauthreaux
- ◇ Lina Maria Goetz Mogollon
- ◇ Na Guo
- ◇ Sarah Renee Irvin
- ◇ Danielle Leigh Isaman
- ◇ Hiroyoshi Iwata
- ◇ Amit Vikram Khera
- ◇ Jiwon Lee
- ◇ Shenrui Li
- ◇ Chenhao Ma
- ◇ Jowanna Renae Malone
- ◇ Andrew Nataraj
- ◇ Samson Okello
- ◇ Paul Michael Reeping
- ◇ Charles Resor
- ◇ Matthew Bryan Schlenker
- ◇ Jie Shen
- ◇ Hojin Shin
- ◇ Ada Stefanescu
- ◇ Andrew James Stewardson
- ◇ Loreen Straub
- ◇ Ramnath Subbaraman
- ◇ Jenny Sun
- ◇ Lucy Chen Sun
- ◇ Jaan Simon Timpka
- ◇ Hillary Mariko Topazian
- ◇ Jenny Tse
- ◇ Yi Wang
- ◇ Tatum Williamson
- ◇ You Wu
- ◇ Jiaxi Yang
- ◇ Xiangji Ying
- ◇ Qianyu Yuan
- ◇ Mutong Zhao

Commencement Awards

Department of Epidemiology



Dr. Heather Baer
Assistant Professor,
Department of Epidemiology
*Roger L. Nichols Excellence
in Teaching Award*



Dr. Sonia Hernández-Díaz
Professor of Epidemiology
Mentoring Award

Department of Epidemiology Teaching Assistant Awards

Certificate of Distinction



Amanda Markovitz
Doctor of Science Candidate



Kevin Kensler
Doctor of Science Candidate



Lauren Tanz
Doctor of Science Candidate



Carla Bezold, SD '17



Matthew Hitchings
Doctor of Science Candidate



Dale Barnhart
Doctor of Science Candidate

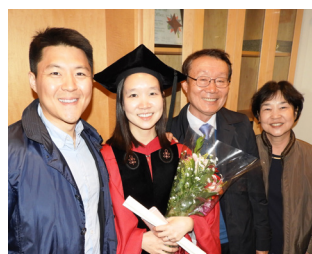
Excellence in Teaching Award



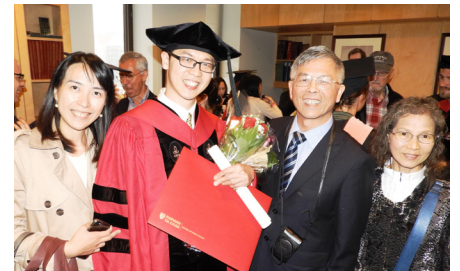
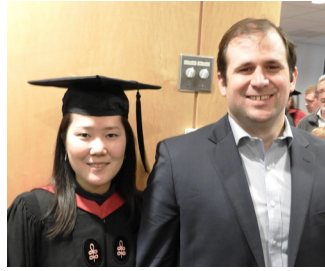
Barbra Dickerman
PhD in Population Health Sciences



Claire Pernar
Doctor of Science Candidate



Check out the complete digital album [here](#).



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Department Updates

[2017 Multidisciplinary International Research Training \(MIRT\) Program](#)

The Harvard Multidisciplinary International Research Training (MIRT) program is a national program designed to encourage underrepresented students to pursue careers in biomedical and behavioral science research careers. The program provides support for undergraduate and graduate students to do research work overseas. This year, we have selected 9 Harvard MIRT fellows from 8 universities across the country.

A two day pre-travel orientation program was held on May 4 and 5, 2017 at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health campus. This annual pre-travel orientation welcomes our new MIRT fellows and prepares them for their fellowship experience. The orientation provides opportunities to meet fellow MIRT students and program faculty, get important information on travel health, ethical conduct of human research, scientific writing, travel safety, and cultural competency while gaining hands on skills necessary for conducting their own epidemiologic research.

Our MIRT Fellows will be at their research sites in June - August; be participating in research projects and community service in *Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*; *Lima, Peru*; and *Santiago, Chile* this summer.



[Global Initiative for Neuropsychiatric Genetics Education in Research \(GINGER\)](#)

Members of the Global Initiative for Neuropsychiatric Genetics Education in Research (GINGER) team visited GINGER collaborating sites in South and East Africa: Walter Sisulu University campuses in Mthatha & Port Elizabeth, South Africa and Addis Ababa University in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In South Africa, the team conducted a needs assessment to determine training priorities for Walter Sisulu University students and faculty. In Addis Ababa, GINGER organized and ran a three day R Programming Course from May 23-25. The course was attended by 25 faculty and PhD students from the departments of Psychiatry, Pharmacology and Public Health at Addis Ababa University.



Global Initiative for Neuropsychiatric Genetics Education in Research

a program of



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FOR PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH
AT BROAD INSTITUTE



Department Updates

Appointments and Promotions

- ◇ [Dr. Caroline Buckee](#) was promoted to Associate Professor of Epidemiology. Dr. Buckee's research highlights areas where mathematical models can benefit efforts to control infectious disease that affect the most vulnerable global populations, especially children in low-income settings.
- ◇ The Department of Epidemiology has welcomed [Dr. Elise Robinson](#) as Assistant Professor of Epidemiology. Dr. Robinson's research is focused on the genetic influences on behavior and cognition. More specifically, the heterogeneity within psychiatric disorders, psychiatric disease risk in the general population, and outcome variation in individuals at high risk for severe mental illness.
- ◇ [Dr. Goodarz](#) was promoted to Associate Professor of Global Health in the department of Global Health and Population. He holds a secondary appointment in the Department of Epidemiology and his research focuses on the impact of prevention policies and programs for cardiovascular diseases in low- and middle-income countries.



Staff Recognition

- ◇ Alan Berkeley, Senior Grants Manager for the Department of Epidemiology was recognized with the ACE award which acknowledges commitment and excellence at the Harvard Chan School. Mr. Berkeley was noted as being "a natural teacher and a gifted leader", "continuously goes above and beyond the call of duty for his investigators", and "is dedicated to the mission of the School". This award is granted twice per academic year and has been awarded to an Department of Epidemiology staff member twice in 2017.



Faculty and Student Recognition

- ◇ Dr. Weike Wang, SD '17 recently published a novel with Knopf Publishing titled "*Chemistry*". Dr Wang received her Doctorate in Epidemiology just two days after the book was published in May 2017.
- ◇ [Dr. Donna Spiegelman](#) delivered the Fuller Lecture in the Department of Statistics at Iowa State University. Dr. Spiegelman's lecture was titled, "Measurement Error: From Fuller to the future"
- ◇ Doctoral Candidate Amanda Markovitz presented at the 2017 American Heart Association EPI Lifestyle Conference. Her talk was titled "Preterm Delivery and Maternal Cardiovascular Risk Factor Trajectories Across the Life Course". Ms. Markovitz also received the Trudy Bush Fellowship for Cardiovascular Disease Research in Women's Health.
- ◇ Doctoral Candidate Lauren Tanz, was the first author on a paper published in the journal *Circulation*, titled; "Preterm Delivery and Maternal Cardiovascular Disease in Young and Middle-Aged Adult Women". The study was picked up by numerous news outlets including [NBC Boston](#) and the [New York Times](#).
- ◇ Post-doctoral Fellow, [Po-Ru Loh](#) from the Alkes Price group has accepted a position as Assistant Professor at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School.
- ◇ The Brain Health Colloquium recently awarded [Jane Costello](#) from Duke University with this year's Award in Psychiatric Epidemiology and Biostatistics. The annual Harvard Award in Psychiatric Epidemiology and Biostatistics was established in 1994 to recognize outstanding achievement and lifelong commitment to the fields of Psychiatric Epidemiology and Biostatistics.



New Faces in Epi



Abby Campbell

Project Manager Center for
Communicable Disease Dynamics

Abby Campbell joins the Harvard Chan School as the Project Manager for the [Center for Communicable Disease Dynamics](#). Most recently she worked as a Program Manager at Harvard Global Health Institute where she led HarvardX and undergraduate course development and the Burke Global Health Fellowship program. She has also worked with the Global Health Delivery Project at Harvard Medical School where she managed the Global Health Delivery Intensive Program, offered each summer at the Chan School. Abby holds a master's degree in International Educational Development from the University of Pennsylvania.



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