



## Thank you for an excellent semester!

Greetings to all students, postdocs, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the Department of Epidemiology. Thank you so much for your participation and contributions to the department this Fall Semester. Your efforts have produced a vibrant academic session of collaborative learning, innovative research progress and priceless memories in our department. We wish all of you a wonderful winter break and we will look forward to seeing you again in 2014!

## Spotlight On PGSG

*Formerly known as PMAGE*

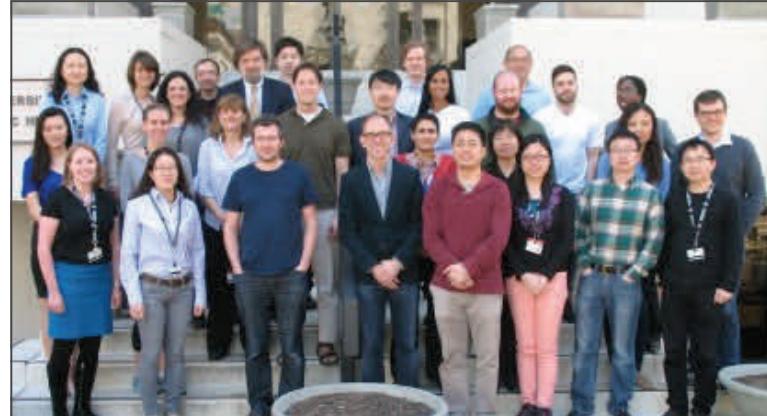
Genetic epidemiology is a fascinating and rapidly-changing area of research at the intersection of molecular biology, statistics, and population science. The Program in Genetic Epidemiology and Statistical Genetics within our department (formerly the Program in Molecular and Genetic Epidemiology) has made important empirical and theoretical contributions to this field. These include: some of the first genome-wide association studies of breast, prostate, and endometrial cancers; studies of the joint contribution of genes and environment to disease; methods to correct for confounding in genetic association studies; methods to link gene expression to genetic variation; and much more. Advances in technology and knowledge have made genetics an accessible tool to answer questions across many disease areas, and PGSG faculty have collaborated extensively with other researchers at HSPH (and hundreds more worldwide), implemented training programs (including the EPI247-EPI507-EPI293-EPI511 series), and established HSPH's first genotyping laboratory.

Genetic epidemiology can provide key insights into disease biology and the distribution of disease risk. The work of PGSG faculty, collaborators and trainees has had already had impact beyond research. For example, PGESG research has informed debates on the utility of genetics for population-based cancer screening and the vogue for consumer genetics. Discoveries by others in the last ten years have led to promising new therapies for high cholesterol and age-related macular degeneration.

To read more about work at HSPH Epidemiology in this dynamic field, look out for the full article coming out soon written by Orna Feldman, highlighting the many excellent studies occurring in the PGSG.

PGSG Faculty and Research Associates: Peter Kraft, David Hunter, Alkes Price, Immaculata DeVivo, Liming Liang, Jiali Han, Rulla Tamimi, Hugues Aschard, Sara Lindstroem

### [Recent PGSG Faculty Activities](#)



Epidemiology Department PGSG group

## Cutter Symposium and Lecture



Walter Willett and Dimitrios Trichopoulos

On **November 8th**, the Department of Epidemiology celebrated a long legacy of cutting edge discoveries and academic research at the enormously successful [1st Cutter Symposium](#). The event included outstanding talks from iconic professors of epidemiology [Dimitrios Trichopoulos](#) and [Nancy Mueller](#) along with two panel discussions of senior and junior faculty members and postdocs. Keynote speaker, [Alfredo Morabia](#) energized the audience through his captivating recollection of the history of the Department of Epidemiology at HSPH acquired from numerous interviews with inspiring members of the department. The theme of this inaugural Cutter Symposium focused on the history and contributors to the “adventurous field” of epidemiology and its future directions. Read the [full event summary](#) to learn more on this inaugural department event.

# Department Recognition

## 158th Cutter Lecture

- December 5th marked the day of the 158th Cutter Lecture on Preventative Medicine hosted by the Department of Epidemiology. This December's lecture featured [Bruce M. Psaty, MD, PhD](#) as he gave a fascinating talk titled, "NHLBI Cohorts in Times of Big Data and Financial Austerity: the Cardiovascular Health Study as a Model." It was an exceptional topic that provoked intriguing discussions. To watch the full lecture, [please follow the link](#).



**Save the date!**

**Harvard School of Public Health Brain Health Colloquium:** [2013-2014 Schedule](#)



## Jonathan Freeman Symposium

- Each year the Freeman Symposium is held in memory of Dr. Jonathan Freeman and his contributions to the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program. On December 4, 2013, 18 HSPH faculty, students, and postdocs presented talks and posters highlighting their ongoing research in topics pertaining to Infectious Disease Epidemiology.
- ◊ List of the [symposium talks and posters](#).
  - ◊ [Video webcast of the symposium](#).

## Dr. De Vivo Awarded R13 grant

- Immaculata De Vivo received an NIH R13 grant to support an Endometrial Cancer Consortium symposium at HSPH this March. This conference provides an extraordinary opportunity to address an unmet need for the interchange of research findings by endometrial cancer biologists, clinicians, and population health researchers. It will seek to provide an update on developments in various areas related to causation and prognosis for this important cancer.

## Nurses Health Study

- Just recently, the Nurses' Health Study infrastructure UM1 grant, led by Fran Grodstein and assisted by Rulla Tamimi, received a perfect score of 10, ensuring another five years of this landmark study. In the process of this renewal application, we determined that the NHS was the data source for over 100 doctoral dissertations in Epi and Nutrition! Publications are too numerous to count.

## Foreign Policy (FP) Names Buckee Top Thinker

- The momentum continues for [Caroline Buckee](#), Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Associate Director of the [Center for Communicable Disease Dynamics](#). She was just named one of the top 100 global thinkers of 2013 by [Foreign Policy \(FP\)](#).

## Movember Success!

- Thanks to your great fundraising and generous donations, [Team Bellissimo](#) raised over \$100,000 for men's health research. They came in 4th place nationally and 10th place worldwide! The team held a fundraiser at the Back Bay Social Club that raised over \$4000, and of course, they held their annual Bake Sale and Male Fashion Show here in the Epi Department on November 18. A heartfelt thanks to all [Movember](#) supporters in the Epi community. Check out this [VIDEO](#) that Dr. Quoc Trinh from BWH put together with team members!

**Women's Health Symposium : 2nd Biennial Women's Health Symposium: A LIFE-COURSE APPROACH TO WOMEN'S HEALTH**

- Thursday, January 23, 2014**, 9am - 4pm, HSPH Kresge Room 502

*Keynote speaker:*

- George Davey Smith, MD, MSc, MA  
Professor of Clinical Epidemiology – University of Bristol, UK

*Remarks from:*

- Janet Rich-Edwards, ScD – Associate Professor of Epidemiology, HSPH
- Student presentations and poster session.



Professor JoAnn Manson and Jackie Craigue



Eric Shiroma, Pamela Rist, Brittany Charlton and Rebecca Graff

## Epi Student and Postdoc Accomplishments!

- Andrea Chomistek, a past epi doctoral student of Eric Rimm and now current postdoc, has accepted an assistant professor position in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington. She will begin her journey there in January 2014 and we wish her the very best!
- Research fellow, Megan Rice, was just awarded an [Ann Schreiber Mentored Investigator Award](#) from the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund.
- Ana Babic is a new postdoc working with [Kathryn Terry](#) and [Shelley Tworoger](#) in the area of Cancer Epidemiology.
- For an extensive list of recently published papers and accomplishments from the Infectious Disease CCDD website, please visit their [publications webpage](#).
- Good luck to all of our current students as you complete this final week of the semester!



Reception for the department's Cutter Lecture



Sonia Hernández-Díaz and Justin Bohn

### Staff Opportunity to Mentor a Wentworth Institute Student

- A great opportunity has opened up through the [Wentworth Institute of Technology](#). Department of Applied Mathematics Chair, Amanda Hattaway, and our own Department of Epidemiology professor, Alec Walker have teamed up to form a mentor program for juniors and seniors at Wentworth. These students will be paired with professional, technical staff members in the Epi Department. To become involved, [learn more information here](#).

## Epi Social Events!

On **February 13th, 2014** the Department of Epidemiology and the Department of Environmental Health will hold a joint social event for all members of our departments' communities. *Save the date!* More details to come as the social event date approaches...

## In other Epi news...

### Employment and Research Opportunities

- [Post-Graduate Fellowship CVD Epidemiology](#) - Two outstanding candidates are sought to work on an original [research project](#) supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on the Global Dietary Intakes and Diseases among Children, Women, and Men.
- [Postdoctoral Position in Nutrition Policy](#)
- Don't forget to always check in with the recently renovated department of Epidemiology [Opportunities](#) webpage!

### 2nd Annual Youth and Public Health Conference

- Sponsored by the Office of Diversity, HSPH will host a thought provoking and inspiring conference for high school students around the Boston area to expose them to the world of public health and the many potential career paths the field offers. This conference will take place in April and HSPH students are strongly encouraged to volunteer. For more information, contact the Office of Diversity's Student Ambassador for the Epidemiology Department, Jason Park, at [jpark@mail.harvard.edu](mailto:jpark@mail.harvard.edu).

### Welcoming our Lown Scholars

- The Department of Epidemiology would like to extend a warm welcome to the current [Lown Scholars](#). The program is designed to create an international framework of talented health professionals in low and middle income countries who will use public health tools and strategies to promote cardiac health. [Donna Spiegelman](#) is mentoring Sr. Lown Scholar, Dr. Marina Njelelka, from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Olabimpe Eseyin from Abuja, Nigeria. [Miguel Hernan](#) is mentoring Martin Lajous from Mexico and [Dariush Mozaffarian](#) is mentoring Beatrice Wanyara from Nairobi, Kenya.