



## Another remarkable year in Epi...

Many thanks to each member of the Department of Epidemiology on successfully completing another exceptional academic year. This department continues to flourish with each passing year and we anticipate the opportunity to further develop the outstanding research initiatives, networks and learning communities that make this department shine. Best wishes for a wonderful summer to all.

### Spring 2014 Cutter Lecture on Preventive Medicine

On **Wednesday, May 7th 2014**, the Department of Epidemiology hosted the **159th Cutter Lecture on Preventive Medicine**. The distinguished speaker for this event was **Robert Hoover, MD, ScD, SM Hyg**, Director of the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Program at the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at the **National Cancer Institute**. Dr. Hoover presented a thought provoking discussion titled, *Hormonal Carcinogenesis Across the Life Course*. Dr. Hoover is a Department of Epidemiology alumnus. It was a true honor to welcome him back into the department for this special event to celebrate innovations in preventive medicine.

**Epi Teaching Assistant Awards** are presented annually at the Spring Cutter Lecture. Six TA's who excelled in their teaching roles were recognized this year: Ryan Seals, Julia Sisti, Maxine Chen Sonja Swanson, Jennifer Stuart & Emilie Zoltick.



SD candidates Alexandra Binder & Brittany Charlton with postdoc John Jackson at the Spring 2014 Cutter Lecture

### Congratulations Class of 2014!

You numbered **22** doctor of science students and **50** master of science students. Your academic excellence, innovative research and diverse personalities enriched the Epidemiology Department and HSPH beyond measure. We look forward to following your developing and dynamic careers as epidemiologists.



Jane Porter (Takeda Pharmaceuticals), Joshua Lin, & Veronique Kugener (Takeda Pharmaceuticals)

### Joshua Lin– Millennium Fellow

Congratulations to Epi doctoral candidate Joshua Lin (advisor: Sonia Hernandez-Diaz). Joshua was announced as the Millennium Fellow by the **Takeda Oncology Company's Fellowship for Pharmacoepidemiology**. This prestigious fellowship will help equip future public health leaders with the knowledge and skills they need to examine across populations the safety, effectiveness and utilization of drugs, vaccines, medical devices, and procedures.



Dean Julio Frenk and Dr. Eric Rimm with Cutter Lecturer, Dr. Robert Hoover at the Spring 2014 Lecture

## 2014 Professor Emeritus Award of Merit

- **Richard R. Monson**, Professor of Epidemiology, was awarded the 2014 Professor Emeritus Award of Merit. His groundbreaking studies have contributed greatly to the field of Occupational Epidemiology and he has been an essential member of the HSPH community for over 4 decades.

## Sonia Hernandez-Diaz Elected President

- Congratulations to **Sonia Hernandez-Diaz** (PI) who was elected President of the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology. She was also awarded an NIH/NIMH R01 for her project titled "Comparative Safety and Effectiveness of Psychotropic Drugs in Pregnant Women".

## Tyler VanderWeele Lecturing at SER

- **Tyler VanderWeele** will be giving the John C. Cassel Memorial Lecture at the **Society of Epidemiologic Research** conference in June. Additionally, he was selected as the recipient of the 2014 Mortimer Spiegelman Award given by the APHA Statistics Section. This award is presented each year to an outstanding public health statistician under the age of 40.

## "New Platforms in Storytelling"

- Claire Berman, Director of Health Education and Communication for the **Pediatric HIV/AIDS Cohort Study (PHACS)**, presented on "New Platforms in Storytelling" at the Youth + Tech + Health Conference in San Francisco, CA on April 7th. The presentation highlighted the process of engaging young adults throughout the design and development of a website to support retention of PHACS participants as they age into adulthood, and also featured a demo of the website's innovative story mapping feature.

## CFDD Pillar Award

- **Dr. Marina Kvaskoff**, a postdoctoral fellow mentored by Stacey Missmer in RPP Epidemiology has been honored with a BWHC Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (**CFDD**) **Pillar Award**. Her research focuses on co-morbidity between endometriosis and dermatologic characteristics/pathology.

## Responding to Research

- Dr. Eric Rimm and other coauthors wrote a response letter to an editorial in **BMJ** on "**Implausible results in human nutrition research**"
- Be sure to check out this video link to the study ***A prospective study of dietary fiber intake and mortality among myocardial infarction survivors.***



Dr. Richard R. Monson, Professor Emeritus, with Michelle A. Williams, Chair of the Department of Epidemiology



## American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting

- **Dr. Xabier Garcia-Albeniz** will be getting some media attention **due to his project on prostate cancer** at the next **ASCO Annual Meeting** (May 30-June 3, Chicago). The ASCO Annual Meeting is considered the referent meeting for cancer research, bringing together more than 25,000 oncology professionals every year. He is giving an oral presentation of the **project's results** and has also been asked to participate in the Press Program.

## New Publications from Marc Lipsitch

- CCDD Director Dr. Marc Lipsitch continues to be a leading voice warning of the public health risks of gain-of-function experiments to make avian flu viruses more transmissible among mammals. Follow [this link](#) to the CCDD website for many press and video updates featuring his work.



Corey Peak SM'14 and Kelsey Gleason SM'14 were a part of a recent trip to provide aid at a Burmese refugee camp with fellow HSPH students. Read the full story on HSPH News, [here](#).

## Department Events

### 2014 Commencement Ceremony

This spring's graduation ceremony for the outstanding graduates of HSPH was held on **Thursday, May 29th, 2014**. A university-wide ceremony took place at 8:30am at Harvard Yard in Cambridge and the Harvard School of Public Health ceremony began at 2:30pm in the Kresge Courtyard. Graduating students welcomed loved ones from many regions of the world for this very special celebration. Visit the HSPH Commencement [website](#) for event details.

### Interdisciplinary Concentration in Infectious Disease Epidemiology

On **Tuesday May 27**, HSPH ID Epi Faculty awarded certificates to over a dozen 2014 graduates who have successfully fulfilled the requirements of the Interdisciplinary Concentration in the Epidemiology of Infectious Disease. These students will join 85 other HSPH graduates who have earned their certificates since 2002.



# Epi Accomplishments!

## Spring Dissertation Defenses

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

### Upcoming Dissertation Defenses:

•**Mohammad Yakoob**— Friday, **May 30th** at 11:15am in **FXB G13**

Title: Dietary biomarkers, global diet and cardiometabolic disease outcomes

•**Laura Dodge**- Wednesday, **June 11th** at 10:00am in **Kresge 212**

Title: Environmental Chemicals: Reproductive effects of paternal exposure, and medications as a source of exposure

### SD students who recently defended their dissertations:

**Audrey Gaskins**- Diet in Relation to Fertility and Fecundity

**Jason Wong**- Occupational and Biological Predictors of Genomic Trauma

**Sarah Markt**- The Role of Circadian Disruption in Prostate Cancer Risk and Progression

**Nadia Abuelezzam**- Individual-Based HIV Transmission and Prevention Models: Evaluation, Calibration and Application

**Brittany Charlton**- The Epidemiology of Oral Contraceptive Use and Long Term Health Effects

**Rebecca Graff**- Molecular Subclassification of Prostate Cancer: The Epidemiology of TMPRSS2:ERG

**Guido Falcone**- Common Genetic Variation in Intracerebral Hemorrhage and Related Phenotypes

**Qian Li**—Burden of Cardiovascular Diseases in China

**Isha Argawal**—Exploring the Associations Between Diabetes, Fibrosis-Related Biomarkers and Cardiovascular Disease

**Eric Shiroma**—Physical Activity, Cardiovascular Disease, and Type 2 Diabetes: A Closer Examination of the 2008 US Federal Guidelines

**Fan Mu**—Endometriosis and Cardiovascular Disease

**Peter Wahl**—Overcoming Challenges of Utilizing Electronic Health Records for Confounding Control in Observational Comparative Effectiveness Research

**Chien-Chang Lee**— Risk of Incident Active Tuberculosis and Use of Gastric-Acid-Suppressive Drugs

**Ibironke Olofin**—Nutritional Status and Interventions in Relation to Infectious Disease and Mortality

**Dae Hyun Kim**—Lifestyle and Clinical Predictors of Functional Status in Older Adults

**Batool Haider**—Risk of Adverse Outcomes Among HIV-Positive and HIV-Negative Adults

**Sonja Swanson**— Contributions to Instrumental Variable Methods in Epidemiology

**Marcelle Dougan**- Body Size Throughout the Life Course, Diet Quality, and Endometrial Cancer Risk

***Congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone in your academic journey!***

## In other Epi news...

### A Harvard Hero in Epi

- Program Manager for Epi's Cancer Epidemiology group, **David Havelick** will be recognized as a **Harvard Hero**. This recognition program celebrates the extraordinary "above and beyond" contributions of Harvard staff. David was selected as one of the 12 Harvard Heroes on the Longwood campus! A celebration ceremony will be held on **June 12th** at **3:30pm** in **Memorial Hall, Sanders Theatre**, Cambridge.
- Congratulations to **Tyler VanderWeele** who was married on May 24th! We wish his family all the best as they embark on this exciting new chapter.
- Check in for updates from the **Epi Buddy Program** this summer & during the fall academic session! We are excited to enhance this year's program with even more opportunities for collaboration among new and current students as well as hosting "Epi Buddy" social events.



## Rose Traveling Fellows

**Alexandra Binder, Josephine Ocran, Doug Cheung and Ryan Seals**- Epidemiology; **Sarah Anoke** -Biostatistics; **Monica Bertoria** -Nutrition

