



Welcome back to the spring semester!

Happy New Year everyone! We hope that everyone within the department community was able to enjoy a wonderful winter break and we hope that you are all ready to come back for another fascinating academic session with the start of the spring semester. This new semester is sure to bring a surplus of new opportunities, events, connections and discoveries. Best of luck as you move forward with your academic and professional journeys.

Women's Health Symposium

[A Life-course Approach to Women's Health](#)

On Thursday, January 23rd, the department's Reproductive, Perinatal, and Pediatric Epidemiology Concentration along with the Maternal and Child Health Interdepartmental Concentration hosted the 2nd Biennial Women's Health Symposium: A Life-Course Approach to Women's Health. Drs. Karin Michels and Ellice Lieberman gave the opening and closing remarks while Dr. Janet Rich-Edwards offered an insightful lecture on the public health implications of life-course epidemiology including causal inference methodology. Doctoral student speakers lectured on their own research including Audrey Gaskins (NUT/EPI), Jennifer O'Donnell (SBS), Brittany Charlton (EPI), Jonathan Litt (SBS), Leslie Farland (EPI), and Alexandra Binder (EPI). During the poster session, two dozen students presented more research including Lani Wegrzyn (EPI) who was awarded the poster prize for her work on rotating night shift work and breast cancer. **Dr. George Davey Smith** from the University of Bristol was the keynote speaker and offered his thoughts about the last century of epidemiologic research into lifecourse influences on chronic adulthood disease. He argued that emerging large-scale genetic and epigenetic data, including quantitative genetics, can better characterize these exposures and causal associations. A video recording of the full day can be seen [online here](#) and a featured article of the event can be found online at [HSPH news](#).



Epi doctoral students Audrey Gaskins (speaking) and Brittany Charlton at the Women's Health Symposium on Jan. 23rd

Clinical Epi Alumna Appointed National Coordinator for HIT

Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that the next National Coordinator for Health Information Technology is HSPH alumna Karen DeSalvo, SM '02. DeSalvo will replace the previous coordinator and fellow HSPH alumnus Farzad Mostashari, AM '89, SM '91 who stepped down in October. DeSalvo is a graduate of our **Clinical Epidemiology program** in the Department of Epidemiology at HSPH. Sebelius noted in her statement, "Dr. DeSalvo's hands-on experience with health delivery system reform and HIT and its potential to improve health care and public health will be invaluable assets to the Office of the National Coordinator and the Department." Read the full announcement [here](#).



*Karen De Salvo
MD, MPH, MSc*

Department News & Recognition

Symposium on Advances in Endometrial Cancer Epidemiology and Biology

- This symposium will include experts from epidemiology, biology, pathology, psychology, health policy, and clinical practice to exchange up-to-date findings and new ideas. The goal of the symposium is to identify high-priority research questions that will have a tangible impact on reducing incidence of and improving outcomes for endometrial cancer. The event will be held on **March 13th and 14th**. Visit the [symposium's webpage](#) to register & learn more.

Best Clinical Research Paper Published in European Urology

- A paper that **Jennifer Rider** and **Hans-Olov Adami** were authors of, "Natural History of Early, Localized Prostate Cancer: A Final Report from Three Decades of Follow-up," was selected as the Best Clinical Research Paper Published in European Urology in 2013. Read the abstract [here](#).

Janet Rich-Edwards Awarded Two Grants

- Professor Janet Rich-Edwards received a **PCORI** grant, "Heart Health 4 Moms: Engaging women with a history of preeclampsia to reduce their risk for cardiovascular disease." Co-PI, Ellen Seely (BWH). She also received an (anonymous) foundation-funded grant entitled, "Vitamin D data to promote national food fortification policy in Mongolia." Co-PI, Ganmaa Davaasambuu (HSPH, Nutrition).

New Faculty Appointees:

- Vincent Jaddoe**, MD, PhD; appointed Adjunct Prof, Epi, HSPH
- Maria Elena Medina-Mora**, PhD; appointed Adjunct Prof, Epi, HSPH
- Henning Tiemeier**, MD, PhD; appointed Adjunct Prof, Epi, HSPH
- Jennifer Rider**, ScD, MPH; appointed Assistant Prof, Epi, HSPH

Opportunity for 1-on-1 Student Mentoring

- The department would like to welcome the newest member of our community, Kathy Brenner, a conference speaker, writing instructor and ESL expert who is now providing oral and written communication support for Epi students. Participants must be recommended by an Epi faculty member. For more information, please contact [Kate Becker](#).

Recent Publications

- [CCDD Publications Webpage](#)



Epi department members at the recent Cutter Lecture event



Save the date!

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

Upcoming Epi Department Seminars

Chirag Patel, PhD—*Environment-wide Association Studies toward a more comprehensive view of health and disease.* Weds, Feb 5, 12:30-1:30pm; Kresge 502
Erica Warner, ScD, MPH—*Racial Disparities in Breast Cancer Incidence and Survival: The Importance of Subtype.* Weds, Feb 12, 12:30-1:30pm; FXB G13
Tyler VanderWeele, PhD—*A unification of mediation and interaction.* Weds, Feb 19, 12:30-1:30pm; Kresge 502.

Marcia Otto & Reiko Nishihara— "Works-in-progress" Seminar Series. Weds, Feb 26, 12:30-1:30pm Kresge 502



A very engaged crowd listens to the Senior Faculty panel during the Department of Epidemiology's recent [Cutter Symposium](#) event

PGSG Seminar Series

Fridays at 12:30pm in the Epi Library K902

February 14th— Alexander Gusev, Ph.D.
 February 21st—Gaurav Bhatia, Epi SD Candidate
 February 28th— Pete Kraft, Ph.D.
 February 28th— Sara Lindstroem, Ph.D.

Department of Epidemiology Written Exam

This year's written exam will be held on **Thursday May 22nd and Friday May 23rd**. There will be an *information session* with Dr. Murray Mittleman and Dr. Deborah Blacker on **Tuesday, Feb. 11th at 5:30pm** in **K204** for all students who may take the exam.

Oral Exam Preparation Resource

- [Department of Epidemiology Oral Exam PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Epi Accomplishments!

Spring Dissertation Defense Schedule

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

Audrey Gaskins– Feb. 27th, 3:30pm SPH-2 317 “Diet in relation to fertility and fecundity”

Sarah Markt– March 7th, 10am Kresge 907 “The role of circadian disruption in prostate cancer risk and progression”

Jason Wong– March 7th, 1:30pm Kresge 204 “Occupational and Biological Predictors of Genomic Trauma”

Nadia Abuelezzam–March 11th, 3:00pm Kresge 907 “Individual-based HIV transmission and prevention models: Evaluation, calibration and application”

Brittany Charlton– March 12th, 9:15am Kresge 907 “The Epidemiology of Oral Contraceptive Use and Long Term Health Effects”

Rebecca Graff–March 14th, 10:00am Kresge 907 “Molecular Subclassification of Prostate Cancer: The Epidemiology of TMPRSS2:ERG”

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”

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. This event will take place at 4pm in Sebastian's Lounge for an evening of food, drink, music and karaoke fun! *Save the date!*
- REEL EPI**, a student organization that hosts movie screenings with themes relating to epidemiology, is back in ACTION! The first event of this re-ignited group was held this past Monday. Those who attended enjoyed the movie *Groundhog Day*, pizza, wine and great conversation after hearing **Dr. Murray Mittleman**'s talk. The group is looking forward to hosting more events this semester so *be on the lookout* for future announcements from this fun organization.



In other Epi news...

Employment and Research Opportunities

- [Post-Graduate Fellowship CVD Epidemiology](#)- Two outstanding candidates are sought to work on an original **re-search project** supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on the Global Dietary Intakes and Diseases among Children, Women, and Men.
- [Postdoctoral position](#)- Polio modeling and mobile phone data analytics
- [Postdoctoral Position in Nutrition Policy](#)
- Don't forget to always check in with the department's [Opportunities](#) webpage!

Second Annual Youth and Public Health Conference

- Sponsored by the Office of Diversity, HSPH will host a thought provoking conference for high school students around the Boston area to expose them to the world of public health. This conference will take place in April and Epi students are **strongly** encouraged to volunteer. To learn how to help, contact **Jason Park**.

Summer Program in Epidemiology

- This year's Summer Program in Epidemiology is now accepting applications! This program is designed for undergraduates interested in the possibilities of the field of epidemiology. Please refer any eligible students who may be interested to the **online application**. Learn more [here](#).



Miles, Epi Research Associate **Kathy Wilson**'s son, working on a very exciting new manuscript