



## Hope You All Had A Great Semester

Warm greetings to all students, postdocs, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the Department of Epidemiology. Many members of the Epi Community have been acknowledged for their groundbreaking research over the past few months and this is a great opportunity to display their accolades. We also have quite a few additions to our team, we welcome all of you and wish you the best as you get settled in your new roles.

### Donna Spiegelman Receives NIH Pioneer Award

On **October 6<sup>th</sup>**, the NIH awarded eighty-five grants to scientists proposing highly innovative approaches to major contemporary challenges in biomedical research, under the High-Risk, High-Reward program supported by the NIH's Common Fund. Within this program is the NIH's [Pioneer Award initiative](#). The Pioneer award, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, challenges investigators at all career levels to develop groundbreaking approaches that could have an efficacious impact on a broad area of biomedical or behavioral science. This year, NIH granted 10 Pioneer awards and among the awardees is [Donna Spiegelman](#), a faculty member here in the Epidemiology Department. Dr. Spiegelman has served as a faculty member since 1992 and for nearly 20 years taught the large, intermediate epidemiologic methods courses, which are requirements for all epidemiology doctoral and masters students.

Spiegelman is also a member of SER (Society for Epidemiology Research), where she served on their board between 2004-2007, acted as a faculty mentor at the student workshops in 2001 and 2007, and has been invited to speak several times at annual meetings. Currently she directs a volunteer program, 'It Takes a Village' which supports the college success rates of low income recent alumni of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School.

This five year, \$500,000/year prize will enable Dr. Spiegelman the opportunity to focus on the development of new methods needed to advance the field of implementation science. More specifically, she will develop a software and data platform for monitoring and evaluating large-scale disease prevention projects in real time. The methods developed in this software and data platform will be applicable to a variety of types of interventions, such as those aimed at preventing obesity, reducing maternal mortality, and increasing the use of cleaner cooking stoves in developing countries. A clear goal with this Pioneer Award is to create cost-effective methods that could be rolled out and sustained both domestically and globally.

Congratulations and best of luck to Donna on her work with this award and beyond!



*Donna Spiegelman, Professor of Epidemiologic Methods @ HSPH- Pioneer Award Recipient*

### 160<sup>th</sup> Cutter Lecture, Dr. Kenneth Rothman



**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** marked the day of the 160<sup>th</sup> Cutter Lecture on Preventative Medicine hosted by the Department of Epidemiology. This December's lecture featured Professor of Epidemiology, [Dr. Kenneth Rothman](#) from the Boston University School of Medicine who spoke on 'The Growing Rift Between Epidemiology and Their Data'. [Read More](#) or [check out the video](#) from his lecture.

## Department Recognition

### 2014 Millennial Health Leaders Summit

- On October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, [Sandhya Kajeepeta](#), SM2 Epi student, along with other HSPH students attended the [Millennial Health Leaders Summit](#) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Summit emphasized the importance of a multisectoral approach to addressing inequities in health. Those in attendance had the honor of hearing from leaders in the field such as [Dr. Leandris Liburd](#), the Associate Director for Minority Health and Health Equity at the CDC, and [Dr. John Auerbach](#), Senior Policy Advisor to the CDC Director and former Massachusetts Public Health Commissioner.



Tomoko Kurokawa, Melina Ward, Sandhya Kajeepeta, Tracey Fredricks, and Dale Trevino at Millennial Health Summit

### Alkes Price NSF CAREER Award

- Associate professor [Alkes Price](#) recently received funding through the NSF CAREER award for his application titled “Resources for mixed model association mapping of complex traits”, as well as a recent Publication in [Nature Genetics](#) titled “Leveraging population admixture to characterize the heritability of complex traits”

### Epi Faculty, Paula Johnson Elected to IOM

- During the 44th annual meeting of the [Institute of Medicine](#), our very own [Dr. Paula Johnson](#) was elected as a member. Election to the IOM is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine. Dr. Johnson is a women’s health specialist and a pioneer in the treatment and prevention of Cardiovascular disease. She is currently Executive Director of the Mary Connors center for Women’s Health and Gender Biology and Chief of the Division of Women’s Health at Brigham and Women’s Hospital.



Paula Johnson, recently elected member of the Institute of Medicine

### Liming Liang’s Publication in Nature

- Assistant Professor of Statistical Genetics, [Liming Lang](#) is the first author on an upcoming publication in Nature titled “An Epigenome-Wide Association Study of Total Serum Immunoglobulin E Concentration”, as well as a co-first author on a paper in press at Human Molecular Genetics



## Save the date!

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth and Public Health Conference:



High School Students attending last years Youth & Public Health Conference

The **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth & Public Health Conference** will take place on **Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 2015**. This event is designed to help young people from diverse backgrounds get excited about the field of Public Health. There are too few opportunities for high school students to learn about and engage with public health professionals. Many high school students have never heard of public health, or at least have very little understanding of the diversity of the field. We invite you to help us change that. Please mark your calendars and join us on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April in engaging with high school students from the Boston area. Epi Students are *strongly* encouraged to volunteer. To learn how to help, contact [Erin Comerford](#).

### Movember Success!

Thanks to your great fundraising and generous donations, Team BelissiMo raised over \$75,000 for men’s health research. The team held a fundraiser at the Back Bay Social Club that raised over \$5,300 and of course, they held their annual Bake Sale and Male Fashion Show here in the Epi Department on November 12. A big shout out to all of those who participated or supported our team!



Bobby Unger, Sam Peisch, David Havelick, Jeff Cohen at the Male Mo Fashion Show on November 12<sup>th</sup>

# Epi Student and Postdoc Accomplishments!

Congratulations to the following SD Candidates who successfully defended their dissertations:

- [Alexandra Binder](#)- “The Determinants of Perinatal Epigenomic Profile”
- [Travis Gerke](#)- “Discovering and Validating Prognostic Biomarkers in Prostate Cancer by Focusing on Population Impact”
- [Ashkan Afshin](#)- “Diet, Cardiometabolic Health and Policy”
- [Chuan-Chin Huang](#)- “Risk Factors for TB Infection Among Exposed Household Contacts, Smoking Status, Seasonality and In-mate Susceptibility”
- [Mu Chen](#)- “Dairy Products and Health Outcomes”
- [Hiraku Kumamaru](#)- “Confounding Adjustment in Comparative Studies of Newly Marketed Medications”
- [Hannah Oh](#)- “Lifestyle, Hormones, and Breast Cancer”
- [Qianyi Wang](#)- “Fatty Acids, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Diabetes Mellitus”
- Research Fellows, [Megan Rice](#) and [Elizabeth Kantor](#) received best oral presentation and best poster presentation respectively, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Celebration of Junior Investigators in Cancer Science Symposium.
- [Xuanyao Liu](#) is a new Postdoctoral Fellow who joined the Epi Department on December 1<sup>st</sup> and will be working with PI [Alkes Price](#) during her time at HSPH.

## New Faculty Promotions and Appointments, Congratulations!

### Promotions:

- [Alkes Price](#), PhD- Promotion Associate Professor of Statistical Genetics, Epi Dept, HSPH
- [Alison Field](#), ScD- Promotion Professor, HMS & HSPH
- [Sonia Hernández-Díaz](#), MD, DrPH- Promotion Professor of Epidemiology, Epi Dept, HSPH

### Appointments:

- [Matthew Miller](#), MD, ScD- Appointed Adjunct Professor, Epi Dept, HSPH
- [Pamela Rist](#), ScD- Appointed Instructor, Epi Dept, HSPH
- [Sten Vermund](#), MD, PhD- Appointed Adjunct Professor, Epi Dept, HSPH
- [Lori Chibnik](#), PhD, MPH- Appointed Assistant Professor, Epi Dept, HSPH

## In other Epi news...

- Epi's Associate Professor [Murray Mittleman](#) received the Public Health Innovator award during this years [Alumni Weekend](#).
- [Lorelei Mucci](#) was chosen by the Committee on the Advancement of Women Faculty at HSPH to receive the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Alice Hamilton Award, and she will be delivering the Alice Hamilton Award Lecture in Spring 2015
- [Meir Stampfer](#) was honored with the 2014 PCF Mentorship Award from the Prostate Cancer Foundation.
- [Walter Willett](#) received the [Bertram A. Yaffee Prevention Advocacy Award](#) from the Massachusetts Health Council, for his tireless research and commitment to educating the public about proper nutrition for better health.

## Employment & Research Opportunities

- [Postdoctoral research fellow](#) sought to work on *Streptococcus pneumoniae* populations genomics with [Marc Lipsitch](#) and [Bill Hanage](#).
- The FHCRC Vaccine and Infectious Disease Division is recruiting for 2 post-doctoral fellows. [Apply Here](#)
- Clinical Research Scientists need at [Arbor Research Collaborative for Health](#)

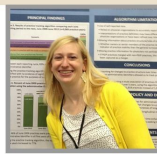
## Rose Traveling Fellows Fall 2014

[Megan Diamond](#), [Amanda Markovitz](#), [Sonia Swanson](#), [Rachel Zack](#) – Epidemiology; [Elizabeth Cespedes](#) – Epidemiology-Nutrition; [Linda Valeri](#) – Biostatistics

### Congratulations Fall 2014 Rose Traveling Fellows!



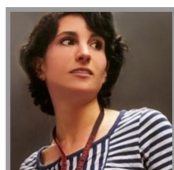
Megan Diamond



Amanda Markovitz



Sonia Swanson



Linda Valeri



Rachel Zack



Elizabeth Cespedes

## Epi Gives Back

- On November 19th, OSA hosted a [Stop Hunger Now](#) event in Kresge Cafeteria. They met their goal to package 15,000 meals for children and families all over the world. Great work!
- Happening now through December 15th the Harvard Longwood Campus will be hosting a Holiday Gift Drive. There will be a collection box in Kresge Lobby.
- Check out other Community Initiatives around us [here](#).



# In Memory of Dimitrios Trichopoulos

## 1938-2014

Dimitrios was an outstanding scientist and teacher for more than four decades in the field of cancer epidemiology and prevention. He published more than 1,000 scientific papers, continually staking out scientific frontiers—from seminal research linking secondhand smoke from cigarettes with an increased risk of lung cancer, and hepatitis B virus and tobacco smoking to an increased risk of primary liver cancer, to findings documenting that surgically induced and early natural menopause reduced breast cancer risk. Outside of the field of cancer, his paper linking psychological stress after an earthquake in Athens to increased risk of cardiac death was included in a 1997 list in *The Lancet* of 27 papers deserving to form a core canon of medical literature that every health professional should read.

Dimitrios' research career included several significant "firsts": He was first, with a 1990 paper in *The Lancet*, to propose that *in utero* exposures play a major role in breast cancer causation. He also was first in 1981, along with an independent paper published a few days later, to report that secondhand smoke increases the risk of lung cancer. Along with Brian MacMahon, then chair of HSPH's Department of Epidemiology, Dimitrios looked at 51 nonsmoking women hospitalized with lung cancer in Greece, and compared them with age-matched women hospitalized for other problems. The researchers determined that the cancer patients were significantly more likely to have been exposed to their husband's cigarettes. Follow-up studies went on to confirm the risks of smoke inhalation by children in smoking households or in

nonsmokers who live nearby.



A native of Greece, Dimitrios studied at the University of Athens Medical School, where he earned an M.D. in 1963 and a Ph.D. in 1971. He earned a S.M. at Harvard School of Public Health in 1968 and held several teaching appointments at the School over the next two decades (lecturer, 1969–1970; visiting professor, 1981–1985; adjunct, 1988–1989). Dimitrios was appointed a full professor in the Department of Epidemiology in 1989. He took on the role of chair that same year, serving until 1996. Initiatives under his leadership included a series of collaborations with investigators now at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. In 1993, he was named Vincent L. Gregory Professor of Cancer Prevention, and also began a four-year appointment as director of the Harvard Center for Cancer Prevention.

Dimitrios also was a Member of the Athens Academy and president of the Hellenic Health Foundation in Greece. He held teaching appointments at the University of Athens Medical School and the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. His awards and distinctions are many and include honorary doctorates, the Brinker International Award for Breast Cancer Clinical Research, Harvard School of Public Health's Julius Richmond Award (2004) and Alumni Award of Merit (2009), and the Medal of Honor of the International Agency for Research on Cancer, World Health Organization.

### **Below are reflections from several current faculty speaking of Dimitrios Trichopoulos; a close and respected friend, mentor, and colleague.**

"Dimitrios was indeed a giant among giants in the field of epidemiology," said Michelle Williams, chair of HSPH's Department of Epidemiology and Stephen B. Kay Family Professor of Public Health. "He will be remembered most for his generosity, sincerity, and his enduring commitment to teaching and mentoring legions of students and junior faculty from across the globe."

~ Michelle Williams, Department Chair, Epidemiology HSPH

"Dimitrios remarkably retained his creativity and work ethic until the end of his life. Just three weeks ago he was here in Boston pushing the work forward and radiating enthusiasm as always,"

~ David Hunter, Dean for Academic Affairs

"Dimitrios was one of the most spectacular and influential people I have ever met. He was a pioneer and innovator in cancer research, an outstanding intellect, a magnanimous mentor, a brilliant teacher, and a generous friend. Spending an hour with Dimitrios in the classroom or in his office was like having the universe opened to you with all of its possibilities. He was a teacher and mentor to literally thousands of cancer researchers around the globe, and his legacy will be for us to carry forward his memory, his passion for scientific discovery, and his generosity of spirit."

~ Lorelei Mucci, Associate Professor of Epidemiology HSPH

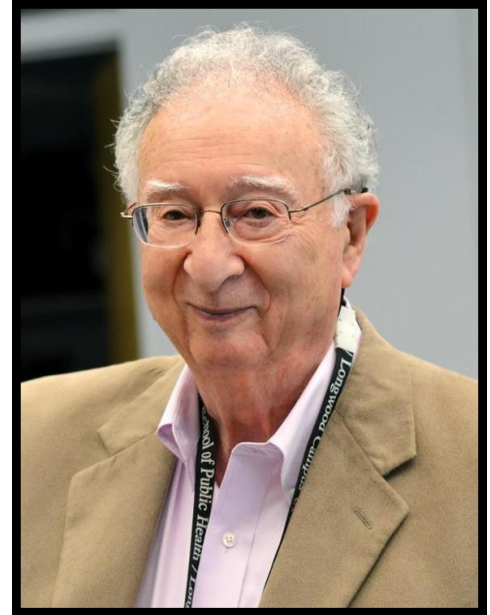
# In Memory of Marvin Zelen

## 1927-2014

Marvin Zelen was Lemuel Shattuck Research Professor of Statistical Science, as well as a member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (*Emeritus*) at Harvard University. He served for a decade in the 1980s as chair of our School's Department of Biostatistics. He was known as a giant in the field of biostatistics, as well as a man of vision, generosity, and warmth. And he is credited with transforming our biostatistics department into the best in the country.

Marvin developed the statistical methods and study designs that are used in clinical cancer trials to test for toxicity, effectiveness, and proper dosage. He helped transform clinical trial research into a well-managed and statistically sophisticated branch of medical science. His research also focused on improved early detection of cancer; on modeling the progression of cancer and its response to treatment; and on using statistical models to help determine optimal screening strategies for various common cancers, especially breast cancer.

In 1977, Marvin was persuaded to come to HSPH—but he agreed to come only if he could bring with him the team he'd built in Buffalo. Marvin's lab was established at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute where, simultaneously with his tenure at HSPH, he built the institute's Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology. Marvin succeeded Fred Mosteller as Biostatistics



Chair in 1981, and was the driving force that propelled the department to its position as a leading center for biostatistical research. Lastly, Marvin is widely praised for his mentorship and generosity. Our current Biostatistics Chair, Victor de Gruttola, said, "Scientists from around the world have benefited from Dr. Zelen's innovative ideas and transformative effect on biomedical research, but those of us associated with the Harvard Department of Biostatistics are particularly grateful for Dr. Zelen's commitment to educating students and advancing the careers of junior scientists."

In 1997, in honor of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, the School established the annual Marvin Zelen Leadership Award in Statistical Science, which has become one of the most prestigious awards in the field, meant to reflect Marvin's contributions to quantitative science and beyond. In 2009, he was awarded the American Cancer Society's highest honor—a Medal of Honor. He received the Samuel S. Wilks Memorial Award, one of the most prestigious awards from the American Statistical Association, in 2006, and the Fisher Lecturer Award from the Committee of the Presidents of the Statistical Society (COPSS) in 2007, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to statistical science.

# In Memory of Robert Mittendorf

## 1943-2014

Robert Mittendorf, MD, MPH '87, DPH '91, was a tenured professor of obstetrics at a Chicago-area medical school whose research focused on preventing cerebral palsy. Beyond his degrees obtained here at HSPH his legacy lives on through the *Alumni Giving Program*, of which he was the volunteer chair for many years. His generous gift earned him membership in *The 1913 Society*, which honors individuals who have made a life income gift or bequest provision to the School. In addition to commemorating the year the School was founded, this group recognizes the vital role our supporters have played over the past century and the role they play today in ensuring our continued success.



Through this, Robert established a scholarship fund to honor three mentors, giants in the field of epidemiology—Brian McMahon, Richard Monson, and Dimitrios Trichopoulos. Mittendorf chose to make his donation through a charitable gift annuity, which allowed him to make a larger donation than he had imagined possible.

Robert had said, "I have tried to find ways to bring a new generation safely into the world. In both my work and my philanthropy, timing is crucial. My gift to HSPH is coming at the right time for me, and in the right way, serving as a building block for the next generation of public health leaders."