



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear SBS Community,

Welcome to the incoming class of SBS students and to the returning class of students! I hope you all had a fun and productive summer, wherever you spent it. I'd also like to welcome Dr. Andy Tan, who just joined our faculty as Assistant Professor in the area of health communications. Andy will be based jointly in SBS and the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. As you settle into the new academic year, I'd like to alert you to three exciting events.



Photo: © Harvard School of Public Health

On September 4, there will be an international Symposium hosted by the Department on the Future Training of Public Health Professionals. The symposium will open with a presentation by Dean Julio Frenk, followed by keynote speeches from Professor Eric Mazur (on interactive and peer-based learning) and Professor Sanjay Sarma (on the potential of MOOCs to transform global public health training). For further details, please visit: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/social-and-behavioral-sciences/wp-content/uploads/sites/66/2014/08/TeikyoHSPH-symposium-Sep-42014.pdf>

On September 12, the Department will host the launch of the brand new & revised edition of the textbook, Social Epidemiology (Oxford University Press, 2014), edited by Berkman, Kawachi & Glymour, with contributions from many members of the SBS faculty (Krieger, Kubzansky, Subramanian, Okechukwu, Davison, and others). Join us from 3-5pm in Kresge G2.

Last but not least, the Center for Global Tobacco Control, directed by Vaughan Rees, will be hosting a speaker event on the timely and hotly debated topic of the future of e-cigarette regulation.

With best wishes,

Ichiro

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### Upcoming events

#### September 4

8:30-5:15 Teikyo-HSPH Symposium

#### September 8

12:30-1:30pm SBS 550 Orientation

(rsvp to [chunting@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:chunting@hsph.harvard.edu) by September 4)

#### September 14

Annual MCH/CYF Open House (p. 8)

#### September 19

Add/Drop Deadline for Fall1/Fall semester courses

#### October 1

Juan Gabriel Vasquez

## Student Spotlight: Ana Bernal, SM '15 shares her summer practicum experiences working with the Runa Foundation in Lamas, San Martin, Peru.



**Q: How did you identify the Runa Foundation as an organization to partner with?** I first learned about the Runa Foundation at the Social Enterprise Conference at the Harvard Business School. I wanted to increase my existing knowledge of survey design and implementation, and knew that this internship would provide an opportunity to apply participatory research methods with community.

**Q: Had you ever been to Peru? Tell us about the area you worked in and its community?** As a teenager, I had been to Lima with my parents, but I had never been to San Martin, which is in the northeastern area of the country and is mostly covered in dense tropical rainforest. During my internship, I lived in a tiny community called Huapo that has around 200 people, although I also worked with other nearby communities and larger towns. The main livelihood of these populations is farming; coffee and cacao are their main cash crops, but yucca, beans, corn, plantains and other tropical fruits are also grown. In Huapo there is no health clinic, so people have to walk to a nearby town or have transport arranged into the city of Lamas to

get care. Huapo had a one-classroom elementary school with twenty children ages six through twelve.

**Q: Tell us about your summer practicum project.** During my internship I was involved in two main tasks. The first was a joint project with the Oro Verde Cooperative to design and administer a survey to coffee farmers who have been affected by a plague called *La Roya*. This plague, which has been attributed to climate change, has damaged coffee trees throughout Latin America, directly affecting farmers' income and well-being. The purpose of the survey was to understand the extent to which farmers have been affected by the plague and to comprehend their health status and socio-demographic information. The second project was to carry out a needs assessment of the Huapo community in order to inform ways in which the Runa Foundation can collaborate with this population as well as with existing public and private health institutions. For this, we carried out household surveys that were administered to women, visited the health clinics of the area and conducted participatory workshops with community members. Additionally, together with the physicians



from the nearest clinic, I organized and taught health promotion workshops on hand washing and dental hygiene to the Huapo school children.

**What skills did you gain through the practicum experience?** I strengthened my skills regarding survey design and implementation and gained experience utilizing government scales to measure poverty in Peru. Also, I learned about participatory methods that seek to involve communities in the planning of development projects, and also came to understand the limitations that these methods face.

**Q: In what ways were you able to apply qualitative or quantitative skills developed during your first year at HSPH?** It was very gratifying for me to put into practice many of the skills that I acquired during my first year at HSPH. Using plain language in survey questions and investing time in validating them is something that I learned in the Health Literacy class and found very useful during my internship. When coding and managing data, I was always very thankful to what I learned in both the Statistics courses I took last year. Finally, the Society and Health class allowed me to view the relationships between social determinants and health and understand community's health status in a more holistic way.

**Q: Was collaboration central to your field practicum?** Collaboration was definitely a main part of my field practicum. Working with the directors of the Oro Verde cooperative required carefully understanding what information they wanted the survey to elicit, as well as learning from them the methodology to measure farmers' livelihoods and crop production. On the other



hand, I had to explain to them the significance specific health and socio-demographic indicators that I chose to include in the survey. Also, I had to work closely with the other interns who were all graduate students but came from different programs and fields, which was very enriching and helpful for me.

**Q: What's next for you? How will the practicum inform your final year at HSPH?** The practicum with Runa Foundation will inform the courses I take over the next year, as it made clear to me what areas I want to further explore. For example, although I have strengthened my survey design skills during this internship, I have also realized that I need to increase my understanding on sampling techniques. This summer experience has also allowed me to appreciate the unique health needs of rural populations, which represent an important proportion of Latin-American countries. I had previously only worked in urban settings, and this internship has allowed me to have a broader understanding of the health challenges that middle-income countries of Latin America face.

## Center for Tobacco Control



There have been a number of recent changes in the Center for Global Tobacco Control. Dr. Vaughan Rees was appointed Interim Director following the recent departure of Dr. Greg Connolly.

The mission for the Center is to reduce the global burden of tobacco-related death and disease through training, research, and the translation of science into public health policies and programs. In this transitional period, the Center aims to fulfil its mission by making innovative, impactful contributions to international tobacco control research and practice. The Center has the advantage of a substantial public profile, based on its scientific contributions over the past decade.

One of the priorities for the Center is to foster communication and collaboration on issues of tobacco research and policy among groups currently active across HSPH departments, and the broader Harvard community. As a linchpin of Harvard's community of tobacco experts, we will continue to identify and shape emerging issues, by generating quality science to inform tobacco control policy and practice. Through better networking, the Center will help to bring a unified HSPH response to tobacco policy, and focus the research efforts of the broader Harvard community. This will enhance competitiveness for federal funding and provide greater reach for

research with an international focus. One exciting initiative is a planned speaker event on e-cigarettes, in collaboration with HSPH's Leadership Studio. We will convene panel of experts from HSPH and the Harvard community to discuss the implications of the FDA's planned regulations on e-cigarettes in early 2015.

The Center will also provide a conduit for HSPH students and research fellows wishing to undertake tobacco control research and engage in hands-on training in policy development and implementation. We are also working to enhance the Center's funding base through grant awards and through close collaboration with the Office of External Relations to develop a donor base. Finally, through its public profile, the Center will provide a trusted information resource for national media on issues of tobacco control research and policy.



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## Achievements

**Nancy Krieger** again began serving as the North American Councilor for the International Epidemiological Association (IEA), a term she will serve for 3 years (2014-2017), having previously served in this role from 2008-2011.

**Rebekka Lee**, SD '13, Research Associate, was selected for the inaugural Mentored Training for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Cancer Summer Training Institute this summer.

**Roman Pabayo**, postdoc 2011–2014, accepted a position as an assistant professor in epidemiology at the University of Nevada, Reno in the Department of Community Health Sciences.

**Shoshana Rosenberg**, postdoc 2012-2014, accepted a position as Instructor in Medicine/Medical Oncology at Dana Farber/Harvard Medical School.

**Marvin So**, SM '15 has been named a Cultural Bridge Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School, sponsored by the Women and Public Policy Program. He is working with Homes for Families and the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development leading a statewide needs assessment of the homeless family shelter system using community-based participatory research methods.

## Student Awards

**STRIPED**

Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders

A PUBLIC HEALTH  
INCUBATOR

**Emily Kroshus**, SD 14' and **Allegra Gordon**, SD '15 are each winners of the STRIPED Dissertation and Postdoctoral Research Award in Eating Disorders Prevention Research for the 2014-15 academic year. Allegra won the

dissertation award for "Project Body Talk: Experiences of Weight and Shape Control Among Young Transgender Women" and Emily won the postdoc award for "Primary and Secondary Prevention of Disordered Eating in Sports Settings: Understanding Determinants of Coach Behaviors and Developing Strategies for Change."

**Jessica R. Marden**, SD '16 won 2nd Place for her poster, "Using an Alzheimer's Disease Polygenic Risk Score to Predict Memory Decline" at the Society for Epidemiologic Research Annual Meeting, on June 25, 2014, in Seattle, WA.

**Kelsey Holt**, SD '19 was awarded a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and is entitled "Making Quality Matter: Development of a Scale to Measure Respectful Family Planning Provision." This was received as part of the Packard Foundation's "Making Quality Matter in Family Planning Challenge."

**Elizabeth Janiak**, SD '19 has been awarded a junior investigator award grant from the Society of Family Planning Research Fund. A focus of the grant will be her study, "A Pilot Assessment of Job Stress among the Non-Physician Clinical Abortion Workforce." Under the mentorship of Professor Lisa Berkman and of Harvard Medical School faculty Dr. Deborah Bartz and Dr. Alisa Goldberg, this study will explore job stress and related health outcomes among nurses, medical assistants, and technicians involved in the direct clinical care of abortion patients in a variety of settings.

## Alumni News

**Sharrelle Barber**, SD '14 accepted a position as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics through the Center for Integrated Approaches to Health Disparities at Drexel University School of Public Health. She is mentored by Drs. Ana Diez-Roux and Amy Auchincloss.

**Hannabah Blue**, SM '14 accepted a job to work at the newly established American Indian Public Health Resource Center at North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND. The Director is Don Warne (*Oglala Lakota*) who is also a graduate of HSPH. She will serve as the Public Health Services Program Manager.

**Hannah Carliner**, SD '14 will be starting a NIH-funded post-doctoral fellowship in Substance Abuse Epidemiology at the Epidemiology Department of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University.

**Paola Gilsanz**, SD '14 is a first year Yerby fellow in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

**Ashley Storms**, SM '14 took a position as a Health System Policy Analyst at the Center for Health Information and Analysis.

**Ashley Winning**, SD '14 began a postdoc in July with Laura Kubzansky investigating post-traumatic stress disorder and coronary heart disease in the Nurse's Health Study.

## Arrivals and Departures

**Andy Tan** is a new assistant professor in the Department. His research is focused on using health communication interventions and measures to decrease suffering and death from cancer across the spectrum from risk, prevention, surveillance, treatment and survivorship



**Michelle Seliger-Schamberg** and her wife, Alison, welcomed Jonah Charles (6 lbs. 3 oz.) to the world on March 22, 2014. Congratulations Michelle and Alison!



**Dr. Rima Rudd** is delighted to add a new title: grandma! Tessa Raye Comings (7 pounds, 21 inches) was born on August 2, 2014. Congratulations to Rima and her family!

**Claudia Trudel-Fitzgerald** is a new postdoc under the supervision of Dr. Laura Kubzansky. She did her PhD in psychology at Laval University, Quebec City, Canada, and is currently funded through a 3-year scholarship from the Canadian Institute of Health Research.

**Felton Earls** became emeritus on August 31 after 25 years in the Department. With his wife, Mary Carlson, he plans to share what has been learned in his research in Chicago and Tanzania with children in his hometown of New Orleans.

**Greg Connolly** left HSPH at the end of July, 2014. He served as a lecturer for the past nine years in SBS as well as the Director of the Center for Global Tobacco Control since its establishment in 2010.

**Arthur Sobol** retired from HSPH and SBS on Aug. 31 after 43 years of working at Harvard University, including 37 at what is now known as SBS. A luncheon was held in his honor on August 15th.

# Commencement 2014



Zinzi Bailey SD '14, with her mother, Jenifer Bailey and SBS faculty, Cassandra Okechukwu



Araceli Gutierrez SM '14 (far right) with her sister, Belen Gutierrez and father, Elias Gutierrez.



Madeleine deBlois SD '14 with her son, Owen,

**Congratulations 2014 graduates!**  
**We enjoyed celebrating with you and your families at the awards ceremony and reception. Wishing you the best in all your endeavors!**  
**Keep in touch!**



Rachel McCloud SD '14 with her advisor Vish Viswanath



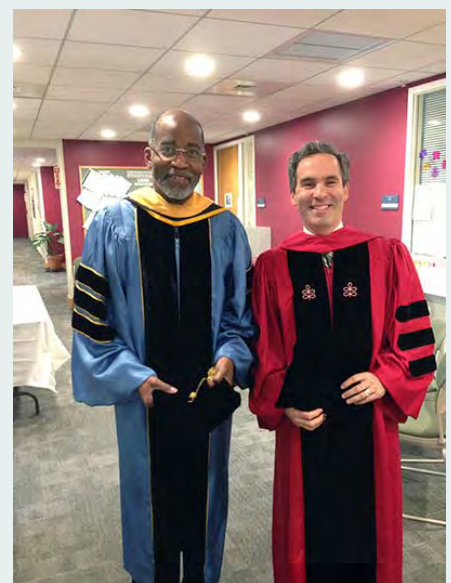
Nancy Krieger was presented with a teaching award

Photo: Kent Dayton



Allegra Gordon received a teaching assistant award

Photo: Suzi Camarata



David Williams and Stephen Gilman in their regalia

# Announcements & Events

**Student Conference Travel Awards** SBS encourages our students to present their research at professional meetings and conferences. In order to support this initiative, we have instituted student travel awards specifically to help offset the costs of travel to these conferences. To apply, please visit: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/social-and-behavioral-sciences/conference-travel-awards/>

**F31 NIH Fellowship Program information session** Are you a first or second-year doctoral student? Come learn about the F-31, an NIH/NRSA-supported program for the support of the doctoral thesis, including funding towards tuition, stipend, and an institutional training allowance. This session will give you an understanding of the application process, as well as the benefits of the F-31 award. Email Armand Inezian, Grant Manager: [ainezian@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:ainezian@hsph.harvard.edu) to register.



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## **The Leadership Studio: Juan Gabriel Vasquez**

On October 1, 2014 Colombian writer **Juan Gabriel Vasquez** sits down with SBS Department Chair, Ichiro Kawachi in the HSPH Leadership Studio to discuss his books and the relationship between literature and public health.

Juan Gabriel Vasquez won the 2014 International Dublin Literature Award, the 2012 Roger Caillois Award and the 2011 Premio Alfaguara de Novelain, among many others.

This event is co-sponsored by SBS and the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies.

**Birthday Celebrations** Join SBS students, postdocs, faculty and staff on the last Tuesday of each month for cake and ice cream! Locations alternate between Kresge 708 and Landmark 403Q.

**Take a Book-Leave a Book** is a community-wide revolving library at the mailboxes on the 6th floor. With your book donations, we can build a collection of reading material to keep us entertained on our commutes to and from the School. Drop off a book and take one that sparks your interest.

**Marie McCormick** will be hosting the annual MCH/CYF Concentrator Open House on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars! Emails will be sent to you with details.

**Laura Kubzansky and Karestan Koenen** were recently awarded funding for a new fellowship program they are launching this fall. Funding is from the JPB foundation. The JPB Environmental Health Fellowship Program will support junior faculty engaged in research on social and physical determinants of health relevant to disadvantaged communities.

**Questions, suggestions, ideas? Email us: [sbs@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:sbs@hsph.harvard.edu)**

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