



SBS

Social and Behavioral Sciences
HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

newsletter

FALL 1 2017

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear SBS community,
To our incoming class of eight PhD, twenty-five MPH-65, and twenty-seven MPH-45 students – Welcome to SBS and Harvard Chan!

To our returning students, staff & faculty -- I hope you all enjoyed time off to recharge your batteries over the summer. I had a glorious time in Acadia National Park.

On September 15 (Friday), our Department will be hosting a Special Symposium (with the support of Teikyo University) at the Martin Conference Center, on the topic of Advancing Women in Public Health & Medicine. We have an exciting line up of speakers including our Dean of Diversity, Prof. Meredith Rosenthal. Space is limited at the conference center, so hurry to register at: https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3NOMiOXQwNxicVD

The first of our Faculty-Student luncheons is scheduled for September 22 (Friday) to be hosted by Professors David Williams and Andy Tan.

I look forward to meeting each of you soon.

Best wishes-

Ichiro



Photo: Amy Emily Photography

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Featured Events

- Women, Gender, and Health Concentration Lunch - Aug 29, 1-2pm
- SBS 550: Program Evaluation Info session—Sept 11, 1-2pm
- Advancing Women in Public Health & Medicine Symposium—Sept 15
- SBS Student-Faculty Lunch—Sept 22, 1-2pm
- Challenges and Opportunities in American Indian/Alaskan Native Health—Sept 28, 1-2pm
- See pgs. 7-8 for all events

Student Spotlight



Rachel Bishop, MPH-HSB 65

As a Rappaport Fellow, you were able to engage in public service as an intern with the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing at the MA State House, while also fulfilling your practice requirement. Tell us about that experience.

I had a fantastic summer working with my state representative Jeffrey Sanchez, House Chairman of the Committee on Health Care Financing. During my 10 weeks, I worked on a series of issue briefs detailing how pending federal health reform would impact Massachusetts, answering questions like “who would lose contraceptive coverage” and “how would this plan augment racial health inequities?” I attended committee hearings on bills from Governor Bakers’ MassHealth

proposals to sex ed reform; sat in on meeting with disability rights activists and pharmaceutical reps, and even got to play some raucous games of cornhole with kids at district hotdog nights.

The pace of the State House was unlike anything I’d experienced in the research and non-profit worlds - our work could change at a moment’s (or a tweet’s...) notice. I loved the challenge of staying on top of national and local health policy news, and quickly synthesizing it through the framework of state policy options.

How did these activities enhance your public health training and inform your understanding of public policy?

I’ve gone from not knowing what a CSR was to having a decent grasp on the complex world of health policy in Massachusetts, and getting to meet many of its major players. One of my biggest lessons this summer has come from watching the ways evidence is (or isn’t) used to inform policymaking in the legislature. I saw a default reliance on reports from major foundations and public entities, and realized the importance of academics who proactively reached out to present their findings. I learned to present data in a way that is easily digestible and makes clear its policy implications.

I’ve testified at hearings as a public health advocate in the past, and being on the other side of the table this summer was an invaluable experience. I watched legislators trying to turn information from disagreeing stakeholders into a decision that at once honored the wishes of their constituents, upheld their own convictions, and was politically and pragmatically feasible, all in the face of federal uncertainty. Understanding those constraints helped me rethink my advocacy strategies moving forward. I saw the successes of advocates who crafted contextually-specific framing and proposed concrete solutions.

Student Spotlight (cont.)

You mention the importance of academics who proactively reach out to legislators to present their findings. Do you have examples of academics who do this particularly well?

When I asked Chairman Sanchez about his decision-making process, he told me how much he values the perspectives of researchers. He mentioned both Nancy Krieger and Nancy Turnbull as examples of academics who've been influential in using their findings to inform policy-making. In the absence of input from such well-respected academics, legislators must rely on information that is inevitably skewed toward the particular interests of whichever stakeholder produced it. Still, some legislators don't have the connections to know who's doing the relevant academic work. That's why I think it's important for researchers to be proactive about making themselves a resource. Professor Bryn Austin's work with STRIPED is a terrific example. The group not only uses data to inform policy-makers, but to craft new legislation. The challenge for academics is staying up to date on

what's going on in the policy world so we can be most impactful.

How did these past ten weeks at the State House inform your final semester at Harvard Chan? What are your career aspirations?

Heading into my last semester, I'm looking forward to taking more classes in HPM. I want to complement my education on the social determinants of health with an understanding of how the health system might be reshaped to better address inequities. When I graduate, I hope to join a local organization like the Health Policy Commission or MA Planned Parenthood, working at the intersection of research and policy advocacy to build a more equitable and population-oriented health system.

-Interview by Whitney Waddell

To nominate a student, postdoc or faculty member for our next Spotlight feature, please email sbs@hsph.harvard.edu.

Tips for Incoming Students

- Look out for the SBS student digest delivered to your inbox every Thursday! The digest includes weekly announcements, seminars, events and more. To post an announcement to the entire SBS student community, email a brief description to sbsdigest@hsph.harvard.edu.
- The plasma screens on the 6th and 7th floors highlight recent news and upcoming events.
- The 6th and 7th floor study rooms (611, 701 and 723) are available to all SBS students. 701 is reserved for quiet independent work only. Wireless printers are available in each room.
- We encourage our students to present their research at professional meetings and conferences and we provide awards to help offset the costs of travel. For information on our Conference Travel Awards visit: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/social-and-behavioral-sciences/conference-travel-awards/>
- All students should familiarize themselves with their degree program requirements. Curriculum Guides can be found on the SBS website: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/social-and-behavioral-sciences/sbs-curriculum-guide/>

Recent Publications

Ash, T., Bowling, A., Davison, K., & Garcia, J. (2017). Physical Activity Interventions for Children with Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Disabilities—A Systematic Review. *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics*, 38(6), 431-445.

Frounfelker, R. L., Assefa, M. T., Smith, E., Hussein, A., & Betancourt, T. S. (2017). “We would never forget who we are”: resettlement, cultural negotiation, and family relationships among Somali Bantu refugees. *European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 1-14.

Hikichi, H., Tsuboya, T., Aida, J., Matsuyama, Y., Kondo, K., Subramanian, SV. & Kawachi, I. [Social capital and cognitive decline in the aftermath of a natural disaster: a natural experiment from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami](#). *The Lancet Planetary Health*. 2017: 1(3): e105-e113.

Hikichi, H., Sawada, Y., Tsuboya, T., Aida, J., Kondo, K., Koyama, S., & Kawachi, I. [Residential relocation and change in social capital: A natural experiment from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami](#). *Science Advances*. 2017: 3(7): e1700426. DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.1700426.

Holt, K ; Janiak, E ; McCormick, MC ; Lieberman, E ; Dehlendorf, C ; Kajeepeta, S ; Caglia, Jm ; Langer, A. [Pregnancy Options Counseling and Abortion Referrals Among US Primary Care Physicians: Results From a National Survey](#). *Fam Med* 2017;49(7):527-536.

Shiba, K., Kondo, N., Kondo, K., & Kawachi, I. (2017). Retirement and mental health: does social participation mitigate the association? A fixed-effects longitudinal analysis. *BMC public health*, 17(1), 526.

Trudel-Fitzgerald, C., Qureshi, F., Appleton, A. A., & Kubzansky, L. D. (2017). [A healthy mix of emotions: Underlying biological pathways linking emotions to physical health](#). *Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences*, 15, 16-21.

Sparer EH, Prendergast DP, Apell JN, Bartzak MR, Wagner GR, MD, Adamkiewicz G, Hart JE, and Sorensen G. [Assessment of Ambient Exposures Firefighters Encounter While at the Fire Station: An Exploratory Study](#). *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*. Online first.

Zaitso, M. Ichiro Kawachi, Takumi Takeuchi, Yasuki Kobayashi. Alcohol consumption and risk of upper-tract urothelial cancer. *Cancer Epidemiology*. Volume 48, June 2017, 36-40.

Center for the History of Medicine acquires papers from SBS faculty



Center for the
History of Medicine

The Center for the History of Medicine at Countway Library recently added the records of the Harvard Prevention Research Center (HPRC) and the papers of the HPRC’s Director, **Steven L. Gortmaker**. The Center also recently acquired the papers of **Marie C. McCormick**, 1956-2016 (inclusive), 1968-2009 (bulk). Both sets of records are open to research.

More information on the collections may be found in their online finding aids: <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HMS.Count:med00242> (Harvard Prevention Research Center Records); and <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HMS.Count:med00243> (Steven L. Gortmaker papers).

For more information on McCormick’s collection, please visit: <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HMS.Count:med00244>.

Arrivals and Departures

Teresa Bellone was recently hired as the new Academic Affairs Assistant in SBS. Teresa has prior student services experience at the Harvard Summer School and we are excited to have her join us here in SBS! She will be working with the Academic Affairs team four days a week.

Pritha Chatterjee, MPH '17 was recently hired as a Research Assistant for Vish Viswanath.

Rockli Kim, SD '17, Yongjoo Kim, SD '17 and Xiaoyu Li, SD '17 were all recently appointed as research fellows.

Adina Berindean-Coroiu and **Anne-Josée Guimond** were recently welcomed as visiting graduate students.

Jewel Gausman, SD' 17 was recently appointed as a visiting scientist.

Molly Knox and **Huiru Tao** were recently hired as staff at the Harvard Prevention Research Center.

Bella Garrison accepted a new role as Graduate Affairs and Data Administrator for the Graduate Medical Sciences Program at Boston University Medical School. Bella was also accepted into the MPH program at Boston University School of Public Health.

Reggie Tucker-Seeley accepted a faculty position at the University of Southern California in the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology (<http://gero.usc.edu/>). He was also selected for the 2017-2018 class of RWJF Health Policy Fellows (<https://nam.edu/six-health-professionals-selected-for-robert-wood-johnson-foundation-health-policy-fellows-program-at-the-national-academy-of-medicine/>).

Social Landmark Update

Over the last few months, fellows from the SBS community have participated in various rewarding Social Landmark activities. During our last social-research activity on April 26th, we had a very stimulating discussion thanks to Professor Steven Gortmaker, who provided us with very insightful input in several research and lifestyle related topics. We also had a great time at Bar Louie on June 8th at our Happy Hour event, where we said farewell to several fellows who found new positions at other universities, or returned to their own country. To start the new semester on a happy note, we hope that fellows will join us for another Happy Hour at Bar Louie on September 19th, where we hope to welcome the new members of the SBS Community!



– Krisztina and MasaZ

Awards & Announcements

- **Avanti Bharat Adhia, SD '18** received a Teaching Assistant Award.
- **Alen Agaronov, SD '19** was named a New Civics Scholar and was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Spencer Foundation as part of the New Civics Early Career Scholars Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.
- **Katie Cueva, SD '17** was awarded the Dr. Fang-Ching Sun Memorial Award for her dedication to promoting the health of vulnerable people.
- **Ann Crawford-Roberts, MPH '17** was awarded the Gareth M. Green Award for Excellence in Public Health Practice.
- **Rochelle Frounfelker, SD '17** recently accepted a Postdoctoral Fellow position at the Division of Social and Cultural Psychiatry at McGill University.
- **Steven Hafner, SD '18** presented on the federal role in building capacity for tribal research and evaluation at the National Congress of American Indians' Mid Year Pre-Conference Data Partners Gathering in Uncasville, CT.
- **Yulin Hswen, SD '18** won a Harvard-wide innovation challenge for her project, Planetary Health Watch: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/features/student-environmental-surveillance-system-innovation-grant/>
- **Gilberto Lopez, SD '18** was awarded a predoctoral slot on the Cancer Prevention Fellowship.
- **Cassandra A. Okechukwu** received a Mentoring Award for enriching students' academic, professional, and personal development.
- **Farah Qureshi, SD '18** won a Best Student Poster Award at the 2017 Society for Epidemiologic Research Annual Meeting for her poster titled "Sex differences in the relationship between socioeconomic factors and cardiometabolic health from childhood to adolescence." Farah was also recently awarded with a Dissertation Research Award by the Lee Kum Sheung Center for Health and Happiness for the 2017-2018 academic year.
- **Jill Roncarati, SD '16** was awarded a postdoctoral slot on the Cancer Prevention Fellowship.
- **Kathryn Smith, SD '19** was awarded a predoctoral slot on the Cancer Prevention Fellowship.
- **Elizabeth Solomon, Assistant Director for Academic Affairs and Fellowship Programs**, received a Staff Recognition Award for her impact on the lives of students at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.
- **Theresa Timmes, MPH '17** was awarded the James H. Ware Award for Achievement in the Practice of Public Health.
- **Claudia Trudel-Fitzgerald**, a research fellow working with Laura Kubzansky, led a study on the role of optimism and happiness in adoption of a healthy lifestyle. The study was selected as one of nine abstracts reflecting best and newest thinking on the topic of positive health and wellness for the Fifth World Congress on Positive Psychology. Claudia was also invited as a guest speaker for the pre-conference day which was held in Montreal.
- **Dr. David R. Williams** recently received three awards. In May he received the Art of Healing Award from the Cambridge Health Alliance. This annual award "celebrates visionary men and women who transcend boundaries, joyfully embrace humanity, and profoundly inspire the healing of body and spirit." In June, in Washington, DC., he received the Legacy Award from the U.S. Dream Academy. Previous Legacy awardees include former Pres. Bill Clinton and Cicely Tyson. In August, at the 2017 meeting of the American Sociological Association in Montreal, he will receive the Leonard I. Pearlin Award for Distinguished Contributions to the sociological study of mental health. Dr. Williams will also present the Pearlin Award Lecture at the annual meeting.

Events

Women, Gender, and Health Concentration Lunch

August 29, 2017, 1:00 -1:50pm in Kresge 110.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/WGHWelcome>

For students interested in the WGH concentration, this is the initial info session and meet and greet!



SBS 550: Program Evaluation (CDC Winter Session course) Information session

Please join Marie McCormick and Mary Jean Brown for a required information session on their winter field trip course, [SBS 550](#).

September 11, 2017

1:00-1:50pm in FXB G12. Lunch will be served.

This event will also be live streamed for those who can't attend in person.

RSVP to Caroline Huntington, chunting@hsph.harvard.edu by 9/7/17.



The Fenway Institute: A Community-Based Center for LGBTQ Health Research, Education, and Policy Dissemination

The Women Gender and Health concentration is sponsoring their first guest speaker event for the year. Please join Dr. Kenneth Mayer and Dr. Jennifer Potter from [Fenway Health](#).

September 12, 2017, 1:00-1:50pm in Kresge 502.



Advancing Women in Public Health & Medicine Symposium

Sponsored by the **Teikyo-Harvard Program**, the symposium will address how individuals and institutions can augment existing, and create new, avenues for women in the fields of public health and medicine to develop new skills and exercise leadership.

September 15, 2017

8:00 a.m.—12:45 p.m.

Joseph B. Martin Conference Center (Rotunda)

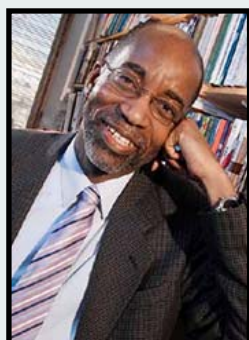
77 Louis Pasteur Avenue, Boston, MA 02215



For more information and to register, visit: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/social-and-behavioral-sciences/advancing-women-in-public-health-medicine-symposium/>

Events (cont.)

SBS Student-Faculty Luncheon with Drs. Andy Tan and David R. Williams



The SBS Department welcomes all MPH-HSB, SBS SD and SBS-PhD students for our kick-off Student-Faculty lunch hosted by Drs. Andy Tan and David R. Williams. This is a chance to meet new colleagues and enjoy lunch on us!

Friday, September 22, 2017

1:00-2:00pm

Kresge 110

The Lee Kum Sheung Center for Health and Happiness Seminar Series presents:



Nico Pronk, PhD

Chief Scientific Officer, HealthPartners
Adjunct Professor in Social and Behavioral Sciences
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

1:00-2:00pm

Additional details to follow.

Challenges and Opportunities in American Indian/Alaskan Native Health



An introduction to the salient issues and efforts through HUNAP's Nation Building II course for hands-on projects to address health inequalities and inequities.

Dennis Norman, Ed.D., ABPP

Faculty Chair, Harvard University Native American Program
Senior Psychologist, Massachusetts General Hospital

Thursday, Sept 28, 2017

1:00-1:50pm in FXB G12

Co-sponsored by the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Women Gender and Health Concentration.

Questions, suggestions, ideas? Email us: sbs@hsph.harvard.edu

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