

## Congratulations HSPH Heroes!

Three HSPH staffers are among this year's Harvard Heroes--employees nominated by their colleagues in recognition of their "above and beyond" contributions to the University:

**Sarah Bearse**, senior AV engineer and technical manager, Information Technology and Division of Policy Translation and Leadership Development; **Kate Falb**, program manager, Health Rights of Women and Children, Society of Human Development and Health; and **Rupal Shah**, laboratory manager, Fortune Laboratory, Department of Immunology & Infectious Diseases. They will be honored at a ceremony on June 5 in Memorial Hall, Sanders Theatre.

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## Simple, low-cost checklist dramatically improves practices of health workers during childbirth



A new study from HSPH and the World Health Organization found that a simple checklist-based childbirth safety program dramatically improved adherence to essential childbirth practices at a pilot hospital in south India. Of 29 practices measured, 28 were improved after adoption of the checklist. In addition, overall adherence to essential practices was 150% better after the checklist was introduced. [Read more](#)

## New research explores role of genetics in smoking and lung cancer



HSPH researchers have found strong evidence suggesting that certain genetic variants associated with nicotine dependence are directly associated with lung cancer, independent of their influence on increasing smoking. Even so, for people who have the variants, smoking could potentially be more lethal than for those without them. [Read more](#)

## Newer antiepileptic drugs associated with lower risk to fetuses

For pregnant women with epilepsy, most new anticonvulsant drugs may be less likely than older ones to cause malformations in their fetuses, according to a new study by an HSPH

### [Commencement Celebration](#)



**May 23  
4:00-7:00 PM  
Commencement tent, Kresge courtyard**

The entire HSPH community is invited to celebrate with graduating students, their families, and friends in a casual setting. Student awards will be presented.

### [Commencement Ceremony](#)



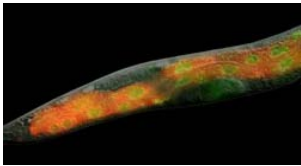
**May 24  
2:30-5:00**  
HSPH's ceremony will be televised in Kresge and webcast live.



researcher and colleagues. [Read more](#)

## Around the School

### TREC Center tackles obesity, cancer prevention



The TREC Center at HSPH recently awarded funding to several pilot projects, including one led by [William Mair](#), assistant professor of genetics and complex diseases, that uses a transparent nematode worm (pictured) to explore the link between caloric intake and cancer and other aging-related diseases. [Read more](#)

### Franziska Michor honored at Alice Hamilton Lecture



[Franziska Michor](#), associate professor of computational biology, received HSPH's second annual Alice Hamilton Award on April 11, 2012 in recognition of her work applying evolutionary theory to cancer. [Read more](#)

### William Foege to receive Presidential Medal of Freedom



HSPH alumnus William Foege, MPH '65, legendary for his work in the late 1970s to eradicate smallpox, has been named one of 13 recipients of the 2012 Presidential Medal of Freedom. The award--the nation's highest civilian honor--will be presented at the White House in late spring. [Read more](#)

### Simulated conference teaches students about complexity of health aid negotiations



Students "represented" NGOs for the third annual Harvard Aid for Health Simulation, an effort aimed at giving students hands-on experience, through dramatic immersion, in the complicated negotiations involved in funding international health aid. [Read more](#)

### For both bullies and victims, victimization plays a role



Bullies are often victims of violence themselves, Melissa Holt, assistant professor in the Boston University School of Education, recently told an HSPH audience. [Read more](#)

### VIDEOS: Voices from the Field



Watch recent talks by K. Sujatha Rao, former Indian health secretary, and Swati Piramal, director of Piramal Healthcare.

### Research news and interviews



[While Americans debate, other nations adopt coverage for all](#) (Los Angeles Times)

[HSPH Healthy Pyramid helps guide Google's cafes](#) (Los Angeles Times)