HPM in Action

Learning from Sandy
The National Preparedness Leadership Initiative’s (NPLI) Founding Co-Director Dr. Leonard Marcus, Director of the NPLI Urban Terrorism Project Dr. Isaac Ashkenazi, and Senior Associate Eric McNulty each visited the areas affected by super storm Sandy to conduct field research with response leaders in early November. “We try to get into the area whenever a crisis hits. You cannot duplicate this firsthand experience,” said Marcus. “We learn a tremendous amount about the challenges that our graduates and students face in areas of public health and population resilience. We also glean insight into what we’ve taught them about meta-leadership that they are finding useful.”

Among the many NPLI alumni involved in the response were FEMA Deputy Administrator Rich Serino and US Coast Guard Rear Admiral Dan Abel. Time was also spent with friends of the program such as New York City Office of Emergency Management Commissioner Joe Bruno and Richard Reed, Deputy Assistant to the President for Homeland Security. A number of current students were also involved. “The program gains tremendous credibility by our presence in the field and we gather material for case studies and other enhancements to our curriculum,” said McNulty. “This keeps the teaching relevant and fresh.” The NPLI is a joint program of the Harvard School of Public Health and the Kennedy School of Government’s Center for Public Leadership. More than 500 public, private, and non-profit leaders have been graduated from the NPLI’s executive education program. The NPLI is supported by the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of The Assistant Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response. In earlier years, it was supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (written by Eric McNulty)

HPM Comings and Goings
Welcome new HPM team members

- Sruthi Valluri, Research Assistant and Nealia Khan, Biostatistician, both are working on Thomas Gaziano’s Cardiovascular Disease Policy Model project
- Eric Buehrens, Adjunct Instructor
- Elizabeth Nolan, Program Assistant, Academic Programs and Student Services

Bon Voyage and Best Wishes
- Elizabeth Morse, Director of Administration for Atul Gawande’s team
After Hours Pursuits of HPM Faculty and Staff

Once again it is amazing to see the diversity of talent in the HPM department. When we asked people what they did “after hours” we were struck with all the exciting endeavors and pursuits of our staff and faculty. For example, did you know Eric McNulty developed a cool and informative travel site www.executivenomad.com packed with recommendations for food, wine, hotels, and other travel related activities? Visit the site and share your own recommendations as well!

Taking a break from work, plenty of folks in HPM enjoy the stress release of physical activity.

- Yelena Kuznetsov is a faithful practitioner of hot, vinyasa style yoga at the Baron Baptiste Yoga studio in Brookline Village. She says, “Yoga has taught me how to do fun things like stand on my head, but also how to accept life’s challenges, smile, and move on.”
- Stephen Resch enjoys long bicycle camping trips when his schedule allows. Imagine this, he rode a bicycle across France from the English Channel to the Mediterranean Sea, and once rode across the state of Iowa (2004).
- Ben Sommers, Karen Joynt, Dan Liebman, Sid Le, and Josie Fisher play in a softball league together. More to come on that this spring when the team is recruiting new players!
- This fall, Colin Fleming, as part of a team of twelve, ran the Ragnar Adirondack team relay race from Saratoga Springs to Lake Placid, NY. Each runner ran three legs of the 197 mile race, running around the clock. The team finished the race in 27 hours, 49 minutes and 57 seconds and earned a place of 20th out of the 117 mixed gender teams.
- Josie Fisher coaches an under-9 boys soccer team in Newton and plays ice hockey herself in a women’s league.
- Milt Weinstein hikes the White Mountains in the summer, and so far has climbed 43 of the 48 4,000-footers in New Hampshire. He invites others to join him on the remaining five.

Others share their talents with broader community.

- Alison Armstrong and her husband volunteer for an animal rescue, fostering dogs until they find their “forever” homes. The dogs come from over-populated shelters in the South and are adopted by families in New England. They have two dogs of their own, one of which is deaf and they have even taught him sign language!
- Milt Weinstein also keeps busy by playing oboe, something he took up just five years ago, and plays with the Chestnut Orchestra of the All Newton Music School, and in two informal chamber groups.

Now you know a little more about several of our faculty and staff. We will highlight more of these talents in the future; be sure to share some of your pursuits as well!

Student Spotlight Tari Owi (HPM SM2 - 2014)

Prior to attending the Harvard School of Public Health, current SM2 student Tari Owi worked as a Research Analyst at Thomson Reuters (now Truven Health Analytics) Healthcare & Science outcomes research department. At Reuters, Tari was responsible for data analysis and coordinating project teams on cost modeling and treatment pattern outcomes projections for pharmaceutical clients and Fortune 500 firms. Tari also worked for the Director of Health Information Exchange at the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology at the US Department of Health and Human Services. At ONC, Tari staffed the Information Exchange Workgroup of the Health Information Technology Policy Committee, as well as worked directly with state health departments using electronic medical records at immunization registries and critical access hospitals.

Since beginning at HSPH, Tari has continued to work in the health IT space as a research assistant for Ashish Jha. She is also a member of PHAT (Public Health and Technology), the Black Health Student Association, and has just started learning R. She enjoys attending the many interesting speakers and skills sessions that happen on campus every day, and says that her favorite part of being at HSPH is “The people, the staff and students...everyone has different skills and interests, but are all focused on improving healthcare in some shape or form. I find that I learn from them when working on problem sets together, sitting in lab, riding the M2 or just sitting in the cafeteria. I'm lucky to be here.” Tari is committed to improving health quality and delivery. “The best thing about healthcare is that there are so many ways to work in the field!” she says. Outside of school she is “addicted to her Google Reader” and loves trolling political articles.