NewsCatcher
The latest news for and about our SPH community

September 4, 2014

SPH in the News

Health: Your zip code is more important than your genetic code - *KIRO Radio;* interviews **Tao Kwan-Gett** (HServ)

Mobile phones save lives in Timor-Leste - *Huffington Post;* blog post by **Mary Anne Mercer** (HServ, GH) mentions **Susan Thompson** (GH)

UW program seeks to grow better farmers and consumers - *Seattle Times;* cites funding by **SPH**

Louisville's urban heat islands are among nation's most intense - *WFPL Radio;* quotes **Howard Frumkin** (OD, DEOHS)

Recently Awarded Grants & Contracts »

Who Knew??

Katie Wakefield (GH) paddleboards to work from her home in Wallingford during the summer. "I said that it was my summer goal to do it once but it's so easy that I try to do it a few times a week. It truly is an amazing way to get to work. Most people don't believe me." See photo on Facebook.

On the Calendar

Sept. 9-10
Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference

Sept. 11, 10-10:50am
Health Promotion Research Center Overview and Accomplishments

Sept. 18, 8-9am
Public Health and Health Care Transformation

Sept. 22, 11am-2pm
SPH Field Day

We'll keep you busy: take a look at the SPH Events Calendar.

Town Hall Talks

SPH and Town Hall Seattle

Congrats!

Judith Wasserheit (GH, Epi) was named new chair of the Department of Global Health, taking over from founding chair **King Holmes** (GH, Epi), who will remain on faculty.

PhD student **Lindsay White** (HServ) has been selected to receive the $25,000 Alvin R. Tarlov & John E. Ware Jr. Doctoral Dissertation Award in Patient Reported Outcomes for 2014-2015.

Michael Gale (GH), **Bruce Psaty** (Epi) and **David Siscovick** (Epi) were among the 27 UW faculty who made the Highly Cited Researchers 2014 list compiled by Thompson Reuters.

The National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center, led by **Walter Kukull** (Epi), received a five-year competitive renewal grant of $19.7 million from the National Institute on Aging.

Sarah Nelson (Biostat) is a semi-finalist for the 2014 Charles J. Epstein Trainee Award for Excellence in Human Genetics Research. She will be a PhD candidate in Public Health Genetics this fall.

Diana Buist (Epi, HServ) is a Senior Scholar in Residence at AcademyHealth in Wash., D.C. She is applying her expertise to improve research translation and the speed with which evidence is effectively applied in health policy.

Making a Difference

A nationally adopted SPH program has been helping seniors overcome minor or chronic depression since the 1990s. It's called PEARLS, short for the Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives, and was developed by the Health Promotion Research Center. Trained health or social service professionals empower clients to make positive changes in their lives. In one study, PEARLS participants were found to be three times more likely to significantly reduce depressive symptoms or completely eliminate their depression. PEARLS is offered by more than 50 providers in 14 states, and to date has served more than 2,000 participants. HPRC continues to provide technical assistance for PEARLS and conducts research to improve how the program is delivered. Read this story to find out how it's helped one Filipino-American ex-marine (pictured, above right) in Seattle.

Around the Water Cooler

Jonathan Mayer (representing Epi) was elected chair of the SPH Faculty Council for the 2014-15 academic year while **Joel Kaufman** (DEOHS) was re-elected Vice Chair. Other members of the Council: **Barbara McKnight** (Biostat), **Steve Gloyd** (GH), **Jeff Harris** (HServ) and **Adam Drewnowski** (Interdisciplinary).

The DEOHS Graduate Program Office, headed by **Rory Murphy**, received a $22,000 UW grant for

will kick off a series of "Health Matters" talks organized by **Tao Kwan-Gett** (HServ) to encourage broad thinking about public health. The first event, Public Health and Education, is at 7:30pm Sept. 10.

Opportunities

Check out the SPH job listings page for national and local public health jobs and opportunities.

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a new remote-access server that has more computing power than the department's 12 general-use computers combined.

I-TECH was instrumental in the design of Gondar University Hospital's Comprehensive Outpatient Center in Ethiopia. **King Holmes** (GH, Epi) spoke at its launch, alongside Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and the US Ambassador.

A new fall seminar, Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security, will kick off Sept. 25 featuring a range of experts, including representatives from Starbucks, McDonalds and Seattle Tilth. Organized by the Nutritional Sciences program, the weekly lectures are open to all UW staff, students and faculty.

Two Public Health majors, senior **Margaret Babayan** (pictured) and **Nicole Okada** (since graduated) were among the 22 "Letterwallahs" writing personal letters to an idea, a thing (a rice dish), a person (a beggar girl), an idea, as part of their summer study last year in Bangalore, India. These creative letters have now been collected into a book, "T.I.P.S. to Study Abroad, Simple Letters for Complex Engagement."

The Human-Animal Medicine project, directed by **Peter Rabinowitz** (DEOHS, GH), has a new name and a new status: the Center for One Health Research. It explores the links between human, animal and environmental health.

Kris Ebi (GH, DEOHS) presented at the WHO conference on health and climate in Geneva last week -- a "watershed moment in making health central in international and national actions to avoid, prepare for, and cope with the risks of current and future climate change," Ebi said.

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