



# NewsCatcher

The latest news for and about our SPH community

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August 21, 2014

## Got News?

E-mail [sphnews@uw.edu](mailto:sphnews@uw.edu) to submit your news!

## SPH in the News

[Deforestation, development may be driving Ebola outbreaks, experts say](#) - *Al Jazeera America*; quotes **Kristie Ebi** (GH, DEOHS)

[Pursuing health equity lands grad student on global stage](#) - *HSNewsBeat*; interviews **Jillian Pintye** (MPH, Epi-GH '14)

[Concerned about Ebola? King County top doctor offers reassurance](#) - *Seattle Times*; quotes **Jeff Duchin** (Epi)

[Study finds little benefit, some harm from steroid shots for back pain](#) - *Reuters Health*; cites research by **Biostat** and **HServ**

## Recently Awarded Grants & Contracts »

## Who Knew??



**Patrick Heagerty (Biostat)** cycles to work from his

home on Vashon Island and once worked as a bike mechanic. He is the incoming chair of the Biostatistics Department.

## On the Calendar

**Aug 24-28**

[Annual International Society for Environmental Epidemiology Conference](#)

**Sept. 10, 7:30pm**  
[Health Matters: Public Health Goes Back to School](#)

**Sept. 18, 8-9am**  
[Public Health and Health Care Transformation](#)

*We'll keep you busy: take a look at the [SPH Events Calendar](#).*

## New Video

Watch our [latest video](#) on how the Field Research and Consultation Group (DEOHS) helps make workplaces safer.

## Opportunities

## Congrats!



**Veronika Skrivankova** (PhD student, Biostat) won first place in the 2014 Statistical Significance Poster Competition with her one-page topic, "[Can biomarkers be combined to guide treatment?](#)"



**Mary-Claire King** (Epi) was chosen to receive the 2014 [Basser Global Prize](#) from the University of Pennsylvania's Basser Research Center for BRCA. The award provides \$200,000 for research and a \$10,000 personal prize.



Four MHA students won 2014 scholarships from the WA chapter of the Health Information and Management Systems Society: **Musa Camara**, **Victor Kao**, **Leslie Mallinger** and **Chelsea Steinborn**.



Seattle BioMed's **Marilyn Parsons** (GH) was recently [elected to Fellowship](#) in the American Academy of Microbiology.



**Donald Chi** (HServ) received funding from the William T. Grant Foundation to mentor Stephanie Cruz, a third-year PhD student in anthropology, on how research informs class-action lawsuits involving state Medicaid programs. They will examine cases in five states where litigation resulted in policies aimed at improving access to dental care.



## Making a Difference



Associate Professor **Edmund Seto** (DEOHS) is working with a low-income, primarily Latino community in Imperial County, CA, to measure air pollution using mobile devices he developed. The community has consistently had one of the highest asthma hospitalization and emergency room visit rates in the state for school-aged children. However, a limited number of air pollution monitors makes it difficult to identify and address locations of concern. The project is in collaboration with community residents, Comité Cívico del Valle - a group that advocates for health and the environment - and the California Environmental Health Tracking Program. Information will help develop policies and practices to reduce exposures. *Photo by Brian Donohue.*

## Around the Water Cooler



Dean **Howard Frumkin** (OD, DEOHS) has been asked to serve on the Governor's Council for the Healthiest Next Generation, a new initiative focused on creating environments that encourage children to be active, eat well, drink water, and maintain a healthy weight.



MPH student **Abdirashid Abdi Isaak** (GH) was interviewed by undergrad **Nicole Advani** (GH) for [a feature](#) in *Borgen Magazine* about his roots in Kenya, his journey to the U.S., and his passion for global health.

Check out the [SPH job listings page](#) for national and local public health jobs and opportunities.

Missed an issue of *NewsCatcher*? [Find it in the Archive](#) (UW netID required).



**Hank Williams** is the new Assistant Director for Finance and Administration in Health Services. He has more than a decade of high-level financial management experience at UW.



**Sara Mackenzie's** (OD, HServ) public health textbook made headlines on the [Today show](#) after parents in the Bay Area complained a chapter on sexual health was too racy for high-schoolers. Sara notes it was written for college students, but is still appropriate for younger audiences. Read [her reaction](#) in *Salon*.



New DEOHS Chair **Mike Yost** and PhD graduate/research scientist **Tania Busch-Isaksen** (DEOHS) will present at the [5th Annual Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference](#)



Sept. 9-10 on campus. Their session is on heat-health risks in the region and public policy development.



**Amelia Vader** (GH) and **Kyle Davidson** (MPH, COPHP '14) tied the knot in early August on Whidbey Island, followed by a honeymoon on the Oregon coast.

Sent to you twice monthly by the Office of the Dean, [University of Washington School of Public Health](#)

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