NewsCatcher
The latest news for and about our SPH community

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November 20, 2014

SPH in the News

Politics gets in the way of signing up for health insurance - *Washington Post;* cites research led by **Anirban Basu** (HServ)

Why we don't know the real Ebola mortality rate in the US - *FiveThirtyEight;* quotes **Elizabeth Halloran** (Biostat, Epi)

Africa's top health challenge: cardiovascular disease - *The Atlantic;* quotes **Rachel Nugent** (GH)

Just one sickle cell gene may raise kidney disease risk - *Futurity;* quotes **Alexander Reiner** (Epi)

Recently Awarded Grants & Contracts »

Who Knew??

Abraham Flaxman (GH) caught the coding bug before he was in kindergarten, writing programs at a computer camp that drew flowers onscreen. Today, as an assistant professor, he works on a computer program that cleans up messy data on diseases, "allowing researchers to monitor the spread of these ailments and stop them in their tracks," according to a profile in *USA Today* that dubbed him the "Nate Silver of public health."

On the Calendar

Nov. 24, 8:30am-5:30pm
The Kronmal Symposium: Lessons Learned from Cardiovascular Epidemiology

Nov. 24, 7:30pm
Ebola Relief Concert: A Musical Response

Nov. 25, 3:30-4:50pm
Climate Change: Shared Socioeconomic Pathways and Climate Change Research

Dec. 4, 12:30-1:20pm
Perspectives on the Future of Safety and Health at Boeing

Congrats!

This year's winners of the Grayston-Day Endowed Fellowships are MPH student **Kim Kummer** (Epi) and PhD student **Frank Angelo** (HServ). The $10,000 awards support outstanding grad students under-represented in public health.

PhD student Clara Dominguez-Islas (Biostat) won an oral presentation award at the annual Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) conference. The SPH Diversity Committee awarded her a travel scholarship for the event.

A shifting government structure, power outages, and even the threat of crocodiles didn't deter the International Training and Education Center for Health (I-TECH) from implementing an electronic medical records system at more than 340 clinics and district hospitals across Kenya.

Undergraduate **Vadim Motso** (Env. Health) was recognized as an "Extraordinary Student" by the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs for the month of September.

Hendrika Meischke (HServ) and **Janet Baseman** (Epi, HServ) received a $1.8 million grant from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to study the impact of next-generation technology (Skype, text-messaging, video, etc.) on 911 emergency call-takers. Read more about the grant and find out who's on the research team.

Making a Difference

Abigail Halperin (HServ) and Research Assistant **Nick Fradkin** (MPH/MPA student) recently returned from Beijing, where they took part in a program to train smoking cessation counselors and public health program managers to provide increased access to treatment for tobacco dependence. Halperin and Fradkin were part of a six-person team from the International Quitline Institute (IQI) that conducted a training program developed with the WHO. Forty-five trainees from 15 Chinese provinces took part in the event, co-hosted by the China CDC. About half the group will put their newfound skills to work as counselors for China's public health hotline, while the other half will apply their learnings in other agencies working to decrease tobacco use in their communities. Halperin co-founded the IQI in 2010.

Around the Water Cooler

Michael Yost (DEOHS) and **Joel Kaufman** (DEOHS, Epi) shared research on traffic-related air pollution and health impacts of climate change with Gov. Jay Inslee this week during the governor's visit to South Seattle. Research scientist **Tania Busch Isaksen** (PhD '14) also took part. Read more.

Anne Marie Kimball (Epi), alumna **Karin**

Dec. 10, 6pm
[Health Matters: Health as a Human Right](#)

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

New SPH Awards

The School has announced two new annual $1,000 awards for staff, faculty and students. The **Making a Difference Award** will recognize work that benefits the health of a community. The **Communicating Public Health to the Public Award** recognizes an effective op-ed, video, Ted talk, etc. [Read more](#).

Opportunities

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).

Huster (MPH '13) and **Scott Lindquist** (Epi) are featured in these KCTS 9 [videos of the top six questions](#) about Ebola at a recent Town Hall Seattle event.

Elham Morshedzadeh and **Jamie Stillwill** were two of a small army of SPH student volunteers at the Remote Area Medical clinic held recently at Seattle Center. Using tablet computers, they surveyed patients to learn why people who came to the free clinic do not have access to the health care they need. **Ian Maki** (HServ) at Group Health Research Institute is leading the evaluation project.

Four Public Health undergrads have joined the annual Ride in the Rain commute challenge: **Veronica Bechtold**, **Will Tsang**, **James Michael Lenert** and **Brittani Calvert**. There's still time to join their team, [Mudboggers](#).

Have any new or slightly used clothing you'd care to donate to the homeless or less fortunate? The Health Administration Student Association is hosting a winter clothing drive through Dec. 3 for [The Bridge Care Center](#) of Ballard. Drop off locations: T-341 (MHA Cubicle) and the SPH Student Lounge (F-332).

A team from Global Health, captained by **Daren Wade**, raised more than $3,000 for the recent Seattle AIDS Walk. See [a team photo](#).

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

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