



UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

NEWS LINK

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Submit Article/Event

Archives

SPH NEWS:

- [School of Public Health Receives Autism Center of Excellence Award from NIH](#)
- [Drexel Places Full-Page Ad in The Philadelphia Inquirer on Autism Award](#)
- [Two Students Receive Provost Fellowship Scholarships](#)
- [Dr. Mariana Chilton Pens Op-Ed on Hunger](#)
- [Drexel Celebrates National Public Health Week](#)
- [New MS in Biostatistics Offered](#)

Events:

- [Calling All Alumni: Special Reception at The Pyramid Club 4/29. RSVP Today.](#)
- [Calling All Alumni: Drexel Blue & Gold Alumni Weekend 5/2 – 5/3](#)
- [April 24, 2008 Grand Rounds: CDC Director Howard Frumkin to Discuss Climate Change and Health Response](#)

Newly Posted Jobs/Internships/Fellowships:

- [Senior Laboratory Services Advisor, Dept of Health and Human Services -- **Deadline: April 27, 2008**](#)
- [Field Organizer, Greenpeace -- **Deadline: April 28, 2008**](#)
- [Director, Bassett Healthcare](#)
- [Youth Health Project Coordinator, DC Area Health Education Center](#)
- [Program Manager, Maternity Care Coalition](#)
- [Program Associate, Maternity Care Coalition](#)
- [Environmental Health Specialist, Montgomery County Human Resources Department](#)
- [Health Education Coordinator, University of Texas at Austin](#)
- [Senior Policy Associate, New York Academy of Medicine](#)
- [Field Researcher, Yale School of Public Health](#)
- [Telephone Interviewer \(PT\), Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#)

SPH News:

[School of Public Health Awarded \\$14M NIH Grant for Autism Research](#)

The Drexel University School of Public Health was awarded on April 1, 2008 an Autism Centers of Excellence (ACE) grant from the National Institutes of Health for more than \$14,300,000 to examine risk factors and the development of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in expectant mothers and their babies. The ACE is the largest grant received by the School of Public Health in its 11-year history.

The School of Public Health will use the grant to establish a network of research sites nationwide that will study possible risk factors and biological indicators for ASD during the prenatal, neonatal and early postnatal periods. The researchers aim to follow 1,200 mothers of children with autism at the start of a new pregnancy and document the development of the newborn through 36 months of age.



The School of Public Health will coordinate the overall study and will lead the Philadelphia research field site. The grant was awarded to Craig J. Newschaffer, PhD, Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, who will serve as the principal investigator.

"The project will build a network of parents and families participating in groundbreaking studies on the etiology of autism spectrum disorders," said Newschaffer. "The Autism Center of Excellence grant will help Drexel advance our ongoing research on ASD risk factors, and reach new heights in autism care and research."

The project, entitled the Early Autism Risk Longitudinal Investigation (EARLI) Study, will examine possible autism environmental risk factors and biomarkers during different developmental windows, as well as the interplay of genetic susceptibility and environmental exposure. A number of environmental exposures will be investigated. The study is also expected to advance researchers' understanding of the natural history and progression of ASDs.

For news coverage of the grant, as well as a list of local partners, please see the full story at www.publichealth.drexel.edu/586.

[Back to top](#)

[Drexel Places Full-Page Ad in The Philadelphia Inquirer Saluting School for Autism Award](#)

Drexel University placed a full-page ad in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* on April 14 and 16 recognizing the School of Public Health's recent receipt of the Autism Center of Excellence award from the NIH. In the ad, President Papadakis salutes the school for its efforts. [See the ad.](#)

[Back to top](#)

[Two Students Receive Provost Fellowship Scholarships](#)

Dr. Yeetey Enameh and Eunice Omanga, doctoral students at the School of Public Health, were awarded Provost Fellowships for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 academic years. Both students will receive \$5,000 a year in recognition of their promise as outstanding doctoral candidates at Drexel University.

Dr. Enuameh joined the School of Public Health from a hospital in his native country of Ghana. As a physician, his dissertation will involve assessing the cultural, socioeconomic and political factors influencing risk taking behaviors of adolescents in Ghana and the development of intervention strategies for these adolescents.

Ms. Omanga is now preparing her dissertation proposal at the School of Public Health. Her research will explore strategies and community partnerships to prevent industrial pollution in Kenya.

[Back to top](#)

Dr. Mariana Chilton Pens Op-Ed on Hunger



Dr. Chilton, an assistant professor, co-authored an Opinion Editorial in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* on April 1, 2008. The piece focused on how today's food stamp policy does not provide enough of a subsidy for families to even meet the federal government's basic food plan. In addition, with the increasing energy and food prices, the financial strain for vulnerable families will become even greater. [Read the full article.](#)

[Back to top](#)

Drexel Celebrates National Public Health Week

The School of Public Health recognized national public health week with a series of community-oriented events focusing on this year's theme "Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance."



From April 7 – 13, 2008, students, faculty and alumni of the School of Public Health carried out events across the Philadelphia community to raise awareness of climate change as a public health issue and show how people can improve their health by being environmentally conscious.

For a complete wrap-up and pictures from each event, visit www.publichealth.drexel.edu/587.

[Back to top](#)

New MS in Biostatistics Offered

The School of Public Health now offers a Masters of Science Degree in Biostatistics starting the fall 2008 term. The full-time, two-year MS program is designed to prepare students to make immediate contributions to the biomedical research field. Applications for the fall 2008 term are being accepted up to June 1, 2008.

As a fully-accredited school of public health, Drexel features nationally and internationally recognized faculty housed in a national research university known for its use of technology, small class size, and individual attention from faculty members. The program also features a practicum research experience based in a public health or biomedical setting.

"At Drexel, you don't just learn it, you live it," said Craig J. Newschaffer, a professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. "An MS degree in Biostatistics is highly marketable and in demand. New research approaches and technologies generate complex data, which is now creating exciting new opportunities for those capable of managing and analyzing these datasets."

The School of Public Health now offers seven degree programs – including fulltime, doctoral and executive (weekend) tracks – and an epidemiology certificate program.

For more information on the new degree program, visit www.publichealth.drexel.edu/msbiostat.

[Back to top](#)

EVENTS

Calling All Alumni: School of Public Health Reception 4/29

The School of Public Health is hosting a special reception on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM at The Pyramid Club in Center City, Philadelphia. All alumni are invited to attend.

Please join us as we celebrate the recent achievements and milestones of the School of Public Health, and welcome our newest faculty members. Cocktails and Hors d'Oeuvres will be provided.

Please RSVP by April 25, 2008 to Anne Jensen at (215) 762-8868 or anne.r.jensen@drexel.edu.

[Back to top](#)

Calling All Alumni: Drexel Blue & Gold Alumni Weekend 5/2 – 5/3

Return to Drexel to reminisce or revisit with old friends, staff and colleagues at this year's Blue & Gold Alumni Weekend on May 2 and 3, 2008.

This year, the School of Public Health will be hosting family-oriented activities at the Alumni Family Picnic on Saturday, May 2 from 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM. The Quad on the University City campus will be transformed into a pirates paradise for kids. The picnic includes many games and activities, as well as a BBQ.

For more information and to register, please visit www.drexel.edu/alumni.

[Back to top](#)

CDC Director Howard Frumkin to Discuss Climate Change and Health Response at April 24 Grand Rounds



The School of Public Health welcomes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's **Dr. Howard Frumkin, MD, MPH, DrPH**, as the next

Grand Round speaker. Dr. Frumkin's discussion is entitled "**Climate Change: The Health Response**" and will be held on **Thursday, April 24, 2008 at 4:30 PM** in the **Geary A Auditorium** of the **New College Building (245 N.15th St.)**

Dr. Frumkin is the CDC's director of the National Center of Environmental Health at its Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. He is an internist, epidemiologist and environmental and occupational medicine specialist. The national center works to maintain and improve the health of the American people by promoting a healthy environment and by preventing premature death and avoidable illness and disability caused by toxic substances and other environmental hazards.

Dr. Frumkin is the author or co-author of over 160 scientific journal articles, chapters and books, which include *Urban Sprawl and Public Health*, *Emerging Illness and Society*, *Environmental Health: From Global to Local*, *Safe and Healthy School Environments* and *Green Healthcare Institutions: Health, Environment, Economics*.

[Click for event flyer.](#)

[Back to top](#)

JOBS/INTERNSHIPS

For a complete listing of recently posted jobs and internships in various public health fields, please visit www.publichealth.drexel.edu/Careers_in_Public_Health/40/.

[Back to top](#)



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