



UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
STUDENT NEWS LINK

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mmk52@drexel.edu

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FEATURE STORY

SPH Receives Nearly \$2M NIH Grant for HIV Research



The Drexel University School of Public Health received a grant of more than \$1.7M from the National Institutes of Health for a study to raise awareness of HIV risks and facilitate HIV prevention efforts in African American communities.

The \$1,770,095 grant was awarded to Lisa Bowleg, PhD, from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of the National Institutes of Health. Bowleg will use the three-year grant to fund the study "Gender Role Norms, Sexual Scripts, and Black Men's Heterosexual Risk Behaviors."

SPH Faculty Member Crafts HIV/AIDS Prevention Strategies with CDC, NIH and other Agencies



Lisa Bowleg

Lisa Bowleg, PhD, recently joined with experts from across the nation to strategize about HIV/AIDS prevention for African Americans. Bowleg, who is an associate professor at the School of Public Health's Department of Community Health & Prevention, was a featured participant in the *Research Consultation to Address Intervention Strategies for HIV/AIDS Prevention with African Americans Meeting* in Atlanta, GA on October 17 and 18.

The national conference was sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Bowleg's participation in the national conference comes on the heels of her receiving a nearly \$2M grant from the NIH to conduct HIV research and facilitate prevention efforts in African American communities.

Prof John Rich Gives Closing Remarks on Addressing Violence at Pennsylvania Public Health Association

John Rich, MD, MPH, the chair of the School of Public Health's Department of Health Management and Policy, lead the closing plenary session, "A Trauma-Informed Approach to Addressing Violence," at the Pennsylvania Public Health Association's 2007 Annual Conference on October 19.



The conference featured national and state public health officials, first responders, state health department officials, and executives from state and local food/nutrition agencies. Along with Dr. Rich, the deputy and regional health administrator from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as well as top officials from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, gave special remarks or moderated sessions. Discussions at the conference focused on emergency preparedness, environmental health and child nutrition/obesity. Mariana Chilton, PhD, MPH, an assistant professor at the School of Public Health's Department of Community Health & Prevention, was a panelist in the discussion about growth and childhood obesity.

The conference, which was titled "Collaborative Approaches to Public Health Issues," was co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health.

SPH Faculty Advance National Research on the Prevention of Cognitive Function Decline Among Elderly

Dr. Longjian Liu, associate professor, and Dr. Craig J. Newschaffer, professor and chair, of the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Department at the School of Public Health, recently presented the research "Cardiometabolic Risk and Cognitive

Function among the Elderly in the United States." The research advanced understanding of the links between cardiometabolic risk and cognitive function, and provided new avenues of study for the prevention of cognitive function decline in the elderly.

Advancing previous research, the study found new evidence of a significant association between cardiometabolic risk (CMR), which is a measure of a person's risk for diabetes and heart disease, and cognitive function decline in the elderly. The research found that subjects with two or more cardiometabolic risk factors had a significantly higher prevalence for a decline in cognitive function. In particular, physical inactivity and decreased serum HDL levels appeared to have the highest link with cognitive function.

According to the experts at Drexel, several previous studies have reported an association between cardiometabolic risk and cognitive function, but these studies have not been representative of the entire nation. The study at Drexel filled the gap by using the representative database from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys.

The study was presented by the researchers from the School of Public Health at the American College of Epidemiology's 25th Annual Meeting, September 15-18, 2007, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

For more information on the study, please visit www.publichealth.drexel.edu.

Drexel to Host Democratic Presidential Candidates Debate



Drexel University will host a Democratic presidential candidates debate Oct. 30 in the Main Building Auditorium (32nd and Chestnut Streets) from 9 to 11 p.m. It will be the first debate of presidential candidates to be held in Pennsylvania during this cycle and the fourth Democratic presidential candidates debate "sanctioned" by the Democratic National Committee.

The debate will be broadcast live on MSNBC and streamed online at Drexel's Web site, www.drexel.edu, as well as the MSNBC and NBC News 2 Go Web sites. It will be re-broadcast on Telemundo in Spanish.

Brian Williams, anchor and managing editor of "NBC Nightly News," will moderate the debate, and Tim Russert, Washington Bureau Chief and moderator of "Meet the Press," will also ask questions. "NBC Nightly News" and MSNBC's "Hardball with Chris Matthews" are expected to broadcast live from Drexel's campus.

EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Unite for Sight 5th Annual International Health Conference

SPH students are invited to attend the Unite for Sight's 5th Annual International Health Conference at Yale University from April 12 – 13, 2008.

The conference is a weekend event of ideas and exchange of best practices to improve public health and international development.

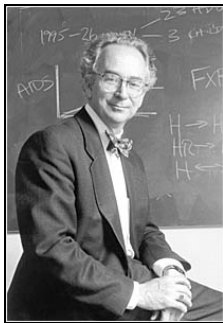


Photo by Alex Small. Unite for Sight, Inc.

Organizers anticipate up to 2,000 people interested in public health, medicine, social entrepreneurship, nonprofits, philanthropy, anthropology, eye care and international development will come to hear the more than 150 expert speakers, including keynote addresses by Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, Dr. Sonia Sachs, Dr. Susan Blumenthal and Dr. Jim Yong Kim.

Registration is \$60 for students. The rates increase after October 31, 2007. For information and registration details, visit www.uniteforsight.org/conference/2008/.

Dr. Paul Farmer to Speak on Global Health Equity and the Role of the Research University at the First Annual Jonathan Mann Health & Human Rights Memorial Lecture 11/20/07



Jonathan Mann

The School of Public Health is hosting the **inaugural, Annual Jonathan Mann Health & Human Rights Memorial Lecture** at 4:30 PM on **Tuesday, November 20** at the **Geary B Auditorium**. **Dr. Paul Farmer** will be the series' first speaker, and will give the presentation "**Global Health Equity and the Role of the Research University.**"

Dr. Farmer is a true champion of healthcare equality and social justice – and reflects the founding values instilled in the School of Public Health by Dr. Mann.

Dr. Farmer founded Partners in Health, an international nonprofit organization that provides direct health care, research and advocacy for those who are sick and living in poverty – particularly in Haiti, Russia and Peru. He also pioneered innovative, community-based treatment for AIDS and tuberculosis. Dr. Farmer proved to the world that it is possible to deliver quality healthcare in poor, rural settings. In 2003, his work was profiled in Tracy Kidder's book *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World*.



Paul Farmer
Photo by Gilles Peress

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/.

Recent postings include:

Jobs:

- **CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship**
<http://www.publichealth.drexel.edu/508>
-- Eight competitively selected fellows spend 10-12 months at the CDC in Atlanta, GA carrying out epidemiological analyses in areas of public health that interest them. Application materials must be postmarked by **Monday, December 3, 2007**.
- **The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship**
<http://publichealth.drexel.edu/SiteData/docs/Schweitzer%20Fellowship2007/78509b331e298d8516ddd71b7df9636c/Schweitzer%20Fellowship2007.pdf>
-- Information session **Tuesday, October 30, 2007** at the Jefferson Medical College (1015 Walnut St., Room 105, Philadelphia, PA). The fellowship includes a 200 hour community service project, mandatory fellowship orientation, multidisciplinary monthly fellowship meetings and a \$2,000 stipend.
- **Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Inc. Clinical Program Analyst**
<http://www.publichealth.drexel.edu/511>
-- Candidate will play a lead role in local Ryan White Part A Quality Assurance data analysis.



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