

# MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**MEMPHIS**

**SPRING 2010**

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## The School of Public Health Newsletter



*Dr. Lisa Klesges, Interim  
Dean, School of Public  
Health*

*Dr. Lisa Klesges has been named interim dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Memphis.*

Dr. Klesges has been serving as director of the School since August 2008. "I'm delighted and honored to be named interim dean of the School of Public Health at the U of M," she said. "I look forward to working collaboratively with the outstanding and gifted faculty, staff, students, and alumni."

Dr. Klesges is a Fellow with the Society of Behavioral Medicine and a prolific researcher with a special interest in childhood obesity. She is an active member of the Society of Behavioral Medicine and the North American Association for the Study of Obesity (Epidemiology Section).

"Dr. Klesges has an impressive track record as an accomplished educator, leader and researcher," said U of M Provost Ralph Faudree. "We are delighted that she is willing to serve as the interim dean while the search for a permanent dean is unfolding. Dr. Klesges has done an outstanding job as director of our new School of Public Health, positioning it for excellence and significant impact."

### MHA Program Updates

The Master of Health Administration (MHA) Program is excited to announce several accomplishments. Students have the option to take courses online or in class starting this fall semester. We have admitted the largest class to date.

MHA has two new internal Graduate Assistantships and has placed two new external Graduate Assistantships at Baptist Memphis, and St. Jude's Research Hospital.

The MHA Program is working on trademarking its unique Day One Program. The Day One Program, developed by the MHA faculty, was favorably mentioned by CAHME as one of the unique and value added components of the MHA Program. Sara Maurice, MHA Student, is working diligently with Dr. Jones to ensure that the Day One Program's guidelines and expectations are put in place.

LaDon Jones, PhD

Director, MHA Program

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# WELCOME

## SPH NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



**Sato Ashida, PhD** is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences. She received a PhD from the Ohio State University School of Public Health in Health Behavior and Health Promotion, with area specialization in Aging, in 2005. She subsequently completed a postdoctoral research fellowship in the Intramural Social and Behavioral Research Branch at the National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health. Dr. Ashida specializes in social network research and investigates the roles of social contexts in maintaining and enhancing individuals' health and well-being. She has published in the areas of gerontology and aging, public health genomics, social relationships and health behaviors, and community-based intervention.



**Latrice C. Pichon, PhD, MPH** is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, School of Public Health. She completed her PhD in Public Health with a concentration in Health Behavior from the Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health at San Diego State University and the University of California, San Diego in August of 2008. She received post-doctoral training in community-based participatory research (CBPR) in the Kellogg Health Scholars Program at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Her general research interests include examining the individual, social, and physical environmental factors that contribute to HIV and cancer disparities among ethnic/racial minority urban populations using multi-level ecological frameworks and community-based participatory research approaches. Her current research focuses on faith-based HIV prevention initiatives and the evaluation of community-based public health interventions with African Americans across the lifespan.

**Vikki G. Nolan, DSc, MPH**, is an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology. She received her MPH from Yale University and her doctoral degree from Boston University School of Public Health. Dr. Nolan's primary research interests are in genetic epidemiology, a field she worked in for six years while at Boston University, and cancer epidemiology, which she specialized in while employed at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital prior to joining the University of Memphis faculty. In addition to her primary research interests, she has worked in a wide range of fields including community health and infectious disease research. Dr. Nolan has a strong background in epidemiologic and statistical methods and extensive experience analyzing data, including large publicly available datasets such as the National Health and Nutrition Survey (NHANES) and the National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS).

**Xinhua Yu, MD, PhD, MS**, is an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology. He earned a MD in preventive medicine from Shanghai Medical University (now College of Medicine at Fudan University) in Shanghai, China, and a PhD in epidemiology and MS in statistics from the University of Minnesota at Twin Cities campus. Dr. Yu has extensive experience in cardiovascular disease epidemiology, obesity and physical activity, and cancer epidemiology. He has worked on large epidemiology studies such as CARDIA, a large national longitudinal study on cardiovascular risk factors among young adults. He is an expert in managing and analyzing very large administrative datasets such as Medicare claims, SEER-Medicare data, and survey data. He has conducted health disparities research among elderly population using Medicare claims and national cancer registry. Dr. Yu's current research focuses on health disparities, determinants of health care utilization among cancer survivors, and epidemiological methods. Other areas of research interest include clinical epidemiology, cost-effective analysis, and health technology diffusion.

## **NEW DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

A new doctoral degree in social and behavioral sciences will be offered beginning this fall in the School of Public Health at the University of Memphis. Final approval was received this August from the Tennessee Board of Regents and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

This program will prepare graduates for university-level teaching and research careers, as well as senior public health positions in government, in the private sector, and with non-profit organizations. Graduates will be prepared to conduct innovative, interdisciplinary, and translational research in the community, and to design, implement, administer, and evaluate public health interventions and policies.

Information about the new program is available online at <http://www.memphis.edu/sph/>. For more information about applying to the program, contact Dr. Satish Kedia, Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, 232 Browning Hall, University of Memphis, Memphis Tenn., 38152, or via email at [skkedia@memphis.edu](mailto:skkedia@memphis.edu).



Commencement Spring 2010

## MPH PROGRAM UPDATES



Marian Levy, Dr.P.H., R.D.  
Director, MPH Program

The Master of Public Health (MPH) program is pleased to announce several exciting accomplishments. First, our **on-line MPH** is going "live" this Fall, with the availability of three core courses (Biostatistics, Epidemiology I, and Foundations of Public Health). The remaining three core courses (Environmental Health, Social and Behavioral Sciences Principles, and Government Regulation of Health Services) will be offered in Spring semester. Other courses will be phased in during the following year.

Another piece of exciting news is that we have accepted **28 new MPH students** for Fall semester. This represents a four-fold increase in enrollment since the program began in 2007. Our ranks are 67 students strong and growing! Moreover, we have populated all five concentrations in the MPH program.

Our students continue to excel. We are proud that five **MPH students presented their research** at the University of Memphis Graduate Student Research Exhibition last Spring:

- Doris Amoah: "Prevalence of Obesity and High Blood Pressure in a College Population."
- Patrick Denning: "Ventilation Conditions in University Offices and Classrooms- a Pilot Study."
- Jennifer Ransom: "College Students' Perceptions, Beliefs, and Behaviors Regarding the H1N1 Vaccine."
- Shahin Samiei: "Survey of Environmental Concerns and Behaviors of Sustainability Fair Participants at the University of Memphis."
- Mohsinah Usmani: Social Support, Depression, and Coping among African American Women with HIV/AIDS in the Mid-South."

Webb Smith presented his research at the 2010 American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) meeting. His abstract was titled "Measured Versus Self-Reported Physical Function in Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer."

Additionally, four students (Anitha Nair, Patrick Denning, Jennifer Ransom, Mohsinah Usmani) were invited to display posters at the recent NACCHO annual conference. Three students (Denning, Samiei, and Usmani) will present posters at the Tennessee Public Health Association annual meeting in September.

Over the summer of 2010, **17 students completed their MPH Practicum** in a variety of local placements (Memphis and Shelby County Health Department, Methodist Healthcare, Planned Parenthood, Veterans' Administration, YMCA), as well as international locations (Haiti).

Marian Levy, Dr.P.H., R.D.  
Director, MPH Program



Congressman Steve Cohen and Dr. Levy at the Health Fair

## GRANTS AND HONORS

**Grants/Projects**

**Levy, M.** *Tiger Blue Goes Green*. Sponsoring Agent: University of Memphis Sustainability (Green Fee) Committee (Principal Investigator)

**Levy, M.** Civilian Aeromedical Evacuation Sustainment Training (CAEST). Sponsoring Agent: Department of Defense (Co-Principal Investigator)

**Levy M.** True Blue Choices. Sponsoring Agent: National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) (Principal Investigator)

**Maziak, W, Ward, K.** Collaborative HIV/AIDS Studies in the Middle East

**Jia, CR.** Indoor Environmental Quality in University Buildings and Indoor Air Symptoms. University of Memphis Faculty Research Grant. \$6,500. Principal Investigator.

**Mzayek, F.** Training Program in Biomedical Research Ethics for Scientists in the Middle East". The application was submitted to the NIH on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Pichon, L.** Principal Investigator. Health Disparities Research Loan Repayment Program, National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, National Institutes of Health. Award amount: \$13,095.84 (2010-2011).

**Klesges, L.** Kids Café: Impact of a National Feeding Program on Children's Dietary Behaviors. National Institutes of Health. 9/1/10-8/31/12. (Consultant).

**Klesges, L.** Novel Dissemination of a Group Intervention for HIV+ Women Via Web Conferencing. National Institutes of Health. 9/1/10-8/31/12. (Consultant).

**HONORS:**

**Jones, L.** Maxine Smith Fellowship program (picture below)

**Klesges, L.** Society of Behavioral Medicine Fellow

**Levy M.** Recipient of the 2009/2010 Distinguished Teaching Award, University of Memphis

**Levy M.** Graduated from the Regents Academic Leadership Institute (RALI), Class of 2009-10

**Pichon, L.** Selected to participate as a mentee of the American Psychological Association's Office on AIDS Cyber Mentor Program (2010-2012)

**Pichon, L.** Selected for a citation as a University of Michigan National Center for Institutional Diversity (NCID) Exemplary Diversity Scholar.

**Ward, K.** Recipient of the Faudree Professorship, University of Memphis



SPH Spring Picnic (April 2010)



Student Social Spring 2010

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Dalton WT, **Klesges LM**, Henderson L, Somes G, Robinson L, Johnson KC. Gender, smoking status, and risk behavior attitudes explain adolescents' patterns of nicotine replacement therapy use. *Addictive Behaviors*, 35: 147-151, 2010

Dalton WT, **Klesges LM**, Sherrill-Mittleman DA, Stockton MB, Allen S, Klesges RC. Family context as it relates to weight-related behaviors in preadolescent African American girls. *American Journal of Health Behavior* (in press).

Klesges RC, Obarzanek E, Kumanyika S, Murray D, **Klesges LM**, Relyea G, Stockton M, Lancot J, Beech B, McClanahan B, Sherrill-Mittleman D, Slawson D. The Memphis Girls Health Enrichment Multisite Studies (GEMS): An evaluation of the efficacy of a two-year obesity prevention intervention in African American girls. *Annals of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine* (in press).

Fowler KT, Williams MR, Eady CO, **Levy M**, Fletcher-Pope L, Smeltzer M. Dietary Water and Sodium Intake of Children and Adolescents with Sickle Cell Anemia. *Journal of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology*.32 (5) 350-353, July 2010

Griffith, D. M., **Pichon, L. C.**, Campbell, B., & Allen, J. O. (2010). YOUR Blessed Health: A faith-based CBPR approach to addressing HIV/AIDS among African Americans. *AIDS Education and Prevention*, 22(3), 203-217.

**Pichon, L.C.**, Corral, I., Landrine, H., Mayer, J.A., Norman, G.J. (2010) Prevalence and Correlates of Sun Protection Behaviors among African Americans. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 38(3), 288-95.

**Maziak W.** The waterpipe—a global epidemic or a passing fad. *Int J Epidemiol* 2010;39(3):857-9.

**Jia CR**, Batterman S. 2010. A critical review of sources and exposures of naphthalene relevant to indoor and outdoor air. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 7(7): 2903-2939.

Batterman S, Godwin C, Chernyak S, **Jia CR**, Charles S. 2010. Brominated flame retardants in offices in Michigan, U.S.A. *Environment International*. 36: 548-556.

**Pichon, L.**, Landrine, H., Corral, I., Hao, Y., Mayer, J. Hoerster, K. (2010). Measuring Skin Cancer Risk in African Americans: Is the Fitzpatrick Scale Culturally-Sensitive? *Ethnicity & Disease*, 20(2), 5-8.

Kilzieh N, Rastam S, **Ward KD**, **Maziak W.** Gender, depression and physical impairment: an epidemiologic perspective from Aleppo, Syria. *Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol* 2010;45 (6):595-602.

## NATIONAL AND STATE SERVICES

**Klesges, L.** External Review Panel; “*An Evidence Framework for Obesity Prevention Decision Making.*” Committee on an Evidence Framework for Obesity Prevention Decision-Making; Institute of Medicine; Washington, D.C.

**Klesges, L.** External Reviewer; “*Strategic Plan for NIH Obesity Research.*” NIH Obesity Research Task Force, National Institute of Health; Bethesda, MD.

**Maziak W.** Organized and chaired the second summer program for tobacco control research capacity building in the Middle East (June 28-July 1st )

**Mzayek, F.** Co-chaired a committee that developed a new doctoral program in epidemiology. The proposed program was submitted to the university's graduate school in February and was approved in March.

**Klesges, L.** University of Tennessee Clinical and Translational Science Institute. National Center for Research Resources. 07/01/2010- 6/31/2015 U54-RR0260904 (Co-Investigator).

**Klesges, L.** Reducing Race and SES Disparities in Obesity. National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. 4/1/10-3/31/15. (Co-Investigator; PI subcontract).

**Pichon, L.** Moderator for SBM 2010 session “*Don't walking on the sunny side of the street: Skin cancer and melanoma risk*” CBPR Grant Reviewer for Northwest Health Foundation.

**Levy M.** Invited to serve on the Federal Office of Minority Health's (OMH) National Partnership for Action (NPA) to Improve Minority Health (June, 2010).

## LOCAL, STATE, INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- Klesges, LM.** *RE-AIM: The Power of a Population Approach.* Workshop Presentation; Tenth Annual Scientific Meeting, American Academy of Health Behavior, Clearwater, FL. 2/8/10.
- Klesges, LM** *Beginning with Measurement in Mind: Models for Translation of Evidence-based Health Behavior Research to Practice* ;Tenth Annual Scientific Meeting, American Academy of Health Behavior, Clearwater, FL. 2/9/10
- Klesges, LM** *RE-AIM: Evaluating Public Health Impact.* Applications of Genomics to Public Health Challenges Lecture Series. National Human Genome Research Institute; Bethesda, MD. 5/24/10
- Klesges, LM** *CrossTalk Lecture Series.* Behavioral Research Program; Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences; National Cancer Institute; National Institutes of Health; Bethesda, MD. . 6/3/10
- Maziak W.** Invited by NIH to the XVIII International AIDS Conference (Vienna July 18-23, 2010) to speak on Stigma and HIV Infection in the MENA Region.
- Mzayek, Fawaz.** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Evidence-based Practice Stroke Conference in Franklin, TN on April 2, 10. The presentation titled "The Burden of Cardiovascular Disease in Tennessee"
- Pichon, L.,** Campbell, B, Griffith, D., Allen, J. (2010 April). Assessment of African-American Faith Leaders' Implementation of a Community-Based Participatory Research HIV Prevention Program. Poster presented at the 31st annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Seattle. Annals of Behavioral Medicine.
- Pichon, L.,** Corral, I., Landrine, H., Mayer, J. (2010 April). Perceived Skin Cancer Risk among a Community-Based Sample of Black Adults. Paper presented at the 31st annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Seattle. Annals of Behavioral Medicine.
- Cardon G (Chair), Estabrooks P, Aittasalo M, Van Acker R, Dunton GF, **Klesges LM** (Discussant). Gathering information beyond effectiveness to enhance dissemination: using the RE-AIM framework for the evaluation of physical activity interventions. International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity; Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2010
- Levy M.** Invited Panelist: Public Health Advocacy Panel. American Public Health Association 138<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Denver, CO. November 2010
- Royne M, **Levy M,** Martinez J. Demographic Differences across Facets of Environmental Concern: Implications for Public Policy and Public Health. 2010 AMA Marketing & Public Policy Conference Proceedings
- Emre Ertin, Santosh Kumar, Mustafa al'Absi, Satish Kedia, Marcia Scott, Manju Venugopal, **Kenneth W. Ward,** Kathryn Feuvrel, Animikh Ghosh, Santanu Guha, Somnath Mitra, Kurt Plarre and **George E. Relyea,** Lorentz Wittmers (Jan, 2010). AutoSense: A Wireless Sensor System to Quantify Personal Exposures to Psychosocial Stress and Alcohol in Natural Environments. Presented at NIH sponsored symposium.
- Mustafa al'Absi, Santosh Kumar, Emre Eritn, Kathryn Feuvrel, Nancy Dold, Susan Kuldaneck, **Satish Kedia, George Relyea,** Maria Scott, Manju Venugopal, **Kenneth Ward,** and Larentz Wittmers (Jan. 2010). Integration of Novel Methods to Assess Effects of Stress and Alcohol Use. Presented at NIH sponsored symposium.
- Levy M.** Invited Panelist: New Treatments, No Treats: A Seminar of Minority Participation in Clinical Trials. University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN. June 2010.
- Levy M,** Stafford M, Hochstein J. Eco-responsibility and Diversity at the University of Memphis. Presented to the 22nd Annual Memphis in May.
- Levy M,** Stafford M, Hochstein J. Eco-responsibility and Diversity at the University of Memphis. Presented to the 22nd Annual Memphis in May Student Affairs Conference. Memphis, TN. May 2010.
- Levy M.** Invited Panelist: Empowering Memphis Communities through Community-Based Participatory Health-focused Research, Beta Theta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, Memphis, TN. April 2010.
- Levy, M.** Chair/Moderator: Creating Smarter Laws: How the Child Impact Statement Reporting Child Well-Being into Practices within Shelby County Government; Education as a Civil Right and Economic Driver Conference, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN. April 2010.
- Levy M** and **Klesges L.** Public Health Law: Where do we stand? Where are we headed? Invited presentation at Health Law & Public Policy: An Introduction to America's Trillion Dollar Business. University of Memphis Cecil C Humphreys School of Law. Memphis, TN. March 2010

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Shirl Sharpe, Academic Services Coordinator

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Nancy Wilson, Data Manager



Drs Mzayek, Kedia, Jia, Levy, Klesges, Rosenthal, Crawford, and Gutierrez at the Student Social Spring 2010