New benefit for bicycle commuters

Beginning in 2013, bicycle commuters are eligible for tax-free reimbursement of up to $20/month at a maximum of $240/year for the costs associated with bicycle purchase, improvement, repair and storage. Learn more

Declining air pollution levels continue to improve life expectancy in U.S.

A new study led by HSPH researchers has found an association between reductions in fine particulate matter and improved life expectancy in 545 counties in the U.S. from 2000 to 2007. Read more

New poll shows U.S. public supports continued investment in federal nutrition assistance program

The U.S. public broadly supports increasing or maintaining spending on the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, according to a new poll by HSPH researchers. The majority of Americans, including a majority of SNAP participants, also supported policies to improve the nutritional impact of SNAP by incentivizing the purchase of healthy foods and restricting the purchase of sugary drinks. Read more

Polls of voters portend conflict between White House and Republican leaders on health care

An analysis of newly released polls shows that most of those who voted for President Obama in the 2012 election favor implementing the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The polls suggest that those...
who voted for Republican governors and members of Congress are likely to oppose parts of the implementation of the ACA. Read more

Around the School

On My Own Time submissions due December 10
Staff, faculty, students, and academic appointees can submit work showcasing their personal talents -- for example photography, writing, basket-weaving -- to the On My Own Time exhibition. Submissions are due December 10. Work will be displayed in HSPH's FXB lobby and in Harvard Medical School's Gordon Hall 3rd floor Atrium.

Season of giving
Toy drive
Toys are being collected in the boxes located in the 90 Smith Street and Kresge lobbies as part of the Season of Giving program.

Payroll deduction for charity
December 7 is the last day to give to charity via 2013 payroll deduction through the Harvard Community Gifts program.

Upcoming events
Deans' Health and Life Sciences Challenge 2013 Kickoff
December 11 from 6:30-8:30 PM at the Harvard innovation lab. Learn more about the Challenge.

PEPFAR in Africa: HSPH's Role in the Largest Public Health Endeavor in History
Symposium, January 10, 2013

Awards and honors
Dean Julio Frenk was awarded the Andria Stampar Medal by the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region at its annual meeting in November. The award honors key international figures in public health.

Bernardo Lemos, assistant professor of environmental epigenetics, was awarded a 2012 New Scholar in Aging Award from The Ellison Medical Foundation for his work on genomic architecture of germline-soma feedbacks during aging.

Bullets, Doubters, and Delivery Systems

Keynote Speaker: Alfred Sommer, Bloomberg School of Public Health
December 12
4:00-5:00 PM
Reception to follow FXB G-12

Research News

Coffee: Drink up, but watch the cream and sugar

Study reveals complexities of disclosing and compensating for medical mistakes

Flame retardants associated with neurobehavioral problems in children