September marked the annual PGSG Retreat, which was held at the Wellesley College Club. Members of the Program in Genetic Epidemiology and Statistical Genetics enjoyed a full day of science and socializing. With the group growing in recent years, the annual retreat serves as a welcomed opportunity to get to know new members and work on collaborative efforts.

Dr. Eric Rimm was an opponent for the thesis defense of Lara Sigurdardottir, a doctoral student of Dr. Lorelei Mucci and Dr. Unnur Valdimarsdóttir at the University of Iceland.

In recent years a relationship between the Harvard Chan School and the University of Iceland has grown to facilitate research and mentoring exchanges.
**New Faces in Epi**

The Department of Epidemiology is happy to welcome and introduce our new student ambassador Paul Reeping. He is a first-year SM2 Epidemiology–Infectious Disease student who joins us after completing three years as a 10th grade Environmental Science teacher and 2012 Chicago Corps member through Teach for America.

Paul will be working closely with the Office for Diversity and Inclusion on the 4th annual Youth and Public Health Conference during Spring 2016, as well as other department and school initiatives.

If anyone is interested in the Youth and Public Health Conference or would like to get involved then we encourage you to reach out to him by email: pars17@mail.harvard.edu

**162nd Cutter Lecture:**

Dimitrios Trichopoulos Memorial Symposium

********

December 2, 2015
9:00AM-4:00PM
Speakers & Presenters

Joseph B. Martin Center Amphitheater
77 Avenue Louis Pasteur
Boston, MA 02115
RSVP

**Movember is back and Team BellissiMO is ready for Mo Bro’s and Mo Sista’s**

For the past 5 years, colleagues and friends from across Harvard have come together during the month of “Movember” to raise money and awareness for men’s health, including prostate and testicular cancer, physical activity, and mental health. For the past two years, our Team BellissiMO has included more than 100 Mo Bro’s and Mo Sistas and we have been the top academic fundraiser in THE ENTIRE WORLD!

Team Page Link: [http://moteam.co/bellissimo](http://moteam.co/bellissimo)

Please consider joining team BellissiMO again this year! It is a lot of fun, and we are organizing some exciting events again this year. And please spread the word and invite others to join!
Department Recognition

- **JoAnn E. Manson**, MD, DrPH, Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the Harvard T.H. Chan SPH and the Michael and Lee Bell Professor of Women’s Health at Harvard Medical School, received the Thomas Clarkson Outstanding Research Award from the North American Menopause Society in October 2015 for exceptional contributions to the understanding of women’s cardiovascular health. She was recognized for her contributions to the prevention of heart disease in mid-life women.

- **Dr. Donna Spiegelman** was invited to write a column for the American Journal of Public Health. The first column will be released early in 2016.

- **Dr. Frank Hu**, Professor of Nutrition and Epidemiology was elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), formerly known as the Institute of Medicine. Election to the NAM is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine. Dr. Hu is an internationally recognized researcher in epidemiology focusing on prevention of obesity and diabetes. His research group has conducted detailed examinations of the relationship between dietary and lifestyle factor and risk of chronic diseases.

- **Dr. Karestan Koenen**, received the 2015 Laufer Award for Outstanding Scientific Achievement from the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, as well as the 2015 Outstanding Mentor Award, from the Harvard T.H. Chan Postdoctoral Association.

- **Joel Schwartz** and his student Liuhua Shi published a paper in Nature Climate Change showing, for the first time, long term mortality effects of temperature, and not just short term effects of heat waves. In a survival analysis of all Medicare participants in New England, using satellite remote sensing to measure temperature in their zip code of residence, they reported that yearly anomalies in winter and summer temperature from their zip codes seasonal mean were associated with higher mortality rates.

**Grants Management Forum**

Hour long session for applying to grants, presented by Epi’s Grant Management Team & Faculty Guests (Kresge 907)

- **11/17 4pm** – Mock Application
- **11/17 4pm** – Details/Justifications
- **12/08 4pm** – Open Forum/Mock Application HW Assigned
- **3/3 4pm** – Forum/Final Questions

**Brought to you by the Grant Management Team & the Student Advisory Committee (SAC)**

**edigo@hsph.harvard.edu** w/ questions

**Publications**


Alumni Spotlight

During the summer of 1998, while I was a master’s student at the BU School of Public Health, I attended a summer Epidemiology course that would change my life. The course was entitled the Epidemiology of Cancer and was taught by legendary HSPH faculty member, Dr. Dimitrios Trichopoulos. Dimitrios was one of the most impactful and influential educators of his time, and he inspired generations of cancer epidemiologists with passion, scientific creativity and innovation. It was because of Dimitrios that I applied and was admitted to the HSPH doctoral program in Epidemiology and have since devoted myself to the field of cancer epidemiology.

My years as an HSPH epidemiology doctoral student between 1999 and 2003 surpassed my dreams and expectations. I took classes and attended seminars of many giants in the field – Dr. Giovannucci, Sue Hankinson, Graham Colditz, Chung Hsieh, Hans-Olov Adami, David Hunter and of course, Dimitrios. These interactions were critical in forming the way I approach science as well as instilling the importance of teaching and mentoring. Just as key, was the time I spent with my fellow cohort of doctoral students, hours in the computer lab, bonding in the cafeteria over the written exam, TA’ing in Kresge G1, and commiserating at building 5 (i.e. the Squealing Pig). Lisa Hines, Rulla Tamimi, Hannah Kuper, Lauren Wise, Karen Clements, Stacey Missmer, Jenny Weuve (among many others) are some of the most talented, smart, and generous people I have ever met and my time with them greatly shaped me on a professional and personal level. Finally, I am so grateful for the kindness and generosity of many staff in epidemiology and HSPH, including David Havelick, Jaime Johnson-Riley, and many others.

In 2010, I joined the department as a primary faculty, and now am Leader of the Cancer Epidemiology Program at the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center. My primary research interests lie primarily in the enigmatic field of prostate cancer epidemiology. This work ranges across the spectrum of etiology, progression, survival, and quality of life, and integrates biomarkers to address diverse questions. My time as a student and fellow at HSPH instilled in me the passion to work locally and globally, and my studies are nested among cohorts of men in the U.S., Sweden, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Australia and Brazil. I try to approach my research in cancer epidemiology with the same energy, creativity, and innovation of my mentors and classmates. I remember as a post-doctoral fellow receiving a rejection on an NIH grant application that I worked on with Hans-Olov. Seeing my deep sadness by the rejection, Hans-Olov turned to me and quoted Winston Churchill: “Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm”. That is one of hundreds of lessons and experiences I take away from my time at HSPH.

Student Spotlight

Cancer Epidemiology and Cancer Prevention

Barbra is a second year MSc student in Cancer Epidemiology. She is interested in circadian disruption and nutritional factors as they relate to prostate cancer risk.

Through work with Dr. Lorelei Mucci and other members of the Nordic Twin Study of Cancer group and Prostate Cancer Epi group here at Harvard Chan, Barbra has spent the past year leading four investigations on this topic. Since visiting the University of Helsinki earlier this year, she has been applying twin analytic methods to two investigations examining associations between circadian disruption and alcohol consumption with prostate cancer risk within the Finnish Twin Cohort. She is also working on two projects out of HPPS(Health Professionals Follow-up Study). One explores the association between vitamin D status, prostate cancer recurrence, and health-related quality of life among men receiving radiation therapy. The other aims to investigate the impact of various weight change patterns on prostate cancer risk and clinical outcomes.

Barbra is newly interested in the interplay between circadian disruption and metabolic alteration and implications for cancer risk. She is developing a very exciting proposal to examine these associations in the AGES-Reykjavik cohort – an unparalleled resource for this project given the availability of melatonin biomarkers and CT imaging measures of adiposity. She hopes to begin work on this project at the University of Iceland sometime this year and continue to work on it at Harvard Chan alongside Dr. Mucci and Dr. Sarah Coseo Markt.
Epi Student and Post Doc Announcements

- Dr. Donna Spiegelman has welcomed 4 new post doctoral fellows, check out their work below
  - Claudia Rivera: Investigating methods that yield better estimates under two-phase sampling designs when the auxiliary information is only marginal.
  - Archana Shrestha: Worksite-based diabetes and cardiovascular disease prevention program in India contributing to study design, project management, data analysis, and manuscript development.
  - Xin Zhou: Developing optimal screening algorithms for colorectal cancer prevention.

- Postdoc Sasha Gusev's work on "Large-scale transcriptome-wide association study identifies new risk genes for obesity-related traits", which was previously named as a Charles J. Epstein Trainee Award Finalist, has now been awarded the ASHG 2015 Charles J. Epstein Trainee Award (top 6 of >3,000 abstracts).

- Kazuki Yoshida, doctoral candidate in the department of Epidemiology was chosen as one of three students to present at the semiannual online meeting for the Society of Epidemiologic Research on November 4th. He will be presenting on his abstract titled "Matching weights to simultaneously compare three treatment groups: comparison to three-way matching".

- Tianyi Huang, a former doctoral student in the Department of Epidemiology is now working as a Postdoctoral Fellow with Dr. Frank Hu and Dr. Shelly Tworoger.

Postdoctoral Association

Nanocourses:
R: Thursday November 5th & Thursday November 12th

Peer Grant Network:
The Postdoctoral Association is excited to announce the school wide Peer Grant Network (PGN), a resource for postdocs, research associates, and students seeking guidance on fellowship and grant applications.

Questions regarding PDA should be directed to pda@hsph.harvard.edu

Scarioke & Fall Bake Off 2015

2015 Fall Seminar Speakers

- Alessandro Doria, MD, PhD
- Susan Redline, MD, MPH
- Daniel Cramer, MD, ScD
- Gary King, PhD
- Jamie L. Gradus Dsc, MPH
- Caroline Buckee, D.Phil, M.Res, C.Sc
- Charles Wiggins, PhD
How to Subscribe

Subscriptions to Epicenter, the newsletter of Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health Department of Epidemiology, are available at no charge, in print or PDF form. To subscribe, send your email or mailing address to:

Eric DiGiovanni - edigiova@hsph.harvard.edu

(Ideas for submission or comments are always welcomed)

Tel: 617-432-1328

Editorial Board: Eric DiGiovanni & David Vaughn