Welcome Back Epi Community

On behalf of the Department of Epidemiology, we would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone as we commence a new year at HSPH. Everyone within the Epi community will play a significant role in making this another exceptional year replete with new learning opportunities, discoveries and academic excellence.

Outstanding Student Achievements

Congratulations Philips Loh!
The Epi Department is proud to announce that new doctoral candidate, Philips Loh, was awarded funding for the grant he wrote for his recently completed Master’s Thesis, Epidemiologic and genotypic analysis of active M. tuberculosis cases in Indonesia: Understanding the acquisition and transmission of drug-resistant tuberculosis. The grant spans for three years to work on improving multi-drug resistant (MDR) and extensively drug resistant (XDR) tuberculosis control in Indonesia by identifying host and bacterial risk factors for MDR and XDR disease progression and transmission. The project will be implemented by the University of Andalas and funding is through the PEER Health Program, which is administered by The National Academies on behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and in cooperation with the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Faculty Recognition

Buckee Named “An Innovator Under 35”

Caroline Buckee, assistant professor of epidemiology, has been named by MIT Technology Review as one of this year’s Innovators Under 35 on August 21st 2013. The list is composed of trailblazing young professionals whose work, they believe, has “the greatest potential to transform the world.” She will be recognized along with other honorees at MIT’s EmTech conference in October 2013. She also recently accepted a position as Associate Director of the Center for Communicable Disease Dynamics.

James Robbins Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

On August 5, 2013, Department of Epidemiology professor, James Robins, received the prestigious 2013 Nathan Mantel Lifetime Achievement Award in Statistics and Epidemiology at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Montreal. Robins has most notably developed analytical methods and estimation models to quantify causality, margin of error, and missing data from complex observational and randomized studies. To learn more of his work and professional accomplishments, read the HSPH News report.
Faculty Recognition Continued...

The Boston Globe Recognizes Walt Willett

- A tireless advocate for the science of healthy eating.
  The Boston Globe Magazine profiled HSPH nutrition expert and Professor of Epidemiology, Walter Willett, in the cover story of its July 28, 2013 issue. Read the full Boston Globe article.

Comparative-Effectiveness Policy Grant Funded

- The grant has been awarded to Dariush Mozaffarian for his project, Comparative-Effectiveness of Population Strategies to Improve Diet and Reduce CVD. The project will be funded through May of 2017.

Hanage Awarded an R01 from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

- Dr. William Hanage was awarded an R01 from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to examine the re-emergence of drug resistance in S. pneumoniae following a new vaccination campaign. The goal is to unravel the contrasting contributions to success of genomic background (innate strain ‘fitness’) and ecological pressures in the form of antibiotic use.

DF/HCC Prostate SPORE Officially Funded

- Lorelei Mucci and Ed Giovannucci are co-leaders of this population science project with Jen Rider as a co-investigator.

Epi Seminar Series

- Sept. 4th – Telomere and Human Health: The Illusion of Knowledge. Dr. Abraham Aviv, Professor and Director Center of Human Development and Aging at Rutgers will present this topic while kicking off the lunchtime Epi Seminar Series. This will be held in Kresge 502 at 12:30pm.

- Sept. 17th- Drug Safety During Pregnancy: What to Expect When You’re Expecting. Dr. Sonia Hernandez-Diaz will host this fascinating seminar on Tuesday Sept. 17th at 12:30pm in Kresge 502. All are welcome to attend.

- Sept. 20th- The Program in Genetic Epidemiology and Statistical Genetics (PGSG) Seminar Series will resume for the Fall semester on September 20th. The PGSG Seminars are held on Fridays from 12:30-1:30pm in the Epi Library; speaker details can be found on the PGSG website and the Epi department calendar.

- Stay tuned for the date of the next annual Jonathan Freeman Symposium, which will be held in the fall. The exact date will be announced early in the semester.

Celebrating HSPH’s Centennial Year

Leadership, dedication, innovation, collaboration– throughout the past century, the Harvard School of Public Health has embodied these exceptional ideals in a tireless quest to enrich the lives of people around the globe through novel scientific discoveries and improvements in Public Health Policy. The 2013-2014 academic year marks the start of celebrating 100 years of making a difference in the world at HSPH. It is a wonderful time to be involved as there will be a multitude of school-wide events, academic lectures and special celebrations. The year will be dedicated to honoring the gifted alumni, faculty and researchers of the past, as well as celebrating the promising future of prospective accomplishments to be made through the HSPH community.

- To learn more about all of the exciting events occurring throughout the year, please visit the HSPH Centennial Events webpage.
- Read the HSPH Centennial News Article
- 100 Years at HSPH – the history of HSPH and highlighted achievements of the school.
Epi Student and Postdoc Accomplishments & Updates

- Several students and postdocs in the Program in Genetic Epidemiology & Statistical Genetics (PGSG) had their work accepted for platform presentations at national and international conferences this Fall. Doctoral student Akweley Ablorh and postdocs Amit Joshi and Chaolong Wang will be presenting at the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Annual Meeting in Boston this October. In addition, Chaolong Wang’s abstract titled “Tracing individual ancestry in a principal components space” has been selected as a semifinalist for the 2013 Charles J. Epstein Award for Excellence in Human Genetics Research at this year’s ASHG Meeting.

- Recently a paper was published by Gita Singh, a post-doctoral research fellow at HSPH in the Cardiovascular Epidemiology group led by Dariush Mozaffarian. Read the PubMed abstract here: The age-specific quantitative effects of metabolic risk factors on cardiovascular diseases and diabetes: a pooled analysis.

- Marcia Otto, a post-doctoral research fellow at HSPH in the Cardiovascular Epidemiology group led by Dariush Mozaffarian recently had her paper published: Biomarkers of dairy Fatty acids and risk of cardiovascular disease in the multi-ethnic study of atherosclerosis.

Epi Social Events!

On Wednesday August 14th, students from the Department of Epidemiology came together at Yard House in Fenway and enjoyed a Happy Hour social event. It was a lively evening chatting with Epidemiology peers accompanied with an array of tasty appetizers, great drinks and excellent conversation! The department is looking forward to enjoying more social events with our students this semester so be sure to be on the lookout for more gatherings.

In other Epi news...

Welcome to the Department of Epidemiology!

- This semester we are welcoming over 60 bright new students into the department community. This includes 30 SM1 students, 21 SM2 students and 18 new doctoral candidates. We wish them all the best as the begin their journey in their new academic programs.

New Course to be taught again in Spring 2014

- Global Cardiovascular and Metabolic Health: Critical Issues in Policy and Translation will be taught in Spring 2, 2014 session by Vikas Saini, M.D, Dariush Mozaffarian, M.D., Dr.P.H., & Professor K Srinath Reddy. More information can be found on the HSPH catalogue website.

Summer Program in Epidemiology

- This year’s program for students from underrepresented groups all over the US was a wonderful success. The 4 week program provides undergraduate students a captivating introduction to the field of epidemiology as well as an opportunity to begin developing the skills necessary to pursue a meaningful career in Public Health.

Congratulations to our Epi families!

- This summer was a very special time for a few families within the department. Our Associate Director of Graduate Studies, John Paulson welcomed his second son, Jude Everett, into the world on July 19th. Doctoral Candidate, Travis Gerke and his wife welcomed their first child, Merit Alan, in July as well. Postdoc in Epi, Deirdre Tobias gave birth to her newborn son, Camden Moss, on July 18th. Congratulations and best wishes to all!