Happy New Year and welcome to a new semester!

I am humbled by the opportunity to begin my service as the chair of the SBS Department. I am looking forward to working with each of you to build on the outstanding foundation that Professor Ichiro Kawachi has left us as we continue to strive for excellence. We are very grateful for his decade of leadership and invite all students and faculty to join us on Thursday, January 31 from 4:00-5:30pm at the Landmark Building, as we publicly celebrate his contributions and express our appreciation to him. Please RSVP to the Paperless Post invitation by Monday, January 28.

I look forward to this New Year with eager anticipation. The faculty of SBS, with the help of external consultants, have been engaged in a strategic planning process that will position our department to continue to play a leadership role in our field and to maximize every opportunity to be a welcoming and supportive community. I had a very productive meeting with our department staff two weeks ago and I am looking forward to meeting with our students soon. Every voice is important and I am ever ready to listen attentively to and actively engage with all of the voices within the SBS community.

I am particularly pleased to give a big “shout-out” to the almost 500 alumni who are receiving this newsletter for the first time. You are an important part of our community and the newsletter is one mechanism to keep us connected as we look forward to working more closely with you in the future.

As we celebrate the 90th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.’s birth this month, let us remember his words: “We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action.”

In this time of unprecedented change and social turmoil, the work of the SBS department is more important than ever. I am very grateful for our hardworking staff, visionary students, distinguished alumni, eminent faculty and supportive Chan school administrators. Together, we can make 2019 a memorable year as we unite to lay all of the necessary building blocks to take “vigorous and positive action” that will make our world a healthier place for all.

Best wishes,

David R. Williams

Student Spotlight

Ayesha McAdams-Mahmoud is a fourth year doctoral student in the
Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences. In this Q & A she shares what led her to SBS and about a pilot study she developed on interactions between police officers and youth in Alameda County, California.

Read the Interview

Announcements

The Lee Kum Sheung Center for Health and Happiness is excited to announce the launch of the Innovations in Positive Health seed grant funding. The funding will support pioneering research at early stages of development that focuses on positive health science or communication and translation sciences related to positive health science. All Harvard faculty, research scientists, and post-doctoral research scholars are eligible. The deadline to apply is February 15, 2019.

Apply

The Harvard Public Health Review (www.harvardpublichealthreview.org) is set to release seven new volumes soon!

These include four themed editions on Vulnerable Populations; Violence; Non-Communicable Diseases, and Climate Change. We also are publishing a general edition, called Potpourri, and three special editions, on Genetically Engineered Food, Sexual Harassment, and National Health Care Protection in India.

Folks who are interested in being an HPHR reviewer may sign up here.

Submissions to the Journal may be uploaded here. We currently are interested in pieces concerning: Maternal and Child Health, Children, Youth, and Families; Racism and Neo-Nationalism; Immigration / Refugee Health; Mental Health (including sleep and fatigue); Environmental Health (including climate change): Substance Use (including alcohol, marijuana, and opioids); Smoking; Sexual and Gender Minorities; The Importance of Humor and Health.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Winter Collection for the Homeless. We collected over 100 items for adults and over 70 items for babies. Our donations will be delivered to Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, an organization that provides or assures access to the highest quality health
Awards, Honors & Career Updates

The following SBS staff and faculty reached key service milestones in 2018 and will be honored at the Celebration with the Stars event on Thursday, February 28, 2019:

- Jessica Davine (5 years)
- Jessica Barrett (10 years)
- Elaine Lynch (15 years)
- Laura Kubzansky (20 years)

Additionally, Pamela Waterman just reached her 20 year milestone in January 2019!

Eric S. Kim was awarded an NIH K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award.

Monika Szperka and Whitney Waddell were both re-elected as local HUCTW representatives for the School of Public Health.

Laura Zatz received a Poster of Excellence award from The Obesity Society's Health Services Research Section for her poster "Physicians' Political Ideology and Clinical Management of Obesity."

Dr. Claudia Trudel-Fitzgerald joined the Lee Kum Sheung Center for Health and Happiness as a Research Scientist on November 1st, 2018. In her new role, she will focus on whether and how the capacity to adequately regulate emotions may prevent the development of chronic diseases.

Trish Lavoie recently left her role as Senior Coordinator for the Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health. Trish was honored at a farewell dinner on Tuesday, December 11, 2018. After her retirement over 10 years ago, she continued to work two days a week in dedicated support of MCH. We wish her the best in her "second" retirement!

Presentations

Kim, E.S. Psychological well-being and physical health: Characterizing Underlying Biopsychosocial Processes. University of British Columbia, Department of Psychology, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Kim, E.S. Psychological well-being and physical health. University of Texas, Department
Bekka Lee (Research Scientist) and Estivaliz Castro (MPH 65 ’19) will present on community engaged research at the Harvard Latinos in Health Careers Conference (LIHCCON) on Saturday, February 23rd. LIHCCON is an annual student-run conference that seeks to generate discussion between students and professionals who are interested in addressing local health disparities, both within Cambridge and Boston.


Publications

In honor of the life and contributions of Dr. Timothy Cunningham, SM ’06, SD ’10, a special collection of papers focusing on eliminating health disparities was published by Preventing Chronic Disease. PCD is a peer-reviewed public health journal sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Cunningham served as an Associate Editor with PCD and this collection pays tribute to his life and work.


**Events and Seminars**

Celebration for Ichiro Kawachi  
*Thurs, Jan 31, 4:00-5:30pm, Landmark Center*  
Please RSVP by Mon, Jan 28. A Paperless Post invitation was sent to all SBS faculty and students.

Natural Experiments in Health Care  
*Mon, Feb 4, 1:00-1:50pm in Kresge G2*  
Join the MCH concentration in welcoming Anupam B. Jena, MD, PhD, Ruth L Newhouse, Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School

Using mHealth and mixed methods to study tobacco use and co-use in daily life  
*Fri, Feb 8, 1:00 - 1:50pm in FXB G11*  
Join the Health Communication concentration in welcoming Dr. Johannes Thrul  
Lunch will be provided.

SBS Student-Faculty Lunch  
*Fri, Feb 15, 1:00-1:50pm in Kresge 110*
This month’s lunch is hosted by Karen Emmons. RSVPs are on a first-come first served basis via Paperless Post.

The Center for Health & Happiness and the Mental Health Student Alliance (MHSA) Journal Club
*Thurs, Feb 21, 1:00-2:00pm in Kresge 606*
Harvard students (master’s and doctoral) and post-doctoral scholars are encouraged to attend.

**OVIA Health Technology**
*Mon, Feb 25, 1:00-1:50pm in Kresge G2*
Join the MCH concentration in welcoming Adam Wolfberg, MD, OVIA Health; Brigham & Women’s Hospital.

Health Communication Career Panel
*Fri, Mar 1, 3:00 - 4:30pm in Kresge 202A*
This event is co-sponsored by the Office for Alumni Affairs and Career Advancement. Light refreshments will be provided.

Environmental Toxins
*Mon, Mar 4, 1:00-1:50pm in Kresge G2*
Join the MCH concentration in welcoming Philip Landrigan, MD, MSc, Professor of Biology and Director of Global Public Health Program, Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society, Boston College.

WGH presents: International Women’s Day Luncheon
*Fri, Mar 8, 1:00-1:50pm, Kresge 110*
Join us for an informal lunch and a bit of history to celebrate International Women’s Day!

Health Communication Concentration Reception
*Mon, Mar 25, 4:00 - 6:00pm in the FXB Atrium*
Light refreshments will be provided.