The State of the SBS Department

To all of our SBS faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends, I am happy to report that the state of our SBS department's health is excellent! We are beginning a new decade, year, and semester filled with optimism and hope. Here is why:

We have a hard-working staff who routinely go the extra mile to ensure that the operations run smoothly.

We are so very proud of our outstanding and brilliant students who are committed to the values of our field and who are constantly pushing us to continually invest and improve their intellectual journey. Their passion and commitment is a constant source of inspiration. And we are happy to have student representatives participating in every faculty meeting.

We also celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of our many distinguished alumni. Against enormous odds, you continue to work each day to make the world a better place. And a reminder to our alumni to share with the department any insights, experience, and wisdom that our current students could greatly benefit from hearing. We would love to include your words in a future “Alumni Corner” feature. Please send submission, ideally limited to 150 words, to Daniel Choi (danielchoi@hsph.harvard.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!

Our SBS faculty continually strive for excellence and this is reflected in recent months in our teaching evaluations, success in grantsmanship and seminar publications.

Our SBS faculty is also committed to building a strong and cohesive community of scholars. One indication of this commitment was high attendance at an SBS faculty dinner, with good food and drinks, on the same evening with the Super bowl. (We did finish in time to watch the 4th quarter!)

We are also looking forward to welcoming new SBS faculty next academic year. We just closed our advertising for new faculty after receiving over 170 applicants. We are thrilled with the exceedingly strong pool of applicants.

All the best to all for a highly successful and productive 2020

David R. Williams

Special Announcements

There are many exciting events and seminars hosted by SBS and other HSPH departments throughout the Spring semester. Our own Lee Kum Sheung Center for Health and Happiness host a monthly Seminar Series and Positive Health Interest Group seminar that is open to everyone; likewise, the Women, Gender, and Health
Interdisciplinary Concentration, Population Mental Health Interdisciplinary Concentration, STRIPED, and other HSPH organizations host events regularly. Be sure to check the "Events and Seminars" section of this newsletter and the SBS Weekly Student Digests for more information.

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**Student Spotlights**

During the Winter Session, twenty-four students participated in the CDC Evaluation Course (SBS 550). This course provides didactic instruction in program evaluation on the CDC’s Atlanta campus and then matches students with a real-world evaluation project. The students spend one week at the CDC and one week with their matched site, developing an evaluation plan.

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**Sarah Page, MPH-HSB '21:** My project was to create an evaluation plan for the Parents as Teachers program at the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS). Parents as Teachers is an evidence-based home visiting program centered around early childhood development and parenting skills for families with children ages 0 to 5. Since Alaska has so many unique qualities, the Alaska DHSS wants to evaluate if the program is effective in the Alaskan context.

[Read more about Sarah’s experience.](#)

**Santana Silver, MPH-HSB '21:** The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health is currently implementing a Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, which is a group-based 6-week educational workshop aimed to improve eligible participants’ knowledge and ability to self-manage chronic disease. While the program has been shown to be effective at improving participants’ health outcomes and health care utilization in a variety of populations and settings, it has not been evaluated in the context of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Therefore, my role was to develop an evaluation plan that the Department of Health will utilize to assess the effectiveness of the program implementation and impact.

[Read more about Santana’s experience.](#)

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**Staff Updates**

**Stephanie McCulloch** joined the SBS department on January 27 as a Research Assistant working on CHOICES, MA CHOICES (PRC), and NIH Simulation Modeling projects. Some of her key duties will include collecting, summarizing, and entering data for cost-effectiveness modeling of interventions and running cost-effectiveness models. Stephanie will soon receive a joint MS/MPH degree in Agriculture, Food and Environment from the Tufts University Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. She has most recently developed her expertise in food system issues affecting local communities as a Food Access Intern at the Rhode Island Public Health Institute and a Food Security Intern at the Needham Board of Health.
Daniel Choi joined the SBS department on January 6 as the Academic & Communications Outreach Coordinator. His main responsibilities include managing the department's communications portfolio, working with students, faculty and academic appointments to promote their work, and coordinating academic events. He is also the Program Coordinator for the Cancer Prevention Fellowship. Daniel has received his education in Music Composition and Economics from the Boston Conservatory at Berklee (MM) and the University of Miami (BM, BA). He likes to enjoy his weekends composing music, watching football games, hiking trails, and visiting local museums.

**Awards and Honors**

Eric S. Kim received the 2019 APS Rising Stars designation for his work to identify, understand, and intervene upon dimensions of psychological well-being that reduce risk of age-related conditions. This award is given annually to outstanding psychological scientists in the earliest stages of their research career post-PhD.

In December, Farah Qureshi, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, received the HSPH Postdoctoral Association's Travel Award to present her research on youth assets and psychological well-being during the transition to adulthood at a conference this spring. She was also recently selected by the American Psychosomatic Society to participate in the Young Investigator Colloquium which will be held at their annual meeting in March.

Andy Tan was appointed as a member of the Massachusetts State Task Force to Study and Provide Recommendations Regarding the Vaping Industry by Governor Baker’s Office.

**Presentations**

Kim, E.S. "Purpose in life and physical health." Department of Psychology, Seoul National University: Seoul, South Korea.


Krieger N. "Structural racism & the people’s health: history & context matters." Invited plenary presentation, “Context Matters” conference, St. David’s Center for Health Promotion Research, The University of Texas at Austin, School of Nursing: Austin, TX.


Lee SJ, Rees VW, Yossefy N, Emmons, K, Tan ASL. "A systematic review of research..."


Qureshi, F., Boehm, J.K., Kubzansky, L.D. Social assets in youth are associated with trajectories in well-being during the transition to adulthood. American Psychosomatic Society Annual Meeting: Long Beach, CA.

Shiba K., Kim E.S., VanderWeele T.J., Kubzansky L.D. "Is the association between purpose in life and mortality modified by key social structural factors?" American Psychosomatic Society Annual Meeting: Long Beach, CA.


Tan ASL. “Intersectionality-informed quantitative research”. Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco 2020 Preconference workshop “Applying Intersectionality to Achieve Health Equity for Marginalized Groups: Challenges and Opportunities for Tobacco Control Research and Practice?": New Orleans, LA


Publications


doi:10.21203/rs.2.14757/v4


doi.org:10.1111/jopy.12529


Events and Seminars

Black Health Matters Conference at Harvard University
Keynote Speakers: Dr. Nancy Krieger, HSPH Professor of Social Epidemiology, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Director of the HSPH Interdisciplinary Concentration on Women, Gender, and Health; Dr. Joan Reede, HMS Dean for Diversity and Community Partnership
Sat-Sun, Feb 8-9, 52 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA

Communication Skills for Maximum Impact in Public Health
Speaker: Dr. Lee Newman, MD, MA, FACOEM, FCCP, Fellow Collegium Ramazini, Distinguished Professor, Depts. of Environmental and Occupational Health, Epidemiology, and Medicine, University of Colorado; Director, Center for Health, Work, and Environment and Director, Mountain and Plains ERC, Colorado School of Public Health
Mon, Feb 10, 1:10-1:50pm, FXB G-13

Understanding the Fundamental of the Live Interview
Speaker: Dr. Howard K. Koh, MD, MPH, Harvey V. Fineberg Professor of the Practice of Public Health Leadership at HSPH
Tues, Feb 11, 9:45-11:15am, FXB G-10
RSVP

Assessing Healthcare Discrimination and Depression Treatment Preferences: A Mixed Methods Study
Speakers: Dr. Tim Creedon, PhD, MA, Research Scientist at the Health Equity Research Lab; Dr. Ana Progovac, PhD, Instructor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, Senior Scientist at the Health Equity Research Lab
Tues, Feb 11, 1-1:50pm, Kresge 200

Center for Health and Happiness: Dissertation in Progress Seminar
2019-2020 Dissertation Research Award Winners: Ruijia Chen, ScD candidate, Childhood Socioeconomic Status, Race, and Cognitive Function: The Role of Psychosocial Stressors & Resources Across the Life Span; Ayesha Mcadams-Mahmoud, ScD graduate, The Trade Project: Promoting Community Health Through Story Exchanges (final report); Kristen Nishimi, PhD candidate, Psychological Resilience from Early Adversity and Cardiometabolic Health
Tues, Feb 11, 1-2pm (Presentations), 2-2:30pm (Audience Q&A), Kresge 606

The Vaping Debate and Health: Evidence and Unknowns
Expert Participants: Dr. Joseph Allen, Assistant Professor of Exposure Assessment Science, HSPH; Dr. Howard Koh, Professor of the Practice of Public Health Leadership, HSPH; Dr. Vaughan Rees, Lecturer on Social and Behavioral Sciences and Director of the Center for Global Tobacco Control, HSPH; Dr. Karen Hacker, Director of CDC’s National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Fri, Feb 14, 12-1pm, Kresge Leadership Studio

Center for Health and Happiness: Resilience and Early Childhood Development
Speaker: Farah Qureshi, CHH Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Thurs, Feb 20, 1-1:50pm, Kresge 202B
RSVP

Developing Cost-Effectiveness Methods for Use in Implementation Research
Speaker: Doug Levy, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School Department of Medicine, MGH
Tues, Feb 25, 3:30-5pm, TBD
February Lunchtime Seminar: Center for Health and Happiness
Speaker: Alonzo Plough, PhD, Clinical Professor of Health Services, University of Washington School of Public Health, Vice President for Research and Evaluation and Chief Science Officer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Wed, Feb 26, 1-1:50pm, Kresge G2

Past and Present White Nationalism, Eugenics, and Threats to Reproductive Rights
Mon, Mar 2, 1-1:50pm, Kresge 200

International Women’s Day Luncheon
Mon, Mar 9, 1-1:50pm, Kresge 110

Anti-Weight Discrimination Advocacy Day at the Massachusetts State House
Tues, Mar 10, 24 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02133