I am hoping that our newsletter finds you safe and well during these stressful times.

I want to express heartfelt thanks to our staff and faculty for all that you have done and are doing to keep department operations running smoothly and to maintain our teaching and support for our students, even as we have shifted to working remotely. While we all remain connected through technology, let us never forget that our most important connection is as a supportive community. Accordingly, please be in touch with any ideas about things that we can do better or issues important to you that need to be addressed.

To our alumni who are working on the frontlines, we are very proud of you and we would like you to capture and share the important work related to Covid-19 that you are doing. So please send us the stories about your work related to the current COVID-19 crisis to Daniel Choi (danielchoi@hpsh.harvard.edu).

Our nation and the world needs the public health expertise that we have to share more than ever. COVID-19 is a stark reminder that larger societal inequities affect every aspect of this pandemic -- who gets the virus, who gets tested, who has easy access to care and can be confident about receiving quality care, who recovers and who dies and who has the reserves to survive the severe economic shocks that our societies are facing. So let us never forget the needs of the socially marginalized and stigmatized and those suffering from preexisting illness. And let us redouble our commitment to affirm the dignity of all and seek to combat the racist and xenophobic rhetoric and behavior that some are employing as they respond to the pandemic.

Even the most basic advice to wash our hands is beyond the reach of many in our world. A recent UNICEF fact sheet reminds us that only 3 out of 5 people worldwide have basic handwashing facilities. Some 40% of the world’s population, or 3 billion people, lack a handwashing facility with water and soap at home. And some 47% of schools globally (serving 900 million children) do not have a handwashing facility with water and soap. I want to acknowledge and thank our colleague, Nancy Krieger, who developed and continues to lead the Spirit of 1848 listserv which has arguably become the premier source of information on the health equity dimensions of the pandemic.

In the midst of these difficult times of uncertainty and stress, it is important to remember to make taking care of ourselves a priority. So, stay healthy, stay safe and stay engaged.

With appreciation and warm regards,

David R. Williams

Engagement Opportunity

Academic public health schools and programs in MA, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations are collaborating to link public health students, faculty, staff, and alumni with...
This form is being circulated to affiliates of Massachusetts' schools of public health, seeking volunteers "to assist the staff and volunteers at the local public health offices who are overwhelmed by the COVID-19 pandemic". The following are identified as the top three "critical needs of local boards of public health":

- Phone-banking to respond to COVID-19 questions
- Case tracing
- Administrative support, including monitoring/posting social media and translating/interpreting information

Please note, there will an online training (2-3 hours) required training to orient volunteers.

For questions or concerns, please email the COVID-19 Academic Health Department (AHD) Collaborative (ahdcollaborative@gmail.com).

Fill Out the Form

Career Updates

Congratulations to the SBS staff, faculty, and academic appointees who have reached a key milestone at Harvard in calendar year 2019:

5 Years
James Greene Daly
Jennifer Reiner
Alberta F. Zoummar

10 Years
Alan Charles Geller
Karestan Koenen

15 Years
Rebekka M. Lee
Vaughan Wallis Rees

20 Years
Pamela Waterman

30 Years
Rima E. Rudd

Amy Bolton joined the SBS department on March 25 as Research Assistant for the CHOICES Project at the Prevention Research Center on Nutrition and Physical Activity. Some of her main duties include reviewing articles, preparing reports, and supporting the production of presentations and briefs.

Amy interest's include children's nutrition and physical activity, behavioral economics, and applied research. She received her Bachelors of Arts degree in Economics from Colorado College.

James Daly was recently promoted to Research Project Manager at the Prevention
Research Center on Nutrition and Physical Activity and the newly funded Implementation Science Center for Cancer Control Equity. He will be conducting and overseeing research involving interviews, observations, and surveys with health department and community health center staff.

**Ria Golecha** joined the SBS department on March 9 as Project Coordinator at the India Research Center. She joins the Center with over three years of public health consulting work experience at Global Health Strategies, IQVIA Consulting and World Health Organization South-East Asia Regional Office in New Delhi, India.

Since 2015, Ria has also been running a non-profit organization that leverages the traditional Indian art form of puppetry as a means of behavior change communication and empowers underprivileged puppeteers living in peri-urban slums of Kathputli Colony, New Delhi.

**Rebekka Lee** was recently named Director of the Community Engagement Program at Harvard Catalyst where she’ll be working with Faculty Lead, Karen Emmons, to increase the pace of adoption of evidence-based programs and policies to promote health, prevent disease, and eliminate disparities through capacity building of researchers and community partners.

**Rebecca Mozaffarian** has begun a new position as Project Manager in the Department of Nutrition at HSPH. Rebecca joined SBS in 2006, and since then had worked in a variety of research roles at the Prevention Research Center on Nutrition and Physical Activity.

**Jennifer Reiner** has been promoted to Project Manager at the Prevention Research Center on Nutrition and Physical Activity. She will be managing partnerships with state and local health agencies to develop local cost-effectiveness models to promote increased implementation of policies and strategies that promote a healthy weight among children.

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**COVID-19 Publications**


**Kim JJ, Koenen KC.** **Physical Distance and Social Solidarity: Not Social Distancing!** Thrive Global, March 20, 2020.

**Koenen KC**, Lincoln AK, Smoller JW. **Battling the Pandemic of Fear.** Thrive Global, March 26, 2020.


[View More SBS COVID-19 Publications]


Awards and Honors

Jill Roncarati has received the 2019 Zhu Family Trainee Travel Award to present her research, Housing Boston’s Chronically Homeless Rough Sleepers: Ten Years Later, during the 2019 APHA Annual Meeting and Expo.

Presentations


Nagler E. "Fostering health and wellbeing among low-wage food service workers: Using formative research to guide intervention design." Society of Behavioral Medicine, 41st Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions: San Francisco, CA.

Nagler E. "Working conditions are key to “whole health”: An analysis of focus group discussions with Veterans Affairs employees." Society of Behavioral Medicine, 41st Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions: San Francisco, CA.


Roncarati JS, Sullivan MA. “Homelessness in the U.S.” Nano-course offered at Harvard Medical School and Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health.


Events and Seminars

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, many SBS and other HSPH events have been postponed, canceled, or moved to an online format. For the most current information, visit SBS's Events Calendar and HSPH's Master Events Calendar.