Nearly All New York City’s Public School Students Have High Levels of Access to Convenience Stores with Unhealthy Food

Bodegas near the schoolyard are likely sources of junk food for kids at risk for obesity

Most studies of the food choices available near public schools have focused on fast food outlets rather than the full range of options available to schoolchildren. A new study led by Dr. Andrew Rundle, Associate Professor of Epidemiology, examined the patterns of exposure to a broad range of food outlets for school children in New York City.

The study, “Disparities in the Food Environments of New York City Public Schools,” is published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, and cited as the “Editor’s Choice” in the September issue.

Using 2006-2007 data for New York City school locations, the paper describes the prevalence of five types of food outlets near schools. These included national chain and local fast-food restaurants, pizzerias, small grocery stores or bodegas, and convenience stores within 400 meters (437 yards) of public schools.

The researchers found that 92.9% of students had a small grocery store within 400 meters of their school; these stores typically carry fewer healthy food options than larger grocery stores. In addition, 70.6% had a pizzeria within 400 meters, 48.9% were close to a convenience store, 43.2% were within 400 m. of a national chain fast-food restaurant, such as McDonald’s or Burger King, and 33.9% were within 400 m. of a local fast-food chain restaurant.

“The data confirm that nearly all New York City public school students have access to inexpensive, energy-dense foods within a 5-minute walk of New York City’s public schools,” reported Dr. Rundle, senior author.

The study, which included as co-authors Assistant Professor of Epidemiology Dr. Gina Lovasi and doctoral student Catherine Richards, also examined disparities by economic status and race/ethnicity in access to these food outlets, and evaluated the extent to which these disparities are explained by school neighborhoods.

Racial/ethnic minority and low-income students were more likely to attend schools with unhealthy food outlets nearby. Bodegas were the most common source of unhealthy food, with an average of nearly 10 bodegas within 400 m. While more research is needed to analyze the items sold from a nutritional standpoint, it is apparent that small grocery stores offer high caloric foods at very tempting prices.

“Our data points to the fact that children who are at an economic disadvantage tend to have more small groceries in close daytime proximity which could affect their food intake and health over the long term,” says Dr. Rundle. “A comprehensive understanding of the food available to schoolchildren is critical for policies aimed at promoting healthy eating to these food outlets, and evaluated the extent to which these disparities are explained by school neighborhoods.”

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the October Issue of Two by Two, the Epidemiology Department newsletter. We are now well underway with our 2010-2011 academic year, welcoming new students and reuniting with those who are returning.

Fundamental to our role as a leading department of epidemiology is educating students. In this issue we will highlight another of the four core elements of our strategic plan, Dynamic Educational Opportunities. Features include an overview of our current MPH curriculum and a preview of the new PhD curriculum that will be inaugurated in the fall of 2011. (The MS and DrPH curricula will be presented in a future newsletter.) Descriptions of the stellar training programs led or co-led by our faculty are included, with a special mention of our newest HIV-cancer training grant awarded just this summer. Our faculty and staff profiles provide a closer look at some of the committee chairs and administrators who are the backbone of our academic programs. Also featured prominently in this issue: our students. In place of the typical single student profile, we profile ten students. We also share a snapshot of the makeup of our current student body, and a quick look at ten years’ worth of Epi doctoral graduates, including their dissertation topics and where they are today.

There is much more to know about our academic programs than can be presented here, but it is my hope that you’ll find the October newsletter both interesting and a useful resource.

I must express my great appreciation to Ms. Liliane Zaretsky and Ms. Elizabeth Ferrari for their substantial contributions to this issue.

Warm regards,

Sandro

CLUSTER SEMINARS
OCTOBER — NOVEMBER

SOCIAL EPIDEMIOLOGY
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14 12:30-2:00 PM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4 10:00-11:30 AM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 12:30-2:00 PM

PSYCH / NEURO EPIDEMIOLOGY
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14 12:30-2:00 PM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 12:30-2:00 PM

LIFECOURSE EPIDEMIOLOGY
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5 1:00-2:30 PM
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26 1:00-2:30 PM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 1:00-2:30 PM

EPIDEMIOLOGY INNOVATION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26 3:30-5:00 PM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 3:30-5:00 PM

CHRONIC DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29 12:00-1:00 PM
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19 12:00-1:00 PM

INFECTIOUS DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY
TBD

UPCOMING OCTOBER — NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2010
CUEGR: CONRAD KEATING, MSC, PGCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2010
FACULTY MEETING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2010
DEPARTMENT SEMINAR: MASTER’S STUDENT PRACTICUM PRESENTATIONS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2010
DEPARTMENT SEMINAR: JOSE LUCHSINGER, MD, MPH

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2010
CUEGR: (HOWE LECTURE) ANTHONY MILLER, MD, FRCP, FRCP(C), FFPH, FACE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2010
FACULTY MEETING

OCTOBER 2010 DYNAMIC EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
Birth Weight, Schizophrenia, and Adult Mental Disorder: Is Risk Confined to the Smallest Babies?

In the past, studies linking birth weight and mental illness onset have been inconclusive. A population-based cohort study in Sweden and Denmark examined whether low birth weight is associated with increased risk for adult schizophrenia, if the risk extends into the normal weight range, and if risk is confined to schizophrenia or linked to other adult mental illnesses. Using the Swedish National Patient Register and the Danish Psychiatric Central Register to link singleton live births in the countries with psychiatric treatment, Dr. Ezra Susser and colleagues found that there is an association between birth weight and adult mental disorder, but there is no indication this effect is specific to birth weight less than 2500g or to schizophrenia.


A Disease Like Any Other?

A Decade of Change in Public Reactions to Schizophrenia, Depression, and Alcohol Dependence

Clinicians, advocates, and policy makers have presented mental illnesses as medical diseases in efforts to overcome low service use, poor adherence rates, and stigma. A recently published study analyzed responses to vignettes in the mental health modules of the 1996 and 2006 General Social Survey describing individuals meeting DSM-IV criteria for schizophrenia, major depression, and alcohol dependence to see whether these efforts have been able to sway public opinions. Findings from the study, whose senior author is Dr. Bruce Link, show that more of the public embraces a neurobiological understanding of mental illness. This view translates into support for services but not into a decrease in stigma.

Pescosolido BA, Martin JK, Long JS, Medina TR, Phelan JC, Link BG. "A Disease Like Any Other"? A Decade of Change in Public Reactions to Schizophrenia, Depression, and Alcohol Dependence. Am J Psychiatry. 2010 Sep 15. [Epub ahead of print]
2010 MPH Grad at Carter Center

One of Sudan’s ‘lost boys’ who was separated from his family in the civil war and spent many years in refugee camps, Peter Manyang is intimately acquainted with the acute need for public health services in his home country. He came to the Mailman School with a clear mission: to acquire skills in public health and put them to use in Sudan. Shortly after his graduation this May with an MPH in Epidemiology, Peter’s goal became a reality through a job as a technical advisor with the Carter Center’s Southern Sudan Guinea Worm Eradication Program. In an email last week to Mr. Joe Korevec, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, Peter wrote that, “it is an amazing job with wonderful experience.”

“Peter is a terrific young man with a great heart,” says Mr. Korevec. “It’s deeply gratifying to know that he is putting his education to use exactly as he wanted.”

Dr. Stephen Morse is the Talk of the Town

Over an egg-centric luncheon with New Yorker Talk of the Town writer Michael Shulman at L’École, the restaurant of the French Culinary Institute, Dr. Stephen Morse discussed the recent recall of millions of eggs and the risk for salmonella. Their conversation is chronicled in the article “Cracked” in the September 6, 2010 issue of the New Yorker.
Epi Faculty at the UN General Assembly

Dr. Quarraisha Abdool Karim, spoke at the 65th United Nations General Assembly in New York. The subject on which Dr. Abdool Karim spoke, science, technology, and innovation (dubbed STI), was a highlight of the meeting in September and is part of a new push by the USAID to make scientific and technological breakthroughs the next “smart power” weapon in international foreign aid.

Students and faculty gather at the September Epi Social

The first departmental social of the academic year was held Friday, September 24th, and was a great success. The social was a great opportunity for new and returning students to meet one another and to meet faculty members. Thanks to everyone who came to the event!

Tiffany Gary-Webb’s Baby

Congratulations to Dr. Tiffany Gary-Webb and husband, Alex Webb, who welcome a baby girl into their family. To the delight of Amira, who was very excited to meet her baby sister, Ava Christine was born Friday, September 24th at 5:46 am, weighing 6 pounds 12 ounces. Mother and baby are happy and healthy.

Melissa Tracy’s Baby

Cecilia Virginia Tracy was born Sunday, September 12th at 11:24 am, weighing 7 pounds 4 ounces and measuring 20 inches in length. She is the newest daughter of Project Coordinator Melissa Tracy and her husband Joe Creamer, and the baby sister of Lucia, who thinks she is “so cute.” Congratulations to the Tracy-Creamer family on the newest addition!

JAMA Book Review

Mental Health and Disasters (lead editor Dr. Yuval Neria) was very favorably reviewed in the September 22/29 issue of JAMA. Reviewer Dr. Philip E. Veenhuis found that, “This book is must reading for anyone involved in planning the mental health response to disasters.”


The Injury Free Coalition for Kids

Led by Dr. Barbara Barlow, The Injury Free Coalition for Kids will present “2010 Forging New Frontiers: Making Communities Safe for Children and Their Families” in Chicago, November 12th – 14th. This CME conference will bring together medical experts and community leaders from around the country to exchange information and techniques to prevent injuries, reduce violence, prepare for natural disasters and promote teen safe driving. The conference is co-presented by Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center.
FACTS ABOUT OUR STUDENT BODY

177 MASTER’S STUDENTS

75 DOCTORAL STUDENTS

The following pages feature our academic programs and students. We highlight:

→ Students
→ Curricula
→ Academic Program Directors & Staff
→ Training Programs
→ Doctoral Grads
→ Committees

DYNAMIC EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
Ammanuel Girma Haile-Leul is a second year master’s student from Seattle. His practicum experience took place this summer in Cape Town, South Africa. And yes, this means that he was in Cape Town for the 2010 World Cup and was able to experience the first World Cup to take place in Africa. He worked at the University of Cape Town (UCT) on a research study addressing tuberculosis in the Western Cape Province. His advisor was adjunct faculty member and former Mailman doctoral student Dr. Landon Myer, whom Ammanuel describes as an extremely gracious host for the summer. They worked together closely to assemble his research in a manner that was both useful to the research aims of UCT as well as the fulfillment of his master’s thesis requirements. Their research focused on the social determinants of TB morbidity in the Western Cape. They concentrated on transportation, housing, and occupational factors as the preeminent sources of TB transmission and the way these transmission methods can be both positively and negatively affected by government policy. Ammanuel found Cape Town to be “one of the world’s most beautiful cities” and he hopes to return in the near future.

Kristyn Bigback is a first year master’s student in Epidemiology. She has just moved to New York City from Portland, Oregon. Before coming to Columbia she worked at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) on a study called Native CARS (Children Always Ride Safe), which is an NIH-funded community-based participatory research study. The study works with six American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribes in the Pacific Northwest to observe the number of children properly restrained in vehicles in their tribal communities, and to assist the tribes with implementing community-specific interventions. Kristyn loved working there, but decided it was time to move on to the next level in her education so that she can one day be the person in charge. She has been interested in Epidemiology since she was an undergrad at Stanford, and so choosing the Epi track wasn’t a hard decision for her. Besides AI/AN health, her primary research interest is Multiple Sclerosis, and she would love to get involved with MS research at CUMC.

Natalie Levy received her BA in Quantitative Economics and International Relations at Tufts University and is a second-year master’s student in Epidemiology. This summer, Natalie had the opportunity to fulfill her practicum requirement through the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s Epi Scholars program. As an Epi Scholar, Natalie has collaborated with members of the Bureau of Communicable Disease to research health disparities related to the recent H1N1 outbreak in New York City. Natalie plans to continue this work for her master’s thesis and hopes to focus on issues relating to health inequalities in her future professional pursuits.

Nadine Straka, a second-year master’s student, moved to New York from Vancouver where she had been living and working since graduating with a BSc in Microbiology from the University of British Columbia in 2007. Despite the drastic change in pace and scenery, she feels settled in the city and is well on her way to completing her MPH. Her decision to enroll in the MPH program was spurred by her experience living in Ecuador and working on a project funded by the Canadian International Development Research Centre that investigated chronic health effects among agricultural workers who are occupationally exposed to pesticides in the cut-flower industry. At Mailman she has continued to pursue her interest in environmental exposures and health. This past summer she worked at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on a project that focused on climate change adaptation. She investigated morbidity from extreme heat events and worked on an evaluation of NYC’s extreme heat response plan. Beginning this fall, Nadine will be doing her thesis with Dr. Pam Factor-Litvak, investigating exposure to endocrine disrupting compounds and reproductive function.

Second-year master’s student Brian Moy graduated from UCLA, majoring in Environmental Science with a concentration in Environmental Health Sciences. This concentration opened his eyes to the world of public health, particularly environmental epidemiology. As a guest researcher at the CDC, he worked on climate and health issues at the national level, ranging from extreme heat events, floods, and food-borne illnesses. This opportunity convinced him to pursue an MPH in Epidemiology at the Mailman School, with particular interest in applying these methods towards climate and health issues. He also took a position within the NYC Department of Health’s Bureau of Communicable Diseases, as a member of the Salmonella Surveillance Project, which gave him practical hands-on experience regarding epidemiological methods, survey experience, and outbreaks at the local governmental level. Wishing to apply his education and professional experiences at the international level, he applied and was accepted to a research position with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre for his practicum, working in Jakarta, Indonesia. The project dealt with understanding the current risk perception associated with dengue fever, climate change within Jakarta. After completing his MPH, Brian will be applying to PhD programs, with interests in understanding how alterations to the built environment can mitigate the effects of climate change, with particular emphasis in the reduction of vector-borne diseases and negative health outcomes.
Samantha Garbers, a third-year doctoral student, is employed as a Research Scientist at Public Health Solutions (formerly Medical & Health Research Association of New York City, Inc.) where she conducts public health research focusing on health literacy and family planning and prenatal care service provision, with a particular emphasis on reaching underserved populations. Through her work at Public Health Solutions, Samantha is working closely with her mentor and Epidemiology department faculty member, Dr. Mary Ann Chiasson, on the evaluation of a low-literacy intervention to improve contraceptive method choice. Samantha is presenting these findings at the upcoming International Conference on Urban Health and the Region 2 Title X National Meeting. In her personal life, Samantha is a mother of two school-age boys and an avid knitter.

Dr. Kellee White says she often draws upon the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to guide her work: “Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhumane.” Specifically, her research seeks to understand how factors outside of the health care system affect health status, health risk, and health disparities. Dr. White traces the origins of this interest to undergraduate training, when she received a bachelors’ degree in Sociology from Vassar College. She then received her MPH in Sociomedical Sciences and her doctorate in Epidemiology from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University.

Dr. White completed her PhD in Epidemiology 2008. Her dissertation, conducted under the guidance of Dr. Luisa Borrell, explored the mediating mechanisms between racial/ethnic residential segregation and self reported hypertension among blacks in NYC. Following graduate school, she did a Kellogg Health Scholars Post-doctoral fellowship at the Harvard University School of Public Health. Recently, Dr. White joined the University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology as an Assistant Professor. Her research focuses on: 1) methodological and conceptual issues related to the racial/ethnic residential segregation and health; 2) the accumulation of disadvantage across the lifecourse and its influence on chronic disease in old age; and 3) the intersection of epidemiology, urban planning, and public policies to address health inequities.

Michael Marco, M.Phil, MPH, is a fifth-year doctoral candidate in the Epidemiology Department. He came to Mailman in 2004 after 15 years working in the HIV field, first as a Policy Director for Treatment Action Group (TAG) and later as the International Program Manager for the NIH-sponsored AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG).

Michael received his MPH from Mailman in 2007. He was fortunate to work closely with two of most respected leaders in HIV research, Drs. Scott Hammer and Wafa El-Sadr. He did his practicum in Durban, South Africa working in the ACTG unit at the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine. His master’s thesis, which focused on temporal trends in CD4 counts of HIV-infected injection drug users, was accepted as the lead oral HIV presentation at the 35th Annual Meeting of the Infectious Disease Society of America.

Michael’s dissertation research involves an exploration of the utility of TB contact investigation which includes a molecular epidemiologic analysis of case-to-contact TB transmission and risk factors associated with the development of active TB disease in contacts. Michael will be under the tutelage of his dissertation sponsor, Neil Schluger, M.D., Professor of Epidemiology, and Chief of Pulmonology, Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons.

Jonathon Ipser is a first year master’s student and Fogarty International Training Grant fellow. He received an MA in Psychological Research in 2002 from the University of Cape Town (UCT), and was subsequently employed there as Project Manager for the Brain and Behavior Initiative. He completed his PhD at UCT in January of this year. His dissertation research investigated the behavioral and neural correlates of impulse control in healthy subjects with a history of childhood abuse. This forms part of a broad interest in the cross-disciplinary application of quantitative research methodology to the study of risk-taking behavior. Jonathon has recently become interested in modeling risk factors in the transmission of HIV using a social network approach. He ultimately intends to employ a similar approach to modeling brain connectivity in an ongoing study of HIV patients in South Africa who abuse methamphetamines.

Dr. Terusa Chetty is a first year Fogarty international training grant fellow. She graduated in 2003 with an MBChB (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, equivalent to MD) from the University of Natal, and subsequently spent one and half years in clinical pediatrics in both urban and rural hospitals in KwaZulu-Natal. She joined the Department of Public Health Medicine at the University of KwaZulu-Natal as a resident in 2007 and is currently completing her postgraduate specialization in this discipline. Her MMed (Master of Medicine, equivalent to postdoctoral fellowship) research project involved investigating the clinical and loss to follow-up outcomes of HIV-exposed infants born to mothers in a Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme in an urban hospital in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The research highlighted issues in the health system which may undermine delivery of PMTCT in urban settings in KwaZulu-Natal. Dr. Chetty’s primary interest is in maternal and child health in the context of HIV and she is particularly interested in health system issues which affect care of these patients.

Doctoral alumna Dr. Kellee White
Master’s Curriculum

The MPH program is designed to prepare students for careers in public health by providing them with the skills needed to conduct research into the causes, prevention, and control of human disease.* These goals are achieved via a curriculum that emphasizes mastery of methods of epidemiological research and is enriched by substantive courses on important disease outcomes, such as AIDS, tuberculosis, and cancer, and on factors that may be important in disease causation, such as genetics, nutrition, and the environment.

Upon satisfactory completion of an MPH degree, students are able to discuss the role of epidemiology within the broader field of public health and identify its relationship to the fields of medicine, social and behavioral sciences, environmental science, and health policy. They also can explain and analyze the distribution and determinants of both chronic and infectious diseases in different populations; apply principles of disease prevention within populations; discuss contemporary issues in epidemiological research in at least three substantive areas—which may include diseases, other health outcomes, or exposures; and identify potential ethical problems in research studies, evaluate alternative approaches to solving ethical dilemmas, and apply the principles underlying ethical treatment of human subjects in research.

* The MS curriculum will be featured in a future newsletter.

Master’s Thesis

Master’s students are required to complete a thesis to be awarded the MPH degree. Students initiate the process in their first year and continue their work throughout the course of their training. The process begins by identification of a topic, dataset, and first and second readers. The first reader must be an epidemiology faculty member; the second can be outside of academia or from another department. Students also take two thesis courses to provide structure and guidance and to assure they are on track with their projects. The process is intentionally iterative: students submit multiple drafts to their readers before the final thesis submission.

Master’s Required Courses

Core Courses

- P6400  Epi I: Principles of Epidemiology
- P6103  Introduction to Biostatistics
- P6300  Environmental Health Sciences
- P6530  Issues and Approaches to Health Policy and Management
- P6700  Introduction to Sociomedical Sciences
- P6810  Introduction to Global Health

Methods Sequence

- P8438  Epi II: Design and Conduct of Observational Epidemiology
- P8400  Epi III: Applied Epidemiologic Analysis
- P8120  Analysis of Categorical Data
- P8483  Applications of Epidemiologic Research Methods I

Thesis

- P9419  Master’s Thesis in Epidemiology I
- P9420  Master’s Thesis in Epidemiology II

Recommended

- P8100  Applied Regression I

In addition to the required courses listed above, MPH students are also required to take any three of the substantive courses (listed on page 21), plus 6 elective credits.
Doctoral Dissertation

Doctoral students are required to complete and defend a dissertation to be awarded the PhD. After completing their qualifying exams, students identify a topic and a dissertation sponsor, who then appoints other members of the dissertation committee. The dissertation committee usually consists of the sponsor, a chair, and a second reader all in the Epidemiology Department, as well as two other members extraneous to the Department. Working closely with their sponsors, students develop and defend a research proposal first to their committee and then at a public seminar. Having successfully met these challenges, the students complete a literature review relevant to their specific aims, undertake the appropriate analyses, and usually complete the dissertation in the form of at least two empirical and publishable papers with associated introductions and appendices. They defend the final dissertation before their committee in closed session.

Doctoral Required Courses

Core Methods Sequence

- P6400 Epi I: Principles of Epidemiology
- P8438 Epi II: Design and Conduct of Observational Epidemiology
- P8400 Epi III: Applied Epidemiologic Analysis
- P9400 Epi IV: Critical Thinking in Epidemiology
- TBA Epi V: Concepts in Causal Inference
- TBA Epi VI: Advanced Topics in Epidemiologic Methods

Core Skills Sequence

- P8483 Applications of Epidemiologic Research Methods I
- TBA Applications of Epidemiologic Research Methods II
- TBA Publications, Presentations, and Grants
- TBA History of Epidemiology
- TBA Biology and Physiology for Epidemiologists

* Master’s level course

The courses are organized in terms of core methods courses (which have been enhanced), core skills courses, and substantive courses. Under the updated program, there will be some changes in course names and sequences. While the number of required courses has been reduced, some new course offerings will now be required. We aim to have foundational strength in the biologic and social determinants of population health and in innovative methodologic approaches applied to all our areas of strength.

* The DrPH curriculum will be featured in a future newsletter.
Even a partial listing of the responsibilities of Liliane Zaretsky, Associate Director for Academic Programs, is exhausting. She manages four academic programs (MPH, MS, PhD, and DrPH) and over 200 full and part time students.

Liliane provides administrative oversight for recruitment, admissions, advising, and career development, as well as all core, methods, and substantive courses offered through the Department. She assigns faculty and teaching assistants as seminar leaders for the 20+ sections of the epidemiology core course. She liaises with all academic and dean’s office departments in the school and works with students, staff, and faculty at all levels. She sits on and serves as administrator for the Doctoral, Master’s, Curriculum, and Exam Committees, and documents and implements changes in the overall committee policy and membership. She also serves on the Global Track Committee, the Departmental Committee on Appointments and Promotions, and on school-wide committees, such as Admissions and the Program Coordinator’s Committee. And she works closely with the Chair, Vice Chair, and other senior administrators to help the Department run smoothly.

But there is so much more to the role Liliane plays. She is often working behind the scenes, bringing her prodigious knowledge about the School and the Department to bear as she makes connections and tweaks processes that impact the students’ experience. Her twenty-plus years in Epidemiology speak to her deep commitment to and love for her job, her colleagues, and her students. To many, she represents the inclusive, almost familial spirit of the Department. Students seek Liliane’s counsel on everything from navigating the course system, to managing relationships with mentors, to handling problems in their personal life. Faculty seek her out for the same reasons. Liliane always seems to know who to talk to and how to get it done, and she never fails to give sound advice or to intervene on behalf of students and faculty. Elizabeth Ferrari, who has assisted Liliane in running the academic program for the past six years, sums it up this way, “Without a doubt, one of the best things about the Department of Epidemiology is Liliane Zaretsky! It’s in large part due to her that I look forward to coming into the office every day. I think all Epi students should meet her and take advantage of her wisdom. Liliane is truly devoted to her students and is an inspiration to work with.”
Elizabeth plays a critical role in coordinating and tracking the applications process for both master’s and doctoral student applicants, collecting the electronic applications and routing them to faculty members for review, maintaining a database on the status of each application, and preparing the applications for presentation at the school-wide admissions committee meeting. She provides administrative support to Liliane Zaretsky and Epidemiology faculty members in selecting and then recruiting accepted applicants, and in coordinating the orientation of the incoming class.

Elizabeth also schedules classes and coordinates classroom space and A/V, and does a yeoman’s job of providing administrative management of the twenty-plus sections of the Epi core course. She maintains a series of critical departmental database on faculty, students and alumni. She also works with the chairs of the Master’s, Doctoral, and Curriculum Committees, who consider her efforts invaluable:

“Elizabeth makes life easier for all of us,” says Master’s Committee Chair Anne Paxton.

To Elizabeth, the most rewarding aspect of working with students is watching them grow and mature into talented professionals, optimistic about their career prospects and excited about their research plans for the future. “Our students are enthusiastic, intelligent, and eager to work collaboratively with each other and with faculty and students from other departments. I really look forward to meeting all the new Epi students and seeing our second year students again as they return from their practicums and start the new school year,” she says.
Doctoral and Postdoctoral Training Programs

Training programs led or co-led by Epidemiology faculty address a diverse range of health domains, among them psychiatric epidemiology, cancer, HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Psychiatric Epidemiology

**Director:** Bruce Link, PhD, Professor of Epidemiology and Sociomedical Sciences

**Training Coordinator:** Sharon Schwartz, PhD, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology

The Columbia University Psychiatric Epidemiology Training Program (PET) was created in 1972 to train individuals from different disciplines in psychiatric epidemiology. The program has supported and trained over 145 researchers who have made valuable contributions within their respective research, clinical, and community settings.

The mission of the program is to equip new generations of pre- and postdoctoral fellows with the skills and vision needed to conceptualize, measure, and test ideas about psychiatric disorders that will advance the field in both incremental and ground-breaking ways. To fulfill this mission, we emphasize a framework for investigating the etiology, course, and consequences of mental illness that highlights the dynamic interplay of multiple levels, that is, a person (biology, psychology), in context (family, social network, neighborhood, workplace, society) through time (person and contextual change).

Over the years we have developed an approach to training that prepares fellows to identify and tackle important research problems using theory, strategic study designs, and innovative measurement approaches. Through course work, field placements, and the Faculty-Fellows Seminar, trainees are exposed to research that applies this model to both their specific area of interest and to the field at-large.

Fogarty AITRP

**Principal Investigator:** Quarraisha Abdool Karim, PhD, Associate Professor of Clinical Epidemiology

**Training Coordinator:** Sharon B. Schwartz, PhD, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology

Since 1993, Columbia University has been a key participant in the National Institutes of Health Fogarty AIDS International Training and Research Program (AITRP). This program supports HIV/AIDS and related TB international training and research for foreign health scientists, clinicians, and allied health workers from South Africa, Swaziland, Lesotho and Namibia. The Columbia University-Southern Africa AITRP (CU-SA AITRP) builds on the strong historical ties between our faculty and South African health professionals.

The CU-SA AITRP was launched at a critical point during the then-emerging HIV epidemic in southern Africa. Centered originally on developing public health TB and HIV epidemiology research capacity in South Africa, the program has expanded to offer training opportunities for residents of Namibia, Swaziland, and Lesotho (and Botswana until 1998), while continuing to train researchers from South Africa. It has further expanded training opportunities to include basic science, behavioral science, and ethics. The Columbia University-Southern Africa Fogarty AITRP is unique among AITRPs in having its principal investigator situated in a developing country, South Africa. The program office in southern Africa is located at CAPRISA, located in the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, and in the U.S., in the Department of Epidemiology at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health in New York City.

New collaborative training program awarded to Epidemiology by NIH

**Columbia-South Africa Training Program for Research on HIV-Associated Malignancies**

**Director:** Alfred I. Neugut, MD, PhD, Myron M. Studner Professor of Cancer Research (in Medicine) and Professor of Epidemiology

In sub-Saharan Africa, Kaposi sarcoma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and cervical cancer incidence and mortality rates have risen dramatically as the HIV/AIDS epidemic has evolved. Access to anti-retroviral therapy and survival with AIDS are improving, but HIV-related malignancies are an increasingly urgent public health problem for men, women, and children in South Africa. Building on the longstanding success of two of our existing training programs, the Fogarty AIDS International Training and Research Program (active for 16 years) and the T32 and R25 grants that make up the Epidemiology Cancer Training Program (active for 25 and 7 years respectively) the Department of Epidemiology has been awarded a new NIH-funded training program designed to build research capacity on HIV-related malignancies in resource limited settings. In collaboration with our South Africa partners, CAPRISA and the University of KwaZulu-Natal, the program will train medical professionals and researchers in South Africa to conduct research at the intersection of HIV and cancer.
Infectious Disease Epidemiology

**Director:** Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, PhD, Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine

**Training Coordinator:** Crystal Fuller, PhD, Associate Professor of Clinical Epidemiology

The Infectious Disease Epidemiology Training Program was established in 2001 with a focus on developing investigators with expertise in the epidemiology of infectious diseases. The goal of the program is to prepare future leaders in the effort to rapidly identify, prevent, and manage emerging and reemerging infections within a dramatically changing global environment.

Funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), trainees selected for this program are expected to conduct clinical or laboratory-based research with one of the participating faculty mentors. In addition, they are required to obtain a master’s or doctoral degree with a focus in Infectious Disease Epidemiology through the Mailman School of Public Health or the Division of Infectious Disease at the Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC).

Cancer Epidemiology

**Director:** Alfred I. Neugut, MD, PhD, Myron M Studner Professor of Cancer Research (in Medicine) and Professor of Epidemiology

The Cancer Training Program in the Department of Epidemiology is home to two NCI-funded training grants. The first, a T32 program, is a collaboration among the School’s Departments of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Environmental Health Sciences. The second is an R25 program to train pre- and postdoctoral fellows in cancer-related population science. The two programs include a total of fourteen trainees, half predoctoral and half postdoctoral, all engaged in cancer-related studies and research. Weekly seminars bring all the participants together for presentations by the trainees, and the diversity of the group leads to significant cross-fertilization and sharing of ideas.

Research projects include studies in molecular, lifestyle, and global cancer epidemiology; the projects capitalize on the resources of numerous local and international epidemiologic studies that include risk-factor data on nearly 1,000,000 individuals and large biorepositories of blood, urine, and tissue specimens of breast, lung, liver, and several other cancers. A large research group is also studying health services and outcomes research in cancer, racial disparities, and treatment issues. Several faculty members work on cancer prevention, including lifestyle and vitamin supplements, as well as cancer survivorship and palliative care. Emphasis is placed on learning clinical and pathologic principles of cancer, as well as an appreciation of advanced biostatistical methods.

Genetics of Complex Disorders

**Director:** Susan E. Hodge, D.Sc., Professor of Clinical Biostatistics

**Co-Director:** David A. Greenberg, PhD, Professor of Biostatistics (in Psychiatry)

**Pre-doctoral Training Director:** Ruth Ottman, PhD, Professor of Epidemiology (in Neurology and in the GH Sergievsky Center)

The Genetics of Complex Disorders (GCD) program trains postdoctoral (MD and PhD) and predoctoral fellows in genetic epidemiology and statistical analysis of psychiatric and other complex diseases. Its mission is to train people in all aspects of human genetic studies: study design, clinical aspects, phenotype definition, laboratory issues, and statistical analysis. The field of genetics is changing rapidly; successful investigators must be competent in a broad array of techniques, able to speak the languages of fields outside their own, and capable of collaborating effectively with scientists in other fields.

Training has both a didactic and a research component. The didactic component includes both an academic program and a series of practical laboratory rotations. The academic program consists of a series of academic courses in human genetics, epidemiology, statistical genetics, computer simulations, research communication skills, and responsible conduct of research. The laboratory rotations take place in a number of laboratories at Columbia University, where a rich and broad variety of genetic studies are being carried out. In the research component each fellow works closely with a preceptor on an independent research project of the fellow’s choosing; the fellow prepares a clearly written research proposal, carries out the proposal, prepares an oral description of the study and its results, and produces a publishable manuscript based on the completed study.

Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars

**Co-Directors:** Bruce Link, Phd, Professor of Epidemiology and Sociomedical Sciences, Peter Bearman, PhD, Jonathan R. Cole Professor of Sociology, Julien Teitler, PhD, Associate Professor, Social Work

As one of the six sites in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Health & Society Scholars Program, Columbia H&SS promotes innovative and interdisciplinary research in population health through the Scholars Program, working groups and other internal funding, and public events. Co-directed by Peter Bearman (Sociology), ISERP, Bruce Link (Epidemiology and Sociomedical Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health), and Julien Teitler (Social Work), the program integrates faculty and Scholars in the health, behavioral, social, and environmental sciences. Columbia H&SS supports theoretically-informed and methodologically rigorous basic and applied research. The program fosters an intellectual environment open to unexpected insights from our juxtaposition of different disciplines and points of view; our cross-talk among research, policy, and advocacy; and our encounter with the stimulating and complex environment of New York City. Research experiences may include intensive participation in a lab or large research study, collaboration with program faculty or other scholars, and independent projects carried out in a collegial and supportive environment. Scholars typically work on multiple projects and with multiple mentors, and take an independent role in planning and carrying out their research. Columbia H&SS is committed to responsible mentoring that promotes each Scholar’s intellectual and professional development and research productivity.
Neuro-Epidemiology

Co-Directors: Elan Louis, MD, MS, Professor of Neurology and Epidemiology (in the GH Sergievsky Center and the Taub Institute) Mitchell Elkind, MD, MS, Associate Professor of Neurology and Epidemiology (in the GH Sergievsky Center)

The NIH/NINDS-funded T32 Neuro-epidemiology Training Program prepares neurologists and other research scientists for careers in epidemiological research focusing on neurologic disorders. Since its inception, the program has trained neurologists and neuroscientists who have gone on to become leaders in neuro-epidemiology at the NIH and at major academic centers around the U.S.

Continuously funded since 1981, the program capitalizes on the strengths of the Department of Neurology, the Departments of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Mailman School of Public Health, and the inter-disciplinary Gertrude H. Sergievsky Center, all at Columbia University Medical Center.

The program provides structured, didactic training combined with the opportunity to participate in and expand upon ongoing epidemiologic studies of neurologic disease conducted by program faculty. Trainees have the opportunity to work in large ongoing epidemiological studies utilizing multiple study designs, including case-control and prospective cohort studies such as the Northern Manhattan Study and the Washington-Heights Inwood Study of Aging, among others.

Past trainees have successfully competed for independent funding from the NIH and other sources. All trainees spend a minimum of two years in the program. Pursuit of a degree (MS in epidemiology) is recommended, but not required.

Training in Interdisciplinary Research to Reduce Antimicrobial Resistance (TIRAR)

Director: Elaine Larson, RN, PhD, Professor of Therapeutic and Pharmaceutical Research and Professor of Epidemiology
Co-Director: Richard H. Kessin, PhD, Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology

TIRAR is a program of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research to Reduce Antimicrobial Resistance (CIRAR), which was originally funded in 2004 with the overall mission of reducing antimicrobial resistance through innovative interdisciplinary research. CIRAR serves as an umbrella coordinating center to foster and sustain a community of interdisciplinary scholars engaged in such research. Researchers from all disciplines as well as trainees committed to developing research skills congruent with the aims of CIRAR are encouraged to become involved in the activities of the Center. Activities include monthly symposia, interdisciplinary courses, and training opportunities. CIRAR also provides infrastructure to researchers committed to developing interdisciplinary research teams and preparing grant proposals for funding. We encourage graduate students to develop theses and dissertation projects in collaboration with our funded, senior researchers and/or to seek consultation from core staff for interdisciplinary projects related to the reduction of antimicrobial resistance. This training grant prepares pre- and postdoctoral scholars for participation and leadership in interdisciplinary research to reduce antimicrobial resistance by creating an interdisciplinary research curriculum; developing CIRAR pre- and postdoctoral training programs; implementing a faculty training program in interdisciplinary research; and developing and maintaining programmatic self-evaluation and revision mechanisms.
## Our Postdoctoral Trainees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POST-DOC NAME</th>
<th>TRAINING PROGRAM</th>
<th>DOCTORAL DEGREE</th>
<th>DATE EARNED</th>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>MAJOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ben Adams</td>
<td>Psychiatric Epidemiology</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Teachers College, Columbia University</td>
<td>Clinical Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joy Baumgartner</td>
<td>Psychiatric Epidemiology</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</td>
<td>Maternal and Child Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corey Brouse</td>
<td>Cancer Epidemiology</td>
<td>EdD</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Teachers College, Columbia University</td>
<td>Health Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoe Donaldson</td>
<td>Robert Wood Johnson Health &amp; Society Scholars</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Emory University</td>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Fletcher</td>
<td>Robert Wood Johnson Health &amp; Society Scholars</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin, Madison</td>
<td>Applied Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Hall</td>
<td>Cancer Epidemiology</td>
<td>ScD</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Harvard University</td>
<td>Nutrition and Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helena Hansen</td>
<td>Robert Wood Johnson</td>
<td>MD/PhD</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Yale University</td>
<td>Anthropology/Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Hatzenbuehler</td>
<td>Robert Wood Johnson Health &amp; Society Scholars</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Yale University</td>
<td>Clinical Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seth Holmes</td>
<td>Robert Wood Johnson Health &amp; Society Scholars</td>
<td>MD/PhD</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>University of California at Berkeley</td>
<td>Anthropology and Social Medicine/Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wael Lasheen</td>
<td>Cancer Epidemiology</td>
<td>MBBS</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Cairo University</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alicia Lukachko</td>
<td>Psychiatric Epidemiology</td>
<td>DrPH</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Columbia University</td>
<td>Sociomedical Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alicia McDonald</td>
<td>Cancer Epidemiology</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracy McFarlane</td>
<td>Psychiatric Epidemiology</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Graduate Center of the City University of New York</td>
<td>Social and Personality Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Myers</td>
<td>Infectious Disease</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Cornell University</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aran Cunningham Nichol</td>
<td>Infectious Disease</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Baylor College of Medicine</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgar Simard</td>
<td>Cancer Epidemiology</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cate Taylor</td>
<td>Robert Wood Johnson Health &amp; Society Scholars</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Cornell University</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Winner</td>
<td>Cancer Epidemiology</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Washington University</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hui-Chen Wu</td>
<td>Cancer Epidemiology</td>
<td>DrPH</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Columbia University</td>
<td>Environmental Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christie Younghae</td>
<td>Infectious Disease</td>
<td>ScD</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Harvard University</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dr. Anne Paxton is a global health specialist and epidemiologist with expertise in the evidence-based design, monitoring and evaluation of global public health programs, with a particular focus on Africa.

Dr. Paxton has dedicated her career to the use of applied research for the establishment and evaluation of public health programs in maternal mortality prevention, maternal and child nutrition, and blindness prevention. From 2001 to 2007, as a faculty member of the Mailman School of Public Health, Dr. Paxton provided technical oversight and management of monitoring and evaluation research for the Averting Maternal Death and Disability Program, a global program of research, advocacy, policy analysis, and program support dedicated to the reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity. Earlier in her career she was responsible for the regional program for Africa of the New York-based nongovernmental organization Helen Keller International. Dr. Paxton organized and conducted some of the earliest epidemiologic surveys of the prevalence of vitamin A deficiency and trachoma in West Africa that led to the establishment of numerous national blindness prevention and child survival programs that continue today. Dr. Paxton is a founding member and current Director of the interdepartmental Global Health Track designed to prepare students interested in becoming global health practitioners, and teaches numerous global health courses. Her current research interests include topics related to migration and assimilation. Recently, with colleagues from the Institute of Human Nutrition and the Global Health Track she has received a seed grant from the Columbia Population Research Center to study changes in diet of South Asian and West African immigrants to New York City. An article in press reports on research regarding identity formation of bi-national Americans, a subject she was drawn to raising her two bi-national (American and Cameroonian) children.

Dr. Paxton has a strong interest in mentoring women, both faculty and staff, who are raising children while building a career. She started an informal support group for faculty mothers last year that now numbers about 40 participants. She is also an avid musician: she can be heard most Sundays at Cathedral of St John the Divine, where she began singing with the choir 6 years ago when her daughter joined as a chorister.

As Director of the Master’s Program and Chair of the Master’s Committee, Dr. Paxton is engaged in all aspects of master’s student admissions, as well as open houses, admitted students’ day, orientation, and student awards selection. She coordinates closely with Associate Director of the Epidemiology Academic Programs, Liliane Zaretsky, and with a variety of committees and school-wide offices, including the Department’s Curriculum Committee, the school-wide Admissions and Financial Aid Offices, and the Office of Student Affairs. When individual students encounter difficulties, the entire group is involved in resolving them. “We all work together to make the students’ experience optimal,” says Dr. Paxton.
Dr. Leslie Davidson is a perinatal and pediatric epidemiologist whose primary research interests include disability in children particularly in low and middle income countries.

Dr. Davidson was a member of an international team of researchers led initially by Zena Stein and then by Maureen Durkin who developed and validated a household screening measure of child disability. The Ten Questions Screen has since been used widely in both program development and research and is currently being used in a large cohort study of preschool children in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (Davidson LL, PI and Kauchali, S South African PI and a Columbia Masters graduate and current doctoral candidate).

Dr. Davidson has also had a long-term interest in the study of injury and violence. While she was Medical Director of the Central Harlem School Health Program, Dr. Davidson obtained CDC funding to launch childhood injury surveillance in Northern Manhattan linked to the development and evaluation of the Harlem Hospital Injury Prevention Program led by Barbara Barlow. The evaluation of that program remains one of a small group of studies of community based interventions using independently collected injury rates as the outcome. Most recently, her focus has been on the study of intimate partner violence in adolescents and young adults through her involvement in the Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention and through her research working with colleagues in Population and Family Health and Pediatrics. Dr. Davidson’s policy work includes collaboration with faculty at the National Center for Children in Poverty on translating research into practice at the state level. She has extensive knowledge of the development and implementation of studies at the community level and of the use of routinely collected data in epidemiological research.

Dr. Davidson has enjoyed mentoring graduate students and has involved students in all her research. “It is a great honor to work to support the wonderful students who have chosen to study with us.” She says, “Besides serving on a number of dissertation committees, I attend most of the dissertation defences. Our doctoral candidates are creative, rigorous and thoughtful - altogether splendid.”

Dr. Davidson has spent much of her academic and research career at Columbia, initially through medical school, pediatric training, and later as faculty member. Leaving Columbia briefly, she earned a MSc in Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and a post doc fellowship at the Institute of Psychiatry. In 2005, after returning to Columbia in 2002, Dr. Davidson began her leadership of the Doctoral Program in the Department working closely with the Associate Director of the Epidemiology Academic Programs, Liliane Zaretsky and the many faculty who serve as advisors, sponsors, committee members and those who participate in the taught courses, the exams and admissions. She assures us “it will be an exciting couple of years as the department moves to develop and implement the new methods curriculum as well as learn how to best engage doctoral candidates into the emerging clusters. It is good to see the commitment of all faculty and the Department Chair to the Doctoral Program”. The key areas Dr. Davidson names for future growth of the Doctoral Program include supporting faculty in mentoring, quality standards for the dissertation, and forging the future direction of the DrPH.
Our Academic Committees

Doctoral Committee

The Doctoral Committee oversees the Doctoral Program, including policy and guidelines (in accordance with GSAS regulations), engages with the curriculum committee on curricular requirements and developments, manages admissions, supervises the qualifying exams and student dissertations and monitors student progress including the required annual review of progress. The Committee addresses any challenges arising for students. Therefore the Doctoral Committee makes recommendations to the Department Chair on policy around changes in curriculum in the Doctoral Program, competencies, requirements, exams and student progress. There is a steering committee and three subcommittees, one each on admissions, methods exam, and general exam.

Master’s Committee

The Master’s Committee has four principal tasks.

Admissions: During the months of December through March the major focus of the Committee is to review the approximately 350+ applications for the MPH and MS programs in Epidemiology. All the Committee members review applications. Most applications are reviewed by at least one faculty member; some are reviewed by two faculty. Applications that are in question are brought to Committee for general discussion. Representatives bring these applications to a schoolwide admissions meeting for final approval by the schoolwide admissions committee.

Policy and Curriculum: The Committee makes recommendations to the Department Chair on issues around the academic program, requirements, practicum, thesis, IRB and curriculum.

Recruitment: Master’s Committee members participate in recruitment events including a structured and systematic outreach to prospective students and meetings with potential recruits.

Orientation: The Committee organizes orientation for new incoming Master’s students usually held in September.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee is primarily responsible for monitoring the general curriculum for the Master’s Programs and the Doctoral Programs. The Committee therefore works with the Master’s and Doctoral Committees to assure that the curriculum is viable. The Committee works with the Chair to optimize our curricular offerings and advises the Chair on course instructors. The Committee reviews new courses, surveys students to see if there is enough interest in a given area to support doing a course, reviews the syllabus for a new course, and approves a course before it can go to the schoolwide Curriculum Committee for final approval. The Committee serves as a resource for faculty interested in teaching courses, old and new. The Committee is charged with creating workshops to complement our curricular offerings as needed. The Committee is also centrally responsible for ongoing course evaluation and for advising the Chair on potential remediation, as needed, of courses that are not achieving our curricular goals.

Committee Membership

DOCTORAL COMMITTEE
Chair: Leslie Davidson

TRAINING GRANT REPRESENTATIVES
Crystal Fuller - ID
Judith Jacobson – CANCER
Sharon Schwartz - PET
TBN – IMSD

METHODS EXAM SUBCOMMITTEE
Chair: Mary Beth Terry
Ryan Demmer
Charles DiMaggio
Pam Factor-Litvak
Tiffany Gary-Webb
Jeanine Genkinger
Thelma Mielenz
Sharon Schwartz
Steven Stellman
Mary Beth Terry

GENERAL EXAM SUBCOMMITTEE
Chair: Nicole Schupf

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
Carolyn Herzig
Catherine Richards

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES
Madelyn Gould
Deborah Hasin

MASTER’S COMMITTEE
Chair: Anne Paxton
Master’s thesis: Renee Goodwin
Student practicum: Joyce Pressley
Epi I representative: Debbie Barrington

MEMBERS
Thomas Briese
Alan Brown
Rosalind Carter
Batyia Elul
Tiffany Gary-Webb
Victor Grann
Dale Hesdorffer
Larkin Reynolds
Gustavo Palacios
Bertie Lumey

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
Chair: Sharon Schwartz

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
Christian Salazar
Chloe Teasdale

MEMBERS
Daniel Barth-Jones
Lisa Bates
Pam Factor-Litvak
Jeanine Genkinger
Gina Lovasi
Stephen Morse
Ruth Ottman
Mary Beth Terry

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
Michael Marco
Course Descriptions

EPIDEMIOLOGY CORE METHODS SEQUENCE

P6400  Epi I: Principles of Epidemiology
This course introduces students to the theory, methods, and body of knowledge of epidemiology. Principles of Epidemiology is designed for students in all fields of public health. The primary objective of the course is to teach the basic principles and applications of epidemiology.

P8438  Epi II: Design and Conduct of Observational Epidemiology
This course builds upon the methods introduced in P6400, Principles of Epidemiology. The primary objective is to provide students with the basic tools necessary to design, carry out, and interpret the results from observational epidemiologic studies.

P8400  Epi III: Applied Epidemiologic Analysis
The purpose of this course is to provide practical experience in analyzing epidemiologic data. The goal is to familiarize the student with various analytic methods and their uses to answer specific epidemiologic research questions.

P9400  Epi IV: Critical Thinking in Epidemiology
The emphasis in the course would be to help students think critically about epidemiologic studies, to sort through possible biases, to weigh the evidence, and to draw conclusions about the underlying hypotheses.

P9485  Epi V: Concepts in Causal Inference
The goal of this course is to provide a critical, in depth analysis of current approaches to causal inference within epidemiology (e.g., potential outcomes, sufficient component cause models).

TBA  Epi VI: Advanced Topics in Epidemiologic Methods
The goal of this course is to introduce doctoral students to an array of modern analytic techniques. A module format provides a brief introduction to a wider range of methods, giving students familiarity with the breath of possible approaches.

EPIDEMIOLOGY CORE SKILLS SEQUENCE

P8483  Applications of Epidemiologic Research Methods I
The course is intended to teach students how to apply basic epidemiological and statistical methods and concepts. The material builds on concepts introduced in epidemiology and biostatistics core courses and serves as a bridge to the methods presented in more advanced epidemiology courses.

TBA  Applications of Epidemiologic Research Methods II
This course was conceptualized as an extension of Epidemiologic Research Methods I which taught SAS. It should provide students with basic competencies in other programs such as R, GIS, Mplus, HLM, Stella, Python etc.

TBA  Publications, Presentations, and Grants
This course is conceptualized as a seminar focused on the practical skills in writing papers and grants and giving presentations. The course would be product-oriented with students writing F31 grants (equivalent to an individual T32), papers and/or presentations.

TBA  History of Epidemiology
This course explores the historical evolution of methods (e.g., study designs) and concepts (e.g., confounding, bias, interaction and causal inference) that constitute today’s epidemiology. It considers the historical contexts and landmark studies that led to specific innovations in terms of performance of group comparisons, population thinking and framing of hypotheses.

TBA  Biology and Physiology for Epidemiologists
This course is designed to provide the doctoral students with the basic fundamentals of biology and physiology to facilitate their epidemiologic work. The content will be proposed by the instructor.

SCHOOL-WIDE CORE MASTER’S REQUIREMENTS

P6103  Introduction to Biostatistics
This course covers the basic tools for the collection, analysis, and presentation of data in all areas of public health. Central to these skills is assessing the impact of chance and variability on the interpretation of research findings and subsequent recommendations for public health practice and policy.

P6300  Environmental Health Sciences
In this course, students will engage in scientific inquiry into environmental health issues and develop problem solving skills for improving health at the local, regional, and global levels.

P6530  Issues and Approaches to Health Policy and Management
This course focuses on policy and management issues that affect all health care practitioners. We will examine, among other topics, the historical foundations of the American health care system, the rise of managed care, the make-up of the healthcare workforce, the key issues on the nation’s long-term care policy agenda, and the ways in which government can encourage good quality of care.
MASTER’S THESIS COURSES

P9419 Master’s Thesis in Epidemiology I
The course guides students through development of the master’s thesis proposal by reviewing critical elements in writing each element of a thesis: development of a study question, writing specific aims, developing a study design, and analysis of data.

P9420 Master’s Thesis in Epidemiology II
This course focuses on the Statistical Analysis, Results, and Discussion sections of students’ master’s theses. Students will work closely with their first and second readers during the semester, but course instructors and teaching assistants will provide guidance on the selection and conduct of statistical analyses and on transforming their thesis into a format appropriate for submission for publication.

BIOSTATISTICAL FOUNDATIONS

P8100 Applied Regression I
The class will proceed systematically from the examination of the distributional qualities of the measures of interest, to assessing the appropriateness of the assumption of linearity, to issues related to variable inclusion, model fit, interpretation, and regression diagnostics.

P8120 Analysis of Categorical Data
This is a second level course that presumes some knowledge of applied statistics and epidemiology. Topics discussed include 2 x 2 tables, m x 2 tables, tests of independence, measures of association, power and sample size determination, stratification and matching in design and analysis, interrater agreement, and logistic regression analysis.

DEPARTMENTAL SUBSTANTIVE COURSES

Enhanced substantive courses offerings will be organized into six specific training streams consonant with the new departmental organizational structure and creating a more focused and integrated educational experience.

Courses in Chronic Disease Epidemiology include: Introduction to Chronic Disease, Cancer, and Cardiovascular.

Infectious Disease Epidemiology courses are: Intro to Infectious Disease; Infectious Disease II; Modeling for Infectious Disease; Design of Infectious Disease Studies; Emerging Infectious Diseases; Malaria; HIV/AIDS; and Tuberculosis.

LifeCourse Epidemiology options are: Introduction to LifeCourse and Aging.

In Psych / Neuro Epidemiology, courses available to students are: Psychiatric Epidemiology; Neuro Epidemiology; Neurobiology; Alcohol and Drugs; Clinical Psychiatry; and PET Seminars.

Social Epidemiology offers: Introduction to Social Epidemiology.

Under the rubric of the Epidemiology Innovation cluster, courses offered are: Drug Safety; Genetics; Measurement; Surveillance; Perinatal; Environmental; Clinical Epidemiology; Complementary and Alternative Medicine; Developing Countries; Field Methods; and Screening.

Substantive course offered by other departments at Mailman include Molecular Epidemiology and Gene Environment Interactions in Human Development, both taught through Environmental Health Sciences, and Investigative Methods in Humanitarian Emergencies taught through Population and Family Health.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST NAME</th>
<th>LAST NAME</th>
<th>SPONSOR</th>
<th>GRAD YEAR</th>
<th>DISSERTATION TITLE</th>
<th>CURRENT POSITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Susie</td>
<td>Hoffman</td>
<td>Maureen Hatch</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Psychosocial influences on adverse pregnancy outcomes</td>
<td>Assistant Professor of Clinical Epidemiology (in Psychiatry), Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, and Core Investigator, HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies, New York State Psychiatric Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinaro Mary</td>
<td>Kennedy</td>
<td>Zena Stein</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Vitamin a supplementation during third trimester of pregnancy among HIV-infected women</td>
<td>Chief Epidemiologist, Maternal &amp; Child Health Epidemiology Section, CDC, Atlanta GA and Adjunct Faculty at Emory University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maxine</td>
<td>Kuroda</td>
<td>Maureen Durkin</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Cerebral palsy in the United States: Prevalence and disability results from the national health interview survey disability supplement (1994-1995)</td>
<td>Professor of Pediatrics (Department of Preventive Medicine) The Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul</td>
<td>Landsbergis</td>
<td>Ana Diez-Reux</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>The workplace and cardiovascular disease: An application of social epidemiology</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, School of Public Health, SUNY, Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy</td>
<td>Sehler</td>
<td>Sharon Schwartz</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Does racial bias influence the way clinicians diagnose and treat patients with psychotic disorders?</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, CUNY Medical School, City College and Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan</td>
<td>Teitelbaum</td>
<td>Marlie D Gammon</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Reported residential pesticide use and breast cancer on Long Island, New York</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine, Mt Sinai School of Medicine, New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur</td>
<td>Whaley</td>
<td>Bruce Dohrenwend</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Social and cultural aspects of paranoia and the diagnosis of schizophrenia in african-american women</td>
<td>Academic Chair, Department of Psychology, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daisy</td>
<td>Ng-Mak</td>
<td>Charlotte Ann Stueve</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Normalization of violence among inner-city youth</td>
<td>Associate Director of Global Outcomes Research, Merck Sharp &amp; Dohme, Merck &amp; Co., PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles</td>
<td>DiMaggio</td>
<td>Maureen Durkin</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>The epidemiology of child pedestrian injury: Environmental and vehicle-related factors</td>
<td>Associate Clinical Professor of Epidemiology and Anesthesiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sybil</td>
<td>Eng</td>
<td>Marlie D Gammon</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>A case-control study of lifetime participation in recreational physical activity and changes in body size in relation to breast cancer</td>
<td>Consulting</td>
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<td>Gary</td>
<td>Heiman</td>
<td>Ruth Ottman</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Psychiatric manifestations of the DYT1 dystonia gene</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Department of Genetics, Rutgers University, Division of Life Sciences, New Jersey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmen</td>
<td>Isasi</td>
<td>Steven Shea</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>The association of obesity and physical fitness with inflammatory markers in children</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology &amp; Population Health, Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University &amp; Montefiore Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sara</td>
<td>Kizelnik- Freilich</td>
<td>Carolyn Westhoff</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Family history of cancer among women with benign ovarian tumors</td>
<td>Epidemiologist, National Foundation for Facial Reconstruction (NFFR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gail</td>
<td>McAvay</td>
<td>Sharon Schwartz</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Assessing the usefulness of the informant in identifying late life depressive disorders</td>
<td>Associate Research Scientist, Yale University Department of Internal Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul D</td>
<td>Terry</td>
<td>Ezra Susser</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Epidemiological studies of coffee consumption, dietary patterns, and body weight: Implications for colorectal cancer prevention</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Emory University School of Public Health, Atlanta GA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allison</td>
<td>Aiello</td>
<td>Elaine Larson</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>The influence of antibacterial cleaning and hygiene products on levels of non-susceptible bacteria in the home environment</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Epidemiology, University of Michigan</td>
</tr>
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<td>Sandro Galea</td>
<td>David Vlahov</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Epidemiology of PTSD after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks</td>
<td>Gelman Professor of Epidemiology and Chair, Department of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beverly Insel</td>
<td>Sharon Schwartz</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Maternal-fetal blood incompatibility &amp; the risk of schizophrenia in offspring</td>
<td>Research Scientist, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Ann Mervish</td>
<td>Pam Factor-Litvak</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Lifestyle factors, ovarian response and conception in infertile women</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Preventive Medicine, Mt. Sinai, New York</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lydia Zablotska</td>
<td>Geoffrey Howe</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Analysis of mortality experience amongst Canadian nuclear power industry workers following chronic low dose exposure to ionizing radiation</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology &amp; Biostatistics, School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Greenwald</td>
<td>Myrna Weissman</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Predictors of recurrent depression in a cohort of depressed children and adolescents growing up</td>
<td>Awarded Posthumously</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Leckman-Westin</td>
<td>Patricia Cohen</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Maternal depression, social behavior, contextual risks and child behavior problems</td>
<td>Research Scientist, NYS Office of Mental Health, Albany, New York</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>David Newstein</td>
<td>Bill Friedewald</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>A comparison of statistical models for the analysis of coronary artery calcium</td>
<td>No Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Van Noarden Braun</td>
<td>Sharon Schwartz</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>A multi-dimensional approach to the epidemiology of developmental disabilities from school-age to young adulthood</td>
<td>Epidemiologist, Developmental Disabilities Branch, Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamar Wohlfarth</td>
<td>Bruce Dohrenwend</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Socioeconomic inequality and psychiatric disorders: Exploring the role of social class and sex</td>
<td>Medicines Evaluation Board of the Netherlands</td>
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<td>Uika Bawle</td>
<td>Campbell</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>It looks like a confounder and acts like a confounder…but does it confound? An analysis of bias from confounders and control for colliders</td>
<td>Associate Director, Epidemiology, Worldwide Safety Strategy, Pfizer Inc, New York, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yu Chen</td>
<td>Habibul Ahsan</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Dietary factors, arsenic exposure, and risk of high blood pressure in Bangladesh</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Environmental Medicine, New York University School of Medicine</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>John Doyle</td>
<td>Alfred I Neugut</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Cardiac toxicity in breast cancer survivors 65 years and older</td>
<td>Senior Vice President, Managed Markets Division, Quintiles</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cynthia Driver</td>
<td>Neil Schlager</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Influence of patient factors on genotype clustering of tuberculosis cases</td>
<td>Epidemiologist, Division of Mental Hygiene, DOHMH and Adjunct Assistant Professor, Dept of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicolle Gatto</td>
<td>Sharon Schwartz</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Redundancy: A discrepancy between what we want and what we get from effect estimates</td>
<td>Senior Director, Oncology/Vaccines Group Head, World Wide Safety Strategy, Pfizer New York, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farzana Kapadia</td>
<td>David Vlahov</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>The relationship between non-injection drug use and immunologic, virologic and clinical progression in a cohort of HIV seropositive women</td>
<td>Assistant Professor of Public Health, New York University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Kaufman</td>
<td>Judith Jacobson</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Second primary cancers of the lung after breast cancer radiation therapy and smoking</td>
<td>Sr. Clinical Project Manager, Target Health Inc, New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<td>Larkin McReynolds</td>
<td>Bruce Link</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Prediction of juvenile recidivism: Influence of gender, psychiatric disorder, and neighborhood disadvantage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benjamin Landon</td>
<td>Myer Louise Kuhn</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Intravaginal practices, bacterial vaginosis and cervical epithelial disruptions: Risk factors for HIV infection among south african women</td>
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<td>Roxana Rustomjee</td>
<td>Quarraisha Abdeol Karim</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Immune responses during and after tuberculosis therapy in HIV positive and HIV negative pulmonary TB patients</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isabel Maria Cordova</td>
<td>Gabrielle Madelyn Gould</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>The relationship between acculturation levels, acculturative stress, family processes, depression and suicidality among puerto rican youth residing in the south bronx</td>
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<td>Sandra Echeverria</td>
<td>Steven Shea</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Association of neighborhood problems and neighborhood social cohesion with cardiovascular risk factors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jamie Lee Geier</td>
<td>Sharon Schwartz</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>The comorbidity of irritable bowel syndrome and depression</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julia Elizabeth Heck</td>
<td>Habibul Ahsan</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Dietary protein and the prevention of arsenosiosis in arahazar, bangladesh</td>
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<td>Lisa Weiss Pam Factor-Litvak</td>
<td></td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>The effects of the world trade center on pregnant women and their offspring</td>
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<td>Christie Barker-Cummings</td>
<td>Ruth Ottman</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Shared and distinct genetic influences on febrile seizures and epilepsy</td>
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<td>Delivette Castor</td>
<td>David Vlahov</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>The predictors of HIV-1 treatment responses and any resistance among patients with late stage HIV disease in a supervised treatment setting</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Kelvin</td>
<td>W. Allen Hauser</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Host factors in relation to clinical manifestations of neurocysticercosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ai Kube Andrew Rundle</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Dietary factors and the risk of barrett’s esophagus</td>
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<td>Ingrid Peterson</td>
<td>Awash Teklehaimanot</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Temporal-spatial, individual and household level factors associated with malaria incidence in Kebele 11, Nazareth, Ethiopia</td>
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<td>Fangfang Zang</td>
<td>Mary Beth Terry</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Genetic polymorphisms in folate and alcohol metabolism, nutrients, and the risk of stomach cancer: A pathway approach</td>
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<td>Kristopher Chriskon</td>
<td>Luisa Borrell</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Race and psychiatric diagnostic patterns in inpatient settings: Understanding the contribution of patient, hospital and county characteristics</td>
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<td>Robert Gern</td>
<td>David Vlahov</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Factors associated with the use of ‘street methadone’ by hiv-seropositive injection drug users in four us cities</td>
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<td>Heather Greenlee</td>
<td>Judith Jacobson</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Antioxidant supplements and breast cancer outcomes</td>
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<td>Danella Hafeman</td>
<td>Sharon Schwartz</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Opening the black box: A reassessment of mediation from a counterfactual perspective</td>
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<td>Tamarra James Todd</td>
<td>Mary Beth Terry</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Hair product use and breast cancer risk</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Harvard School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology &amp; Brigham Women's Hospital, Division of Women's Health, Boston, Mass</td>
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<td>Teresa Janevic</td>
<td>Luisa Borrell</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Neighborhood food environment, ethnic concentration, and gestational diabetes in New York City</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Global Health, Yale University and Adjunct Instructor, Hunter College, CUNY</td>
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<td>Chelsea Mornion</td>
<td>Carolyn Westhoff</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Condom and dual method use among adolescent minority women initiating oral contraception</td>
<td>Medical School</td>
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<td>Sylvia Taylor</td>
<td>Louise Kuhn</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>HPV and the role of HPV testing in a screen and treat cervical cancer prevention program in South Africa</td>
<td>Pest Doctoral Fellow, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France</td>
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<td>Judith Weissman</td>
<td>Judith Jacobson</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Adiponectin, the adiponectin leptin ratio and physical fitness in children and young adults</td>
<td>Pest Doctoral Fellow, Geriatric Psychiatry, Weill Cornell</td>
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<td>Vivian Santiago</td>
<td>Sharon Schwartz</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Constructs, course, and context: An examination of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder as a harmful dysfunction</td>
<td>Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. In the Department of Population Health Sciences in the School of Medicine and Public Health</td>
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<td>Kellee White</td>
<td>Luisa Borrell</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Exploring the mediating mechanisms between racial/ethnic residential segregation and self reported hypertension among blacks in NYC</td>
<td>Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina</td>
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<td>Sarah Braunstein</td>
<td>Denia Nash</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>The epidemiologic utility of antibody based essays for estimating HIV incidence in Rwanda</td>
<td>Assistant Director for HIV Surveillance at the NYC Department of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heidi Jones</td>
<td>Carolyn Westhoff</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>New approaches to screening for cervical cancer</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Epidemiology and Biostatistics Program, CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College</td>
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<td>Katherine Kyes Wild</td>
<td>Debbie Hasin</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Ecologic-level disapproval and the prevalence of substance use; a multi-level age-period-cohort analysis of high school-attending adolescents in the united states</td>
<td>Columbia University Merit Fellow, Department of Epidemiology, Columbia University; Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Department of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York</td>
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<td>Ann Madsen</td>
<td>Ruth Ottman</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>On penetrance and pies: The application on causal models to human genetics</td>
<td>Director, Quality Improvement Unit, Bureau of Vital Statistics, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene</td>
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<td>Heidi Mochari</td>
<td>Mary Beth Terry</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Modifiers of effectiveness of a diet intervention in family members of cardiovascular disease patients</td>
<td>NIH post-doctoral research fellow, Columbia University Department of Medicine, Atherosclerosis Training Program</td>
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<td>Lina Titievsky</td>
<td>Andrew Rundle</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Neighborhood walkability and body mass index in New York City</td>
<td>Pfizer, Epidemiology group</td>
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<td>Julie Yip</td>
<td>Luisa Borrell</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Biophosphonates and dental implant outcomes</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Department of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry, New York University College of Dentistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dana March</td>
<td>Ezra Susser</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Place and neurodevelopment: Cognition, psychosis, and context</td>
<td>Scientific Program Manager, NIMH, Office of Research on Disparities in Global Mental Health</td>
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</table>

**What does distinction mean?**

After the committee decides on the acceptability of the dissertation, they address the question of awarding the degree “with distinction.” A vote on this question will be taken by secret ballot. For a degree to be awarded “with distinction” the ballots must be unanimous. If the examining committee votes to award distinction, a member of the examining committee other than the sponsor must prepare a letter to the Dean outlining the qualities of the dissertation that merit the award of distinction, including the nature of its contribution to scholarship in its field and its broader significance as a contribution to learning. A student whose degree is awarded “with distinction” shall, upon final deposit of his or her dissertation, receive a letter of commendation from the Dean; the student’s permanent transcript and the Doctoral Convocation program shall be annotated accordingly.


Allison BS, Palacios G, Rosa AT, Popov VL, Lu L, Xiao SY, Detoy K, Brisse T, Lipkin WI, Keel MK, Stallknecht DE, Bishop GR, Tesh RB. Characterization of Durham County, NC, V. P. Rotaﬂavivirus, a novel rhabdovirus that encodes both a C and DE, Bishop GR, Tesh RB. Characterization of Durham County, NC, V. P. Rotaﬂavivirus, a novel rhabdovirus that encodes both a C and DE, Bishop GR, Tesh RB. Characterization of Durham County, NC, V. P. Rotaﬂavivirus, a novel rhabdovirus that encodes both a C and DE.
Women Exposed to the September 11, 2001, Terrorist Attacks.


