



Pathways

TTUHSC Department of Public Health Newsletter, Fall 2018, Issue 5

We are Accredited!

The Julia Jones Matthews Department of Public Health received accreditation from the Council for Education on Public Health (CEPH) June 2018. This major milestone is the product of years of work by administration, faculty, staff and students and comes after our fourth year with MPH students. All past conferred TTUHSC MPH degrees are counted as having been awarded by an accredited program. The department now moves forward with adding new degrees. The accreditation lasts for 5 years.



Special thanks to TTU System Chancellor and TTUHSC President, Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D., for supporting the development of a Department of Public Health at TTUHSC. The efforts of Department Chair Dr. Theresa Byrd, and GSBS Dean Dr. Brandt Schneider have been the driving forces behind the accreditation process. Additional thanks to Dr. Cyndi Jumper, Dr. Patti Patterson, Dr. Billy U. Philips and Beverly Bowen for their work in helping establish and develop the department.

As of December 2018,
TTUHSC has graduated 63
MPH and two public health
certificate students.
Current MPH enrollment
now exceeds 100 students!

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Congratulations to our Summer and Fall 2018 MPH Graduates!

Summer

Dijo John

Fall

Leslee Castro

Steven J. Lara

Kelsey Launer

Christopher Odell

Desiree Ojo

**Christopher Massey,
M.D.**

MPH student Asher George introduces keynote speaker Dr. Patti Patterson at the university-wide Fall IPE event (November 2018)

Announcements

- Spring registration is now open. Current students should contact their faculty advisor for guidance on fall classes
- Application deadline for Summer 2019 is March 1 and for Fall 2019 is July 1
- The Abilene campus will offer a competitive scholarship for full-time in-person students in Abilene entering in Fall 2019

Faculty presentations

Appiah D. Is Surgical Menopause Associated With Adverse Changes In Cardiac Structure And Function Than Natural Menopause Independent Of Antecedent Cardiovascular Health? The CARDIA Study. Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health Gender-Specific Medicine and Women's Health Symposium, Lubbock, TX. 10/26/18.

Dennis JA., Zhang Y, Curtis S. Complementary and alternative medicine use among individuals with acute and chronic joint pain: Findings from NHIS 2012. APHA annual meeting. San Diego, CA. 11/13/18.

Dennis JA, Zhang Y, Zhang F. Gender differences in principle procedure received and clinical outcome for patients Treated for heart attack at UMC from 2013-2016. Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health Gender-Specific Medicine and Women's Health Symposium, Lubbock, TX. 10/26/18.

Pasupathy R. (2018). A Survey of Medicare Beneficiaries with Communication Impairment: Access to and Satisfaction with Healthcare. APHA annual meeting. San Diego, CA. 11/11/18.

St. John J. Partnership approach to health equity. Healthier Texas Summit, Austin, TX. 10/25/18

St. John J, Rosenthal L, Hirsch G, Redondo F, Rush C, Fox D, Allen-Gloeckner C. Developing communication strategies to improve the visibility of the frontline public health workforce: Lessons learned from the Community Health Worker Core Consensus (C3) project. APHA annual meeting. San Diego, CA.

Faculty Honors

- Dr. Julie St. John was named to the 2019 Leadership Texas class by the Leadership Women Board of Directors
- Dr. Lisaann Gittner is a recipient of the 2019 Lubbock YWCA Women of Excellence award for her contributions to science.
- Dr. Brie Sherwin was notified in November 2018 that she will be receiving the 2019 Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award, one of the highest honors given by Texas Tech University to its faculty members who exemplify teaching excellence.
- The AMIGAS Cervical Cancer Screening program, co-developed by Dr. Theresa Byrd, was recently added to the Community Guide, a collection of evidence based findings of the Community Preventive Services Task Force

All faculty and their affiliations are listed on the website [here](#).

Recent Publications

- Adams L, Tucker A, **Dennis JA**, Dissanaik S. 2018. Impact of Time Spent in the Trauma Bay on Mortality Outcomes Among Level 1 Trauma Patients. *Trauma*. Online Aug. 27, 2018.
- **Byrd TL**, Calderon-Mora J, Salaiz R, Shokar NK. In press. Barriers and facilitators to colorectal cancer screening within a Hispanic population. *Hispanic Health Care International*.
- **Dennis JA**. 2019. Birth weight and maternal age among American Indian/Alaska Native mothers: A test of the weathering hypothesis. *SSM – Population Health*, 7:1-6.
- **Dennis JA**, Alazzeah A, Kumfer AM, McDonald-Thomas R, & Peiris AN. 2018. The association of unreported sleep disturbances and systemic inflammation: Findings from the 2005-2008 NHANES. *Sleep Disorders*.
- **Pasupathy R**. 2018. The Role of Self-efficacy in Rehabilitation Sciences Clinical Doctoral Education. *Clinical Psychology Cognitive Science*, 2(1), 10-11.
- **Pasupathy R**. 2018. Rehabilitation Sciences Doctoral Education: A Study of Audiology, Speech-Language Therapy and Physical Therapy Students' Research Self-Efficacy Beliefs. *Clinical Archives of Communication Disorders*, 3(1),59-66.
- **Sherwin B**. In press. The Upside Down: A New Reality for Science at the EPA and its Impact on Environmental Justice. *NYU Environmental Law Journal*.
- Sindu TN, **Khan HMR**, Hussain Z, **Lenzmeier T**. 2018. Bayesian prediction from the inverse Rayleigh distribution based on type-II trim censoring. *J of Statistics and Management Systems*,20,995-1008.
- Sindu TN, **Khan HMR**, Hussain Z,Al-Zahrani B. 2018. Bayesian inference from the mixture of half-normal distributions under censoring. *J Natn Sci Foundation Sri Lanka*, 46,587-600.
- Zhang Y, **Dennis JA**, Bishop FL, Cramer H, Leach M, Lauche R, Sundberg T, Leung B, Zhang AL, Bacon L, Sibbritt D, Adams J. In press. Complementary and alternative medicine use by U.S. adults with arthritis: Results from the 2012 NHIS. *PM&R*.

*Public health faculty, students and alumni in bold

Interprofessional Education Event November 2, 2018

MPH Students in Abilene, Lubbock and online attended lectures by Timothy Irhig, M.D., and Patti Patterson, M.D./MPH, followed by a collaborative symposium requiring students to work with students from other concentrations on a case study.



Lubbock MPH students at IPE event (L to R): Cain Lara, Rachel Farias Asher George, Savannah Forsyth, Dena Helo and Obie Shabaneh (November 2018)



Dr. Patti Patterson, TTUHSC Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health, gave the keynote address on the topic of grief at the November 2018 Interprofessional Education event. The keynote was broadcast to all TTUHSC campuses and to online students.

APE Spotlight

Ashley Edling, Hridoy Haq, Drew Rasmussen and Ashlee Spann traveled to Presidio, TX, in June 2018, toward the completion of their Applied Practice Experience. Accompanied by faculty advisor Dr. Theresa Byrd, the group carried out a community health needs assessment by conducting key informant interviews with leaders and administrators around the community.



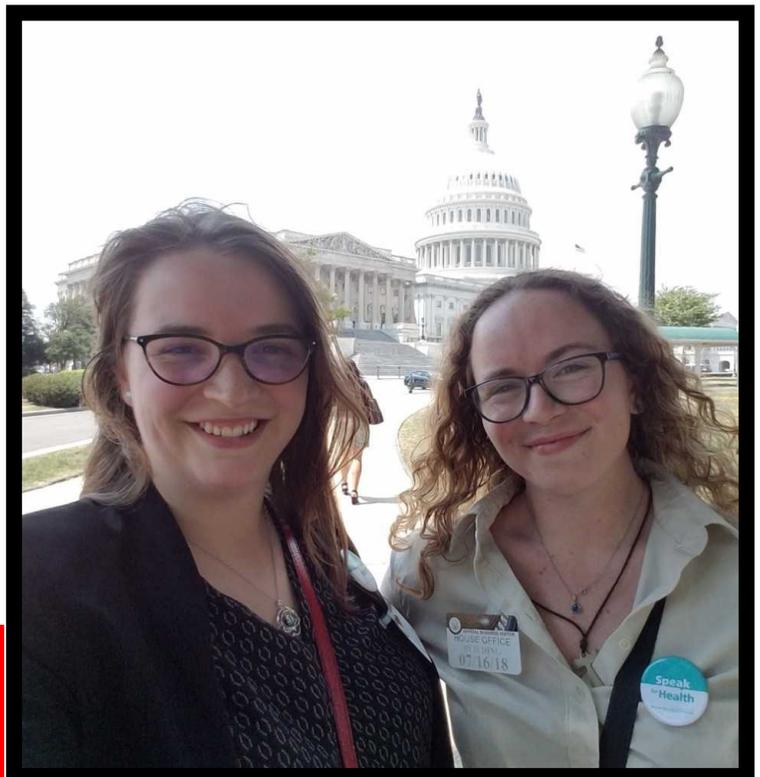
The students also conducted a photo-voice project with 5th graders to showcase healthy and unhealthy foods and behaviors. The group will return to Presidio in January 2019 to present their findings to the community.

If you have any questions about the APE project please contact the APE advisor Dr. Jeff Dennis at jeff.dennis@ttuhsc.edu

Hridoy Haq, Ashley Edling, Drew Rasmussen and Ashlee Spann in Presidio, Texas.

“Speak for Health” An APHA Initiative

The Department of Public Health sent two students to an APHA Bootcamp on policy and advocacy training in July 2018. Samantha Curtis and Ashley Edling attended the two day workshop in Washington, D.C., that focused on the many public health issues that need advocacy support and how to lobby those issues to government officials. These students had the opportunity to speak directly with staffers of their local senators and representatives about the public health issues that are important to them.



Samantha Curtis and Ashley Edling on Capitol Hill in Washington DC for the APHA “Speak for Health” event. (July 2018)

TTUHSC Student Public Health Association

| Lubbock 2018-2019 officers | Upcoming plans | Abilene 2018-2019 officers |
|--|--|--|
| President/Public Relations – Samantha Curtis | Officer elections are coming up soon - please watch for email announcements and follow our chapters on Facebook at SPHA Abilene and SPHA Lubbock for updates on upcoming activities! | President – Kirsten Scarborough |
| Vice President/Treasurer – Drew Rasmussen | National Public Health Week will be April 1-7. Be on the look out for fun and informative events | Vice President – Stephanie Sariles |
| Social Chair/Secretary – Ashley Edling | | Treasurer – Joshua Sanders |
| | | Secretary – Ashlee Spann |
| | | Social Chair/Public Relations – Annette Lerma |

Abilene Public Health Museum

On Dec. 3, 2019, the Department of Public Health hosted its Second Annual Public Health Museum in Abilene. This year's event included a "live" wax museum in one room and 16 displays depicting various social determinants to public health in another. Sixteen undergraduate public health minor students from Hardin Simmons University selected a significant public health figure and dressed up, created an informational poster, and performed a monologue as that person. Fifty-four TTUHSC MPH students put together the second exhibit as part of one of their required core public health courses, depicting a wide variety of social determinants of health. About 60 people attended in Abilene, with additional attendees joining via TechLink from Lubbock.

Staff Spotlight - Corey Patterson

Corey Patterson joined the Department of Public Health Abilene campus in April 2018 as director of Special Projects. His work includes researching and developing new graduate and doctoral programs in public health, forging new partnerships for dual degree programs with other institutions, and anything else that can be classified a "special project". He has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Abilene Christian University, a Master's degree in Leadership and Organizational Studies from Azusa Pacific University, a wife, three kids, two dogs and over 20 bow ties.



Final Notes

The department of public health welcomed its largest incoming cohort in Fall 2018, with over 40 new total students in Abilene, Lubbock and online!

The Master of Public Administration/Master of Public Health dual degree, conferred by Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, was approved by the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents in August 2018.

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Newsletter Information

The newsletter was written and
designed by
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DPH graduate assistant, and
Dr. Jeff Dennis

To submit pictures or other items for
future newsletters, submit details to:
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**First year M.D./MPH Students at TTUHSC
School of Medicine Orientation
Hijab Ahmed, Caroline Thompson, Dr. Jeff
Dennis and Jessica Lovelace (Aug. 2018)**