



Pathways

TTUHSC Department of Public Health Newsletter, Spring 2017, Issue 2

Thank you!

We are nearing completion of our 3rd full year as an Master of Public Health (MPH) program! We are extremely grateful to those in the Lubbock and Abilene communities and the TTUHSC system who have contributed to the development of our program. We graduated our largest class yet in May 2017, with 15 graduates receiving their MPH. This brings us to a grand total of 28 MPH degrees conferred by the TTUHSC Department of Public Health!

Accreditation Update

The department has been working toward completion of an extensive self-study toward the goal of accreditation by the Council for Education on Public Health (CEPH). We are happy to report that the first draft of the self-study has been completed and was submitted to CEPH in June 2017. We will receive feedback and resubmit this document in January 2018, followed by a CEPH site visit in February 2018. We are grateful to administrators, faculty, and staff who have invested substantial time in this effort, and we look forward to using this opportunity to grow and improve our department to best serve our students and communities!

“A healthier world requires a stable investment in health systems, regulation to preserve environmental sustainability, quality schooling to create health across the life course, livable wages and affordable housing for all.”

- Galea & Vaughn 2017, AJPH



A number of Spring 2017 graduates with Drs. Khan and Gittner. (photo: Olivia Moore)

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MPH graduate John Dodge receives the 2016 Texas Rural Health Association Rural Health Student Award.

Announcements

- Fall registration is now open. Current students should contact their faculty advisor for guidance on fall classes.
- The Fall 2017 application deadline has been extended to July 1.
- Fall 2017 will welcome the first students enrolling in classes toward the completion of the Public Health Certificate. The five course certificate provides professionals with an introduction to the core areas of public health, and can be obtained in person or online.
- Drs. Kamrudin, St. John, & Dennis welcomed new additions to their families: Lian Ali, Jubilee St. John, and Preston Dennis were born in December, March, and May, respectively.
- Any MPH students with design or editing experience are encouraged to contact Dr. Dennis if you would like to help with the bi-annual newsletter.

Congratulations to our Spring 2017 MPH Graduates!

Anthony Anya

Alejandro Aquino

Sidra Bhatti

Shanice Broughton

Amanda Cutts

Cecelia Gatea

Catherine Hudson

Alexander Hurley

Christie Hust

Alexander Jacob

Mike McMurry

Sarah Mende

Olivia Moore

Prince Samuel

Margaret Vugrin

Inter-Professional Education Event

On April 7th, a number of Dept. of Public Health students attended the all-day IPE event, focusing on Integrative Medicine and Mind-Body Wellness

DPH participants in the afternoon IPE case study included:

Barbara Ballew

Cherissa Abdul-Hamid

Summre Blakely

Kandi Quesada

Greg Hannabas, M.D.

Dijo John



MPH graduate Olivia Moore with Dr. Debra Reed

Faculty Activities & Honors

Dr. Byrd received the 2017 APHA Public Health Education and Health Promotion (PHEHP) Distinguished Career Award!

Dr. St. John is working with the Abilene Taylor County Public Health District on developing their “Active Living Plan.” St. John is serving as one of the representatives from the education sector.

Dr. Khan advised 4 students on Student Research Week (SRW) posters.

Drs. Gittner & Khan continue to collaborate on two NSF-funded research projects combining large health databases and using risk modeling to address public health issues.

Dr. Byrd was invited to speak in Panama and Puerto Rico about the ACCION for rural West Texas colorectal cancer screening project.

Drs. Queen, St. John, and Byrd and GA Lex Hurley are working with the Marine Corps Reserve Unit, stationed at Dyess Airforce base on a physical activity and nutrition Quality Improvement Project, December -November 2017.

Dr. Dennis presented “Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Outcomes and Patient Experience” to MSII students for P3 week in preparation for the Step 1 exam.

Dr. Dennis collaborated on 7 medical student posters during SRW ‘17

Student Accolades

- MPH graduate Sarah Mende was awarded the Outstanding Public Health Student Award by DPH faculty
- M.D./MPH student Mike Russell received the 2017 United States Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Award
- M.D./MPH student Cheyenne Mangold is completing her term as 2016-17 TTUHSC Student Body President
- MPH student Kristen Russell, mentored by Dr. Byrd, placed 3rd in the Student Research Week GSBS poster competition., Master's Category
- MPH graduate John Dodge received the [2016 TRHA Rural Health Student Award](#)
- MPH student Barbara Ballew was awarded a grant by National Libraries of Medicine to conduct needs assessment for parents/caregivers of children with autism spectrum disorders in collaboration with Dr. Queen



MPH graduate Lex Hurley with Dr. Courtney Queen

Veronica Escalona (MPH 2016), Lex Hurley (MPH 2017), and Dr. St. John presented at the 2017 national Communities Joined in Action Conference, February 16-17, 2017, in San Antonio, TX.

More Good News!

MPH graduate Sidra Bhatti was featured in the [TTU Daily Toreador](#) for her work to make Texas Tech a smoke-free campus

MPH student Christine Lucio, also a Licensed Social Worker, published an article in the Spring 2017 issue of [The New Social Worker Magazine](#)

The DPH welcomes Tres Boren, MBA, as the new I.T. Support Technician IV for the department

MD/MPH graduate, Dr. Rose Izuchi, has accepted a residency at Nashville General Hospital at Meharry in Tennessee.

Affiliate faculty Debra Flores, Ph.D., gave a podium presentation at the National Rural Health Association Equity Conference regarding her work with Community Health Workers in rural communities

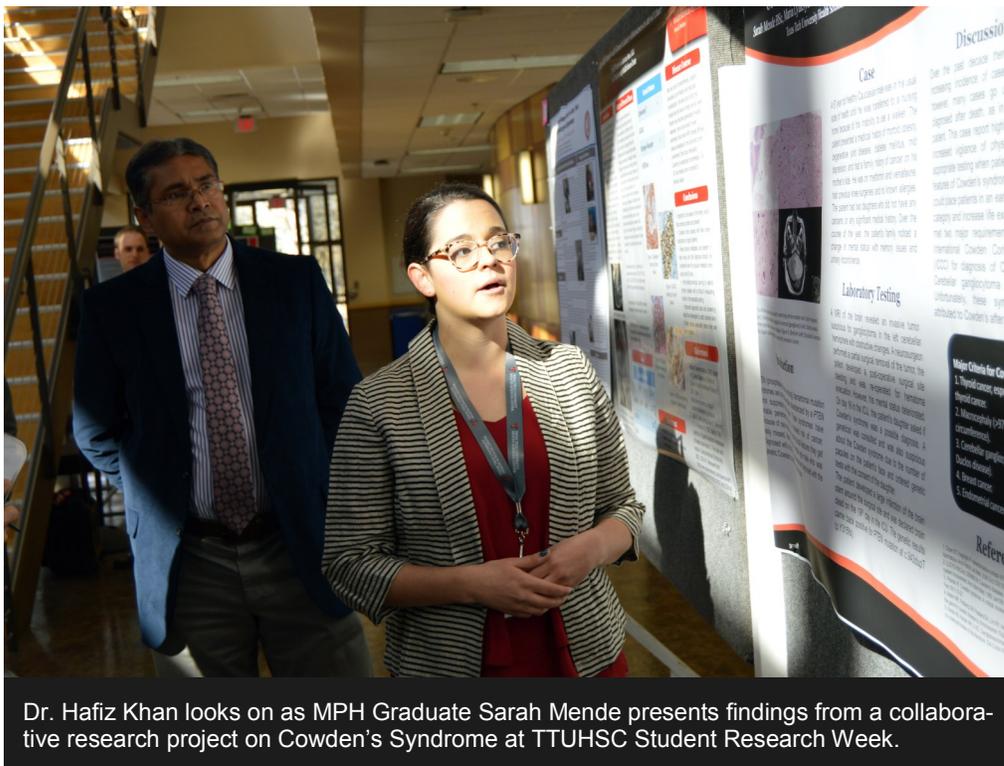
Affiliate faculty Hemachandra Reddy, Ph.D., was named senior editor for the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease

MPH graduates Shanice Broughton and Sarah Mende were accepted to medical school and will begin in Fall 2017.



Staff Spotlight - Patrick Lloyd

Patrick has served as Associate Director of Student Services for the DPH at the Abilene campus since November of 2015. His roles include checking student registration, degree plans & other documentation, recruitment, and most importantly to him, motivating the student to succeed and encouraging them when they struggle. He earned a BS in Exercise and Sports Studies from McMurry University and a M.Ed. in Advanced Physical Education from Hardin-Simmons University. He and his wife, Robin, reside in Merkel and have two sons, Bronson and Baron.



Dr. Hafiz Khan looks on as MPH Graduate Sarah Mende presents findings from a collaborative research project on Cowden's Syndrome at TTUHSC Student Research Week.

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