



# Pathways

TTUHSC Department of Public Health Newsletter, Spring 2018, Issue 4

## TTUHSC Graduates First Cohort of M.D./MPH Students

At the conclusion of our fourth academic year as a program, the Department of Public Health is pleased to report that our first cohort of dual degree M.D./M.P.H. students graduated in May 2018. These 17 students have been with the Julia Jones Matthews Department of Public Health since it's inception in 2014 and all placed with a medical residency. They will span the country from California to New York and many places in between. We congratulate this amazing cohort and expect to see many fantastic things from them in the fields of medicine and public health.

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As of May 2018, TTUHSC has graduated 56 MPH and two public health certificate students, with 93% currently employed or pursuing further education!

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The Department of Public Health facilitated an M.D./MPH panel for TTUHSC School of Medicine P3 Week. (L to R) Dr. Kerrie Pinkney, Dr. Patti Patterson, Dr. Kimberly Wolboldt, Dr. Alan Santos, and M.D./MPH graduate Michael Russell (March 2018)

# Congratulations to our Spring 2018 MPH Graduates!

## **MPH—**

Christine Lucio  
Janet Mendenhall  
Kandi Quesada  
Tiffany Torres

## **Certificate—**

Steven Lara  
Dong Wang

## **M.D./MPH—**

Sarah Choksi  
Jordana Faruqi  
Anna Hollingsworth  
Megan Howard  
Carolyn Huang  
Christine Kim  
Meghan Mahoney  
Cheyenne Mangold (MD '19)  
Patrick Marquardt  
Carlos Martinez  
Holly Mulinder  
Morgan Quezada  
Kristen Russell  
Michael Russell  
Zia Siddiqui  
Peihuan Tsai  
Julia Voelkl



Graduation 2018 (L to R): Jordana Faruqi, Christine Lucio, Dr. Julie St. John, Dr. Jeff Dennis, Dr. Theresa Byrd, Kandi Quesada, Tiffany Torres, Dr. Duke Appiah, Patrick Marquardt, Dr. Hafiz Khan, Carolyn Huang, Dr. Rubini Pasupathy (photo: Kirstin Collins)

## Announcements

- Fall registration is now open. Current students should contact their faculty advisor for guidance on fall classes.
- Application deadline for Fall 2018 is June 15th
- Incoming summer students will complete MPH orientation online
- Fall 2018 orientation is scheduled tentatively for Aug. 20th for incoming students

## Accreditation Update

The Department of Public Health completed its accreditation site visit for the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) on February 1-2, 2018. We are pleased with the feedback and look forward to a final report from the CEPH board June 2018. Administration, faculty, staff, students, alumni and community advisory board members all have played instrumental roles in the accreditation process over the past 4 years. We thank you for your dedication!

## Faculty Activities & Honors

- Dr. Theresa Byrd presented at Silliman University in Dumaguete City, Philippines, with Drs. Christina Esperat, Wendy Thal and Linda McMurry from the TTUHSC School of Nursing. She presented on the AMIGAS program and did a day-long workshop on Community Based Participatory Research with Dr. Esperat. She got to see whale sharks “up close and personal” on her birthday during this trip!
- Dr. Appiah received the “Outstanding Teacher of the Year” award from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.



Dr. Byrd presented AMIGAS and Community based research in the Philippines (Feb. 2018)

## Abilene Interdisciplinary Symposium

On April 27, 2018, the TTUHSC Department of Public Health co-hosted an interdisciplinary symposium on cancer and biomedical research at the TTUHSC Abilene Campus. The all-day event included talks from a variety of distinguished experts in the field, including a presentation from DPH Department Chair Dr. Theresa Byrd, as well as a student and faculty poster session.

## Recent Publications

- Perisetti A, **Khan HMR**, Yendala R, George NE, Raghavapuram S, Rafiq A, **Blakely S**, Villalpando N, **Rasmussen D**, Goyal H. Prevalence of Non-Screening for Colorectal Cancer: Comparing a Rural State to the United States. J Nutrit Health Food Sci, In press, 2018.
- **Appiah D**, Baumgartner RN. The influence of education and apolipoprotein e4 on mortality in community-dwelling elderly persons. J Aging Res. vol. 2018, doi:10.1155/2018/6037058
- Denney JT., Saint Onge JM, **Dennis JA**. 2018. Neighborhood concentrated disadvantage and adult mortality: Insights for racial and ethnic differences. Popul Res Pol Rev, 37(2), 301-321.
- Sindhu TN, **Khan HMR**, Hussain Z, **Lenzmeier T**. Bayesian prediction from the inverse Rayleigh distribution based on type-II trim censoring. J Stat Manag Sys, 20:995-1008, 2018
- Whitaker KM, Ingram KH, **Appiah D**, Nicholson WK, Bennett WL, Lewis CE, Reis JP, J. Schreiner PJ, Gunderson EP. Cardiorespiratory Fitness, Physical Activity, and Television Viewing Before Pregnancy and Risk of Gestational Diabetes: A Longitudinal Analysis from the CARDIA Study. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2018 Mar 8. [Epub ahead of print]

\*Public health faculty, students and alumni in **bold**



# Student Research Week

March 20-23, 2018

The department was well represented at student research week this year. Twelve students presented posters on their research and two MPH students received awards.

- Drew Rasmussen  
1st Place—Masters Division
- Samantha Curtis  
2nd Place—Masters Division



Kandi Quesada, Dijo John, Chris O'Dell, Dr. Khan, Damilola Owade, Drew Rasmussen, Dr. Byrd, Summre Blakely MPH, Dr. Queen and Dez Ojo at the SRW Poster Session (March 2018)



Samantha Curtis, Dr. Khan, Drew Rasumussen and Dr. Michael Blanton at SRW Awards Ceremony (March 2018)



Hridoy Haq, Samantha Curtis and Ashley Edling attended SRW Yule Ball Banquet (March 2018)

## Project Spotlight— Christine Lucio APE

Christine Lucio, MSW, LCSW, completed her Applied Practice Experience through the U.S. Department of the State's Virtual Student Federal Service e-Internship Program. This unique year-long, program allowed Christine to work on an interdisciplinary team of students from across the country. These interns used a variety of innovative technologies to bridge the physical gap and work cohesively on projects for embassies in the Middle East and Asia. In addition to receiving real-life experience, these projects gave the interns a better understanding of foreign civil service and global health. Christine really enjoyed the opportunity to learn from her team members and professionals within the State Department. One of her favorite assignments was interviewing medical officers in the field to learn how they best serve



diploamats and the community at large. Although her formal internship ends in May, Christine will be continuing her work with the State Department over the summer.

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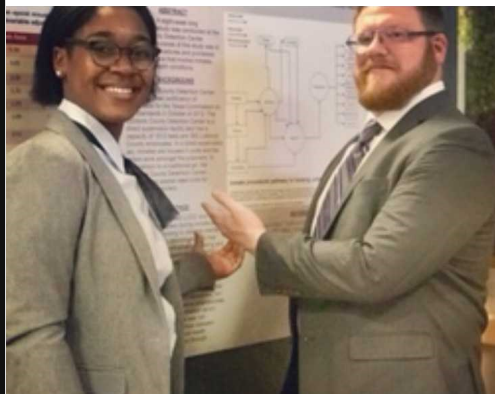
Please contact your faculty advisor to learn about practice opportunities for your APE or ILE!

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Christine Lucio and virtual team from the U.S. Department of State (May 2018)

## Project Spotlight— Dez Ojo & Chris O'Dell APE

Desiree Ojo and Chris O'Dell completed their Applied Practice Experience at Lubbock County Detention Center this spring. An eight-week long observational study was conducted at the Lubbock County Detention Center (LCDC) where researchers observed the processes and procedures involved in pre-booking, booking and classification of inmates. The purpose of this study was to observe the procedures and processes currently in place which involve the booking and housing of inmates with mental health conditions, how inmates are screened and how the inmates are separated into housing units. Researchers observed mental health screening



procedures and mapped mental health information processing and sharing across departments. Researchers then obtained the procedures pertaining to the housing of inmates post screening. This study did not observe or describe the inmates themselves, nor did it evaluate the performance of employees.

Chris O'Dell & Dez Ojo presenting their work at Student Research Week (March 2018)



# TTUHSC Student Public Health Association

<p><b>Lubbock</b>  <b>2017-2018 officers</b>  <b>President</b> – Tiffany Torres  <b>Vice President</b> – Dez Ojo  <b>Treasurer</b> – Mahlet Afesse  <b>Social Chair/Public Relations</b>          – Justin Sudduth</p> <p><b>2018-2019 officers</b>  <b>President/Public Relations</b> –          Samantha Curtis  <b>Vice President/Treasurer</b> –          Drew Rasmussen  <b>Social Chair/Secretary</b> –          Ashley Edling</p>	<p>SPHA is a student organization that promotes community service and public health research at TTUHSC.</p> <p><b>Upcoming plans</b>          With next year’s officers in place, please watch for email announcements and follow our chapters on Facebook at SPHA Abilene and SPHA Lubbock for updates on upcoming activities!</p>	<p><b>Abilene</b>  <b>2017-2018 officers</b>  <b>President</b> – Christine Lucio  <b>Vice President/Public Relations</b> – Kirsten Scarborough  <b>Secretary/Treasurer</b> – Janet Mendenhall</p> <p><b>2018-2019 officers</b>  <b>President</b> – Kirsten Scarborough  <b>Vice President</b> – Stephanie Sariles  <b>Treasurer</b> – Joshua Sanders  <b>Secretary</b> – Ashlee Spann  <b>Social Chair/Public Relations</b>          – Annette Lerma</p>
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## National Public Health Week Activities April 2-6, 2018

National Public Health Week is an American Public Health Association event. This year’s theme was “Healthiest Nation 2030”

TTUHSC Events included:

- ◆ *A Public Health Analysis of Mental Health Screening and Assessment Procedures at the Lubbock County Detention Center* by Dez Ojo & Chris O’Dell
- ◆ Communicable disease presentation at the SynergisticCenter with an epidemiological game on drug resistant disease.
- ◆ Guest lecture by Dr. Brie Sherwin on climate issues and transparency.
- ◆ Panel with professionals in different fields of public health.
- ◆ APE Presentations by Christine Lucio - *U.S. State Dept. Virtual Student Foreign Services e-Internship Program* and Janet Mendenhall - *Implementing a Population Health Dept. in a West Texas Hospital System*
- ◆ *Abilene hosted a health fair with volunteers from both TTUHSC campuses.*



**Public Health Panel (April 2018). Panelists in Lubbock: Cathy Hudson, MPH and Taylor Lenzmeier, MPH, MBA. Panelists in Abilene: Dr. Richard Tifilo, MD, MPH, Annette Lerma, BS, & Laura Gabso, MPH**

## New Faculty & Staff

Corey Patterson— Corey joined the DPH in April as the director of Special Projects on the Abilene campus. He will work on a variety of projects for the DPH including the development of dual degrees.

### Committees

The DPH strives to include students in every aspect of the planning and facilitating of degree programs. The following committees have openings for Fall 2018 for any interested students. Please contact your academic advisor for more information.

Curriculum and Student Affairs Committee (Dr. Appiah)

CAB Graduation Representative (Dr. Queen)

Policy Development Committee (Dr. Pasupathy)

Applied Practice Experience Committee (Dr. Dennis)

### Career Activities

The student public health association hosted a panel with professionals in different fields of public health during National Public Health Week. Panelists came from fields such as rural health, robotic surgery, university safety officers, Abilene Health Department and occupational health.

The DPH and School of Medicine co-hosted an M.D./MPH panel as part of P3 Week at the medical school. Four physicians holding an MPH shared a wealth of experiences during the hour-long session and provided great insights to both existing and prospective dual degree students. (See participant pictures and names on page 1)



Members of the Abilene SPHA include Stephanie Sariles, Kirsten Scarbrough, Josh Sanders, Janet Mendenhall, Christine Lucio, Ashlee Spann and Annette Lerma (May 2018)

## Student Recognition

- Christine Lucio was named the 2018 Outstanding Public Health Student by the DPH faculty.
- M.D./MPH graduate Morgan Quezada was awarded the 2018 Excellence in Public Health Award from the U.S. Public Health Service Physician Professional Advisory Committee.
- MPH students, Steven Lara, Chris O'Dell, and Desiree Ojo helped host "Saving the Texas Foster Care System: A Special Panel Event" in conjunction with the Master of Public Administration program at Texas Tech University.
- Four students from Dr. Khan's research team submitted abstracts for the American Public Health Association Conference in November.
- Samantha Curtis and Ashley Edling will attend an American Public Health Association advocacy bootcamp in July.



**Dr. St. John at the 2018 YMCA Healthy Kids event in April**

The Department of Public Health would like to extend our sincere thanks to community advisory board (CAB) members who participated in the CEPH site visit:

- **Katherine Albus**, MPH, R.D., L.D., *child nutrition specialist, Region 17 Education Service Center, Lubbock, TX*
- **Deb McCullough**, D.N.P., M.S.N., *director, Andrews County Health Department, Andrews, TX*
- **Jack Rentz**, *president & CEO – Rentech Boiler Systems, Inc., Abilene, TX*
- **Eric Sanchez**, CEO – *Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council for the Concho Valley, San Angelo, TX*
- **Gino Solla**, *director, Ector County Health Department, Odessa, TX*
- **Katherine Wells**, MPH, *director of public health – City of Lubbock, Lubbock, TX*
- **Philip Wicker**, *owner – Pack n Mail, Abilene, TX; director of development, TTUHSC Abilene*

## Staff Spotlight - Nancy Cook

Nancy Cook joined the Department of Public Health Abilene campus in January 2017 as administrative assistant. Her work includes providing administrative support to Abilene faculty, staff and students. Nancy also serves as assistant to Dr. St. John, and she attempts to keep the Purchasing and Travel offices happy, with varying degrees of success. She has a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from Texas A&M University.





# Involvement

The department of Public Health welcomes its first 100 percent online students in Summer and Fall 2018. Applications for fall 2018 will be accepted through June 15th. Our face-to-face courses will continue to be offered in both Lubbock and Abilene.

Alumni and faculty: Look for our student organization pages on Facebook at **SPHA Lubbock** and **SPHA Abilene**.

## Contact Us

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Student Public Health Association at Abilene Health Fair during National Public Health Week with Tiffany Torres, Steven Lara, Janet Mendenhall and Christine Lucio (April 2018)



Dijo John and Samantha Curtis at a Red Bag Event talking to high school students about public health (January 2018)

## Newsletter Information

The Spring 2018 newsletter was written and designed by Samantha Curtis, MPH student and DPH graduate assistant, and Dr. Jeff Dennis

To submit pictures or other items for future newsletters, submit details to:  
[Jeff.Dennis@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:Jeff.Dennis@ttuhsc.edu)