

A Note from the Chair

Dear Epidemiology Alumni and Friends:

The Department of Epidemiology has continued to develop and prosper since the first edition of *Epilogue* was published two years ago. This past academic year, Epidemiology faculty generated \$18 million in extramural support for their research and training programs; and this fall, more than 100 new master's and doctoral students enrolled in our department. We recently started three federally funded training programs in clinical research, cancer epidemiology for special populations, and global health; and we are working with the Department of Environmental Health Sciences to revise our joint program in occupational and environmental epidemiology. With the arrival of six new tenure-track faculty over the past few years, we have developed several new courses in epidemiologic methods, social and psychiatric epidemiology, infectious-disease modeling, environmental epidemiology, cancer, and cardiovascular disease.

Facilities for the Department have been moving in step with our research and training progress. Last summer, the Epidemiology administrative offices and laboratories opened in the new School of Public Health Crossroads Building and Tower that spans Washington Heights between the original building (SPH-I) and the one built in the early 1970s (SPH-II). By mid-December, Epidemiology faculty and staff who have been housed off-campus for more than four years will move back to SPH buildings when the new SPH Tower and renovations on SPH-I are finished.

Faculty honored this year for their professional accomplishments include Amr Soliman, who was promoted to associate professor with tenure; Professor MaryFran Sowers, who received a 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Iowa; Professor Emeritus David Schottenfeld, who received the

John Snow Award from the American Public Health Association; Professor Emeritus Brian Burt, who received the John W. Knutson Distinguished Service Award in Dental Public Health from the American Public Health Association; Professor Jim House, who was elected to the National Academy of Sciences; Adjunct Professor Ron Davis, who was elected president of the American Medical Association; and the Preventive Medicine Residency Program, directed by Associate Professor Matthew Boulton, which received the Outstanding Educational Program of the Year Award from the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research.

The Department is increasing its efforts this year to enhance summer internship opportunities for our MPH students by identifying new placements in the United States and developing countries and by monitoring and evaluating the experiences of our students. Internships are very important to our MPH training program, and I welcome your assistance in finding new opportunities for our many talented students. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please contact me at halm@umich.edu or 734-764-5435.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

Best wishes,
Hal Morgenstern
Professor and Chair



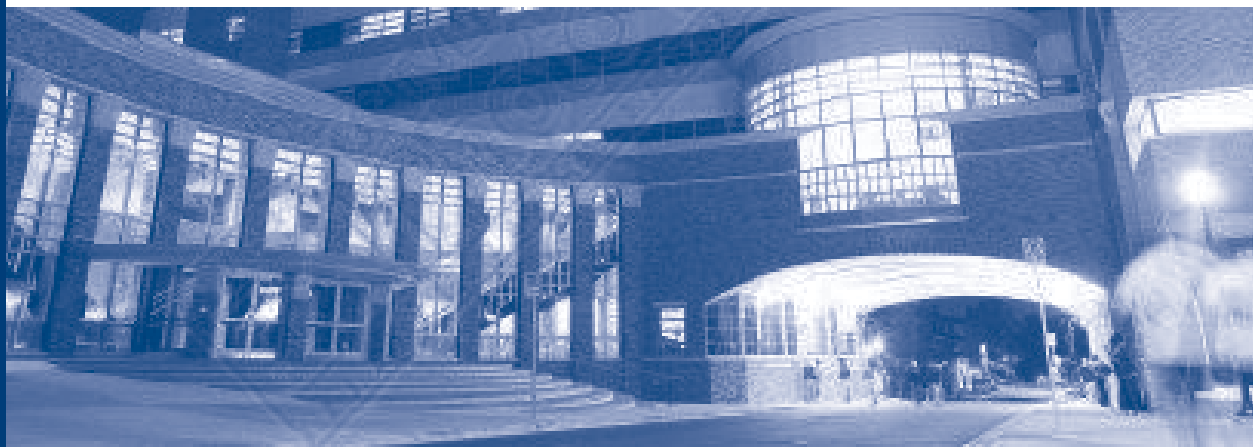
This newsletter is the official publication of the Department of Epidemiology, University of Michigan.

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Alumni Highlight

Peter D. McElroy, MPH '94, PhD '98

Associate Director for Malaria Programs, CDC—Tanzania; and Technical Advisor, U.S. President's Malaria Initiative, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

"What is the next logical step if I want to continue working in Africa?" That was a question I asked myself in early 1990 after completing two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV). Only a few months earlier, I had been living in western Kenya on the shores of Lake Victoria with no electricity or running water. HIV and malaria were killing scores of people around me, including friends and coworkers.

While pursuing my undergraduate degree in biology, I had considered a career as a molecular biologist. But after my PCV service, I knew I wanted to be "in the field" investigating and solving public health problems. Epidemiology seemed like a perfect fit. One day I got in my car, drove to Ann Arbor, parked on Observatory, and walked straight into the School of Public Health to have a look around. That was a career-defining day.

I looked at numerous schools of public health before deciding on the University of Michigan. I liked the strong blend of infectious and chronic disease epidemiology, the geographic location, the city of Ann Arbor, the University, and the friendly staff and faculty I met during my visit. I subsequently enrolled in the MPH program that combines an epidemiology and international health curriculum.

During the MPH program, I had the good fortune to obtain a summer internship at the Naval Medical Research Center in Washington, D.C. After only one year in the Department of Epidemiology at U-M, I had acquired the epidemiologic skills and confidence to work with the Navy's malaria vaccine development program. I continued working for this program for a brief period after completing my MPH. In 1994 I began the PhD Program in Epidemiologic Science at U-M. My dissertation topic (predictors of malarial anemia in the first four years of life) took me back to the same area in western Kenya where I had served as a PCV.

I had remarkable mentors and faculty within the Department of Epidemiology. Dr. Arnold Monto and Dr. Steve Meshnick, my dissertation co-chairs, were always ready to provide guidance and insight concerning my interests in the U.S. government's Public Health Service (Monto) and in malaria research (Meshnick). Dr. Siobán Harlow was a patient professor, always ready to help me tackle difficult analytic problems with my repeated measures data. I spent many hours with Dr. Jim Koopman discussing epidemiologic questions. Professors Schottenfeld, Peysers, Sowers, and Foxman all helped me gain a strong, well-rounded foundation in epidemiologic methods. Dr. John Maassab, department chair from 1991–97, was a constant source of support, enthusiasm, and good humor. The faculty was great indeed, but it was my fellow classmates in the department that really kept me motivated. I was surrounded by hard-working, serious students who were all very different, but shared similar goals.

Upon completing my PhD, I immediately began working at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, initially as a post-doctoral fellow in the Malaria Branch. In 1999, I entered the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) program at CDC, a two-year training program in applied epidemiology and public health. My two years as an EIS officer were spent in the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination investigating numerous TB outbreaks among diverse groups in the United States (including transgender persons, homeless men, strippers, and hospital staff). Outbreaks like these kept me very engaged with state and local health officials, one of the more rewarding attributes of CDC employment. This is where I really learned the mechanics of public health practice, and I loved the experience.

In late 2006, I visited Ann Arbor in order to lead a departmental seminar. It was amazing to see the physical improvements to the SPH facilities. I can only imagine that the new buildings will strengthen an already outstanding school and department.

Recently, I was drawn back to another position in malaria, this time in Tanzania. This is an extraordinary time for malaria research and control since we have never before witnessed



such a dramatic increase in resources to battle this ancient scourge. One example is the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), a \$1.2 billion U.S. government commitment to scale-up proven malaria interventions in 15 African countries. The primary goal of PMI is to reduce malaria mortality by 50% within five years (www.fightingmalaria.gov).

The PMI job is a fascinating example of interagency collaboration within the U.S. government (PMI is implemented by the U.S. Agency for International Development together with the CDC). It is accompanied by careful planning with the National Malaria Control Program within the Ministry of Health, and ongoing coordination with other international donors/partners (The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria; The World Bank; WHO; UNICEF; PEPFAR) focusing on malaria prevention and control in Tanzania. Today I'm engaged in more administrative duties and fewer research activities, but my epidemiologic skills are called upon on a daily basis.

My life in Dar es Salaam is wonderful and challenging, and I expect to remain posted here through 2010. My wife Rebecca and two daughters (Fiona, five and Madelyn, two) are very happy residing in Tanzania and each of them is speaking more Kiswahili every day. Sustainable malaria control is finally a reality for much of Africa. With the recent challenge from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to once again strive for malaria elimination and even eradication, there is indeed a chance for a malaria-free Africa in the decades ahead.

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Updates

Please update us on where you are and what you are doing.

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Phone: 734-764-8093

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& Alumni Relations, 2700 SPH 1
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Multiply the Impact of Your Gift to Epidemiology Students

University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman has issued a challenge to increase the amount of scholarship support available to graduate and professional students. This program, the President's Donor Challenge, will make a one-to-two match (\$1 for every \$2 donated) of *any size* gift up to \$1 million for graduate and professional student support—including scholarships, fellowships, internships, and student awards. This University of Michigan program will contin-

ue until \$40 million in gifts have been received or The Michigan Difference campaign ends on December 31, 2008, whichever happens first. Make your gift now to ensure additional matching support benefits U-M SPH epidemiology students!

For more information on the President's Donor Challenge and eligible U-M SPH gift funds, or to make your gift online, visit www.sph.umich.edu/challenge/.



School of Public Health commencement ceremony.

Upcoming Events Save the Date!

**Epidemiology Fellowships
& Careers in PH Practice**

January 14, 2008

Lane Auditorium, 1690 SPH Crossroads
U-M School of Public Health
Ann Arbor, MI
www.umsphpractice.org/

**Michigan Public Health Association
(MPHA), Michigan Epidemiology
Conference 2008**

Friday, April 4, 2008

MSU Union, Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI
www.mpha.org/epi/Conf2008/ConfInfo2008.html/

**Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS),
Annual EIS Conference**

April 16–20, 2008

Atlanta, GA
www.cdc.gov/eis/conference/conference.htm/

**Council of State and Territorial
Epidemiologists (CSTE), Annual
Conference**

June 8–12, 2008

Denver, CO
www.cste.org/

**Society for Epidemiologic Research
(SER), 2008 Meeting**

June 24–27, 2008

Chicago, IL
www.epiresearch.org/

**Graduate Summer Session
in Epidemiology**

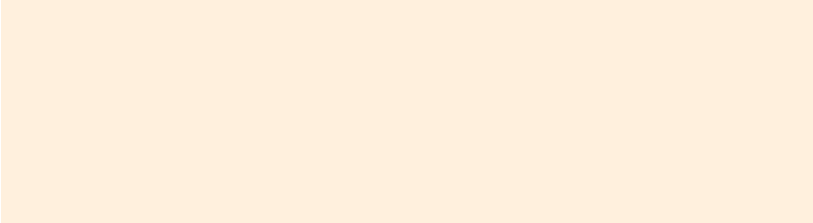
July 6–25, 2008

Ann Arbor, MI
www.sph.umich.edu/epid/GSS/



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Julia Donovan Darlow, Ann Arbor; Laurence B. Deitch, Bingham Farms; Olivia P. Maynard, Goodrich; Rebecca McGowan, Ann Arbor; Andrea Fischer Newman, Ann Arbor; Andrew C. Richner, Grosse Pointe Park; S. Martin Taylor, Grosse Pointe Farms; Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor; Mary Sue Coleman, *ex officio*

MM&D 070714



The Department of Epidemiology held a fall picnic at Gallup Park.

Thanks to your generous giving,
 the Department of Epidemiology
 has \$12,000 to use in support of
 student scholarships.