



Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.) Approved by the Board of Regents

Georgia Southern University has added another doctoral degree, following the Board of Regents' approval of the Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.) in biostatistics, community health behavior and education, and public health leadership. The regents' action came during their Jan. 16 meeting.

The Dr.P.H. will be offered through the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, which already offers Master of Public Health (M.P.H) degrees in the five aspects of public health: biostatistics, community health behavior, environmental health sciences, epidemiology, and health services policy and management.

"Approval of this doctoral degree is a major step in the growth of the still-young Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health," said Provost Linda Bleicken. "In addition to attracting more and higher quality students, this terminal degree moves us closer to our goal of national accreditation in the minimum five-year period. It also encourages the growth of research funding at Georgia Southern."

"Offering a doctorate in public health will allow us to expand our focus on public health throughout the state, while continuing to meet our mission of assisting rural and underserved populations in Georgia," said Charles Hardy, founding dean of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health. "Our goal is healthier communities filled with healthier people."

Each of the three Dr.P.H. degrees requires community-based practice activities, a field-based practicum, advanced courses in a program concentration, and field and/or laboratory research opportunities designed to give students a comprehensive, real-world curriculum. The program serves full-time students preparing for a career in public health, as well as currently-employed public health professionals seeking more advanced education.

Georgia Southern designed its Dr.P.H. degree to align with the criteria articulated by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), the accrediting body of schools and colleges of public health.

For more information about the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health and the Dr.P.H. program, please visit <http://jphcoph.georgiasouthern.edu/>.

Students interested in applying to the Dr.P.H. program should contact Kelley Chester, Coordinator of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, at 912-681-5603, or at kcheste3@georgiasouthern.edu.

JPHCOPH Hosts Junior Faculty Development Scholar

Dr. Saulet Nurtayeva
West Kazakhstan
State Medical Academy
Republic of Kazakhstan



Dr. Saulet Nurtayeva, from West Kazakhstan State Medical Academy, Aktobe City, Republic of Kazakhstan is a visiting scholar in the JPHCOPH during Spring 2007. Saulet's current work is in the Department of Oncology and Radiology, where she teaches Oncology and Radiology. She is also a member of the Health Ministry Working Group. Her interests in the field of public health include nutrition, obesity, and physical activity in cancer prevention; tobacco prevention educational programs; and case studies in public health education.

Saulet's visit to the JPHCOPH is funded by the Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP), a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. The program is administered by the American Councils for International Education. During Spring 2006 JPHCOPH hosted Dr. Enver Roshi, from Albania, through the JFDP. This is a very valuable program from both the exchange faculty as well as the faculty, staff, and students of JPHCOPH and Georgia Southern University.

Faculty Spotlight...



Dr. Ahmed Adu-Oppong
Assistant Professor of Health
Services Administration
Hollis, Suite 1101A
912.486.7901

aaduoppong@georgiasouthern.edu

Dr. Adu-Oppong was born in a small farming town called Kranka in Ghana, on the West Coast of Africa. It was in this country that he received his elementary, middle and secondary education. After graduating with distinction in Advanced Level Secondary Education he immigrated to the United States. He arrived in New York City to attend Queens College.

Dr. Adu-Oppong received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston in Management, Policy Science and Community Health. He did his administrative fellowship with the Texas Department of Health. This is now known as the department of State Health Services (DSHS) where he helped write the rule for HIV name reporting. While at the department he also worked on House Concurrent Resolution 44 (HCR44) where he helped restructured the Texas Public Health Systems and infrastructure. He also holds three masters degrees from the University of Houston Clear Lake in Biology with concentration in Molecular Biology, Health Care Administration and Business Administration. He has his B.S. in Microbiology/Biochemistry from the University of Texas, Arlington.

Before coming to GSU he was the founder and the Executive Director of Sankofa Health Inc., a community based nonprofit 501(C) 3 agency, helping to develop HIV/AIDS prevention capacity and health care infrastructure to treat HIV patients in developing countries. He also served as the Director of Thomas Street Clinic in Houston, which is the first free standing publicly funded community based Public Health HIV/AIDS Clinic in the nation. His experiences include international consulting on healthcare infrastructure, capacity building for governmental and non governmental organizations in developing countries working with international donor organizations. He has eight years biomedical, healthcare and HIV/AIDS research with Baylor College of Medicine and five years as a medical laboratory administrator with Methodist Hospital. In addition, he has five years experience in HIV planning, grant writing, program and operations management with Harris County Hospital District.

Dr. Adu-Oppong serves on the executive board of several community based agencies. He reviews grants for several

federal agencies and the Country Coordinating Mechanism Guidelines for Global Fund. He also serves as program evaluator for several City, County, State, and Federal programs in education, HIV treatment and prevention. He has received several awards including The YMCA Leadership Award 2005, YMCA Minority Achiever of the year 2002, Urban League Scholastic Award 1998, and the NAACP Campus Leader Award 1987. Author of over thirty peer-reviewed articles, abstracts and posters, his research interests includes HIV prevention and treatment modalities, healthcare financial economics, TB and Malaria prevention in developing countries, healthcare delivery models, access to care, utilization and infrastructure assessments.

He is a member of the Medical Group Management Association, American College of Health Care Executives, American Society of Clinical Pathologists and the American Public Health Association. Dr. Adu-Oppong enjoys reading; traveling, playing football (soccer), tennis, watching basketball, American football, golf and spending time with his family.

Since joining the GSU family in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health in August 2006, Dr. Adu-Oppong has been busy forming community collaborations. He is currently the Board Chair for Amethyst Project, a community based organization dedicated to HIV prevention in Bulloch County and providing HIV services to clients in five counties. He has established alliances with the National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer Network project, Savannah State University, the Community Healthcare Center of Savannah, Georgia Department of Human Resources Region 9-2 and is a member of the South East Health Unit Summit Aids Care (SEHUSAC). Within the university he represents the college at the Faculty Service Committee and the Center for International Studies Advisory Council. Dr. Adu-Oppong is happy to be part of the GSU family.

Student Spotlight...



Jiehui Zhu
M.P.H. Biostatistics Program
Second Year Student

Jiehui was born in Zhejiang Province, China. After receiving her Bachelor's degree in Clinical Medicine from Xianning Medical College in Hubei Province, in 1993, she worked as an OB-GYN for over nine years in Guangdong Province. During this time, she published several professional papers and also worked as a health reporter for a local newsletter for several years.

In December 2002, she moved to Kansas to join her husband who was pursuing his Ph.D. in financial mathematics. In 2005, she came to Georgia Southern University to pursue a M.P.H. in Biostatistics. Currently, methods of biostatistics have not been widely applied in clinical medicine in China. After graduating with her M.P.H. Jiehui plans to return to China and work in the field of public health. Jiehui was awarded the Karl E. Peace Scholarship and became a BASS fellow in 2005. She is currently a graduate assistant working with Dr. Karl E. Peace in the JPHCOPH.

When she was involved in her OB-GYN practice she enjoyed helping patients with high risk pregnancies and gynecological diseases. She desires to continue to help women as well as other in obtaining a high level of personal and community health. Jiehui states "I hope my work will not only help the physicians to provide more efficient treatments to patients but also help patients to reduce the unnecessary use of medicine and save their money and time and even life."

Jiehui is married and has two children, ages 10 years and 3 years old. In her spare time she enjoys reading, playing table tennis, cooking and listening to classical music. Jiehui describes her experience in the JPHCOPH as follows: "The professors in the JPHCOPH are very helpful and kind to all of the students. Our program provides a nice blend of theoretical and applied (real world) biostatistics. Finally, the culture of JPHCOPH and GSU is very inviting to international students"

JPHCOPH Education News...

Enrollment this term has reached 47 students – Biostatistics = 13, Community Health Behavior and Education = 11, Environmental Health Sciences = 2, Epidemiology = 3, Health Services Policy and Management = 14, NonDegree = 4. Headcount for spring courses = 137 with 393 SCH. This compares with Fall headcount = 123 and SCH = 330. Kelley Chester, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Coordinator is busy with recruitment activities for Fall 2007. Be on the look out for activities and opportunities to be involved with our quest for 100!

JPHCOPH Research News...

Dr. Wen-Ran Zhang from CIT, Dr. Anand Pandurangi from MCV and Dr. Karl E. Peace have had their paper: "YinYang Dynamic Neurological Modeling and Diagnostic Analysis of Mental Depression and Bipolar Disorder", accepted for publication by *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering*.

Dr. Wen-Ran Zhang from CIT and Dr. Karl E. Peace from JPHCOPH met with members of the Department of Psychiatry at MCG on Friday, January 19, 2007 to explore collaboration on a computational model for bipolar disorder. The model is based in part on the work described in: Zhang,

Peace and Pandurangi "Equilibrium-Based Bipolar Neurological Modeling" *Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society*, pp: 5169-5172, 2006.

Dr. Karl E. Peace has accepted an invitation to be Editor of Chapman & Hall/ CRCs Biostatistics Series.

Dr. Alison Scott was the kick-off speaker for the Women's & Gender Studies 'Third Thursdays' brown-bag seminar series. 'Third Thursdays' seminars feature presentations of research, teaching, service, and community outreach that explore the needs of women and the impact of gender on people's lives. Dr. Scott's presentation "This is what goes on inside me: HIV-Positive Women's Representations of HIV and AIDS" highlighted drawings created by women with HIV, and discussed lessons conveyed by the images for the care and support of those with HIV. The event was a valuable opportunity for interdisciplinary discussion of this important women's health issue.

JPHCOPH Practice News...

JPHCOPH continues its involvement with Evans County's Health Collaborative, as it engages its community through health outreach efforts. Dr. Swati Raychowdhury and Dr. Alison Scott facilitate the Collaborative's Worksite Wellness program, which provides health education and exercise classes to local employees. Rebecca Wilson, a JPHCOPH student, spearheaded a series of "Lunch and Learn" speaker events, which included well-received talks by Mr. Larry Bryant. In addition, Dr. Scott is conducting a community health assessment for the Collaborative, with emphasis on building relationships with the Latino and African American populations in the area. Students in the Community Health Assessment course, including Forrest Robinson, Pavan Panchavati, Ashiyana Regmi, and Rebecca Wilson, took a key role in collecting data for the assessment. The students also participated in community events such as the Collaborative's Visioning Retreat, and the annual Festival of Guadalupe sponsored by Saint Christopher's Catholic Church.

Dr. Stuart Tedders and Dr. Kari Fitzmorris were invited presenters at the SEHD Environmental Health Meeting, January 11, 2006 held in Hazelhurst, Georgia. Stuart highlighted the health status issues in Health District 9.2, the JPHCOPH and the services of the Center for Rural Health and Research. Kari's presentation focused upon the Environmental Health Sciences program, research and practice/outreach.

Dr. Jerry Ledlow and Dean Charles Hardy participated in the Cancer Health Disparities Colloquium held at Savannah State University on January 24, 2007. The Colloquium was sponsored by the College of Sciences and Technology at Savannah State University and Coastal Business and Education Technology Alliance.

JPHCOPH Updates...

Dr. Cassandra Arroyo was appointed to the International Biometrics Society Eastern North American Region (ENAR) Diversity Workshop Committee and will be recognized in the ENAR proceedings as a member of the committee.

JPHCOPH was awarded the 100% Participation Plaque for faculty and staff giving on the annual “A Day for Southern on Campus”. Thanks to all for your contributions. The plaque is on display in the JPHCOPH office.

Native Son Helps Fight Cancer.” Article about activities of Dr. Karl E. Peace targeted to Baker County, Georgia appearing in The Statesboro Herald, The Camilla Enterprise and The State of Baker

The Dean’s Student Advisory Committee met on January 19 in Hollis 1121. The agenda included discussion about the Dr.P.H. degree program approval, faculty search update, the MPH/Dr.P.H. Handbook, the revised web page, the development of our JPHCOPH alumni tracking model, student recruitment, the public health student association and the By-Laws for the student advisory committee. Kelley will send a summary of this meeting to all faculty and students sometime next week.

Under the leadership of Dr. Swati Raychowdhury the Public Health Student Association (PHSA) is being formed. The PHSA is open to all JPHCOPH public health students. The PHSA is in the formative stage, developing a constitution and by-laws, electing officers and developing programs and activities for our students. For more information contact Dr. Raychowdhury at 912-871-1249 or at sraychowdhury@georgiasouthern.edu.

Give to JPHCOPH...

Public health touches every aspect of our life. Our nation’s economy, security, environment and the quality of our daily lives depend on the strength of the public’s health and on the systems that support it. You can do your part to prevent disease, protect the public from harm, and promote the health of communities throughout the state, the nation, and the world by making a gift to the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH).

Every gift to the JPHCOPH plays a vital role in improving the public’s health by supporting:

Excellence in Public Health Education. Provides scholarships and fellowships to highly qualified, committed, and diverse students, many of whom cannot attend the JPHCOPH without financial help. Gifts will also support curriculum development, innovations, and linkages with public health practice.

Excellence in Public Health Research. Supports distinguished faculty in their work to find answers and solutions to public health problems.

Excellence in Public Health Service and Outreach. Supports programs that focus upon the development of community-based participatory programs and research.

Gifts to the JPHCOPH are critical to our development. Private financial support provides the margin of excellence that distinguishes good universities from great ones. As a Doctoral Research University, Georgia Southern University is proud to be a public university. But direct public support accounts for less than half of Georgia Southern University’s annual operating budget. We rely on the generous support of our alumni, friends, and the research grant support of our faculty to make up the difference.

Please consider making a gift to JPHCOPH today. For more information contact Charles J. Hardy, Founding Dean, JPHCOPH at 912-681-5653 or check out our website at <http://jphcoph.georgiasouthern.edu>

Public Health Matters..

Public Health Matters is a publication of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) at Georgia Southern University. Public Health Matters is published monthly for faculty, students and friends of JPHCOPH. If you would like to contribute to this publication please contact Kelley Chester, Coordinator of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, at 912-681-5603, or at kcheste3@georgiasouthern.edu.