

# PH TIMES

NDSU Department of Public Health Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2015

## What's Happening

The Department has had a great semester so far and looking forward to the next. We have been working on many opportunities to broaden the aspects in which we can serve our students and the community.

We are excited to be starting quarterly publications to fill you in on the latest of what is going on in our department. If you have information you would like considered for inclusion, please email [angela.skaff@ndsu.edu](mailto:angela.skaff@ndsu.edu).

*“For he who has health has hope; and he who has hope, has everything.”*

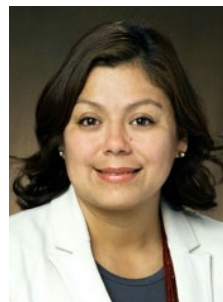
*- Owen Arthur*

## NDSU MPH Student Spotlight



Congratulations to Winta Yallow, a second year MPH Management of Infectious Disease student, for receiving a \$10,000 International Peace Scholarship that provides financial support for international women students pursuing their graduate studies in the United States. The scholarship is funded by P.E.O International, a philanthropic educational organization that primarily focuses on educating and encouraging women to achieve their utmost goals

Congratulations to Ruth A Buffalo, a second year MPH American Indian Public Health student, was inducted into Fargo Oak Grove's Hall of Fame, October 17, 2015.



Congratulations to Alayna Eaglesfield, a first year MPH American Indian Public Health student, is going to be a part of the Bush Foundation Native Nation Rebuilders program

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# New Faculty Welcome



Welcome Dr. Rick Jansen, our new Infectious Disease faculty member. Here is a little primer on the newest faculty member.

## What are your research interests and passions?

I have had a long-standing interest in public health, particularly how gene-environment interactions contribute to diseases, such as pancreatic cancer. In particular, I have a passion for understanding how dietary factors contribute to pathogenesis of various diseases in our communities and the ties that this has with molecular and genomic factors in human populations. Along these lines I have also been involved with research focusing on arsenic exposure and metabolism, outbreak investigations and more broadly, analyzing existing and developing new epidemiologic methods of research.

## What are future research plans?

I am working on several grant proposals to further research into application of dietary data obtained from different cohorts of our population in order to better understand disease development amongst different groups of people. I am also working to further identify genomic components of our chromosomal make-up responsible for determining disease development and progression.

## What classes will you be teaching for the MPH Program?

This Spring I will be teaching MICR 474/674 (Epidemiology) and MICR 750 (Advanced Topics in Epidemiology).

## A little personal background

I grew up in Sauk Centre, MN, a small town in Stearns County. I currently live in Alexandria, MN with my wife and our three children. In my spare time my family and I go hiking, gardening, and frequent trips to the local playground!

# Department Celebrations

## Dr. Mark Strand Achieves Recognition as Certified in Public Health



The National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) has recognized Dr. Mark Strand as Certified in Public Health (CPH). With this accomplishment, Strand demonstrates not only a mastery of the core sciences of public health, but also a strong commitment to staying on the cutting-edge of public health issues.

"With this new CPH class, the entire field is elevated to new standards and the health of the public can continue to be enhanced," said Dr. Richard Kurz, chair of NBPHE and dean of the University of North Texas Health Science Center School Of Public Health. The CPH process raises the bar for public health workers by highlighting the need for a standard benchmark for students and graduates and a certified dedication to the field."

"Public health is a broad discipline, so achieving this certification in public health is a tremendous honor," Strand said of the process.

Dr. Strand is currently employed at NDSU as professor in the School of Pharmacy and the Department of Public Health. Strand advises research projects of graduate students and teaches courses including epidemiology and chronic disease prevention and management.

### About the NBPHE

The NBPHE Certified in Public Health (CPH) program demonstrates that students and graduates from CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health have mastered required core and cross-cutting competencies and addresses the need for greater recognition of public health as a health profession. More information can be found at: [www.nbphe.org](http://www.nbphe.org).

Dr. Ardith Brunt, Health Promotion faculty, published "Accompanying the Primary Grocery Shopper is Positively Related to Requests for Purchase of Fruits and Vegetables in Third & Fourth Grade Students" in the *Open Journal of Preventive Medicine*. Co-authors: J Keith, S Stastny, and N Bezbaruah.

Dr. Wonwoo Byun, Health Promotion faculty, published "Sedentary Behavior in Preschoolers: How Many Days of Accelerometer Monitoring Is Needed?" in the *International Journal of Environmental of Environmental Research and Public Health*. Co-authors: M Beets and R Pate.

Dr. Paul Carson, Management of Infectious Diseases faculty, was awarded a \$50,000 Otto Bremer Foundation grant for the project "Improving Childhood Immunization by Facilitating the Role of Health Professionals at the Medical Encounter" which also procures a \$50,000 match from the Dakota Medical Foundation.

Ramona Danielson, MIECHV project manager, presented the poster, *Health Disparities Beginning Prenatally: Risk Factors and Birth Outcomes among American Indians in North Dakota*, at the 143<sup>rd</sup> American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo. Co-presenters: J Wallenborn and D Warne.

Dr. Abby Gold, DPH Vice Chair and Public Health in Clinical Systems faculty, published, "A Social-Ecological Approach to Exploring Rural Food Access and Active Living for Families with Preschoolers Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior" in the *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*. Co-authors: B Buro, P Peters, S Procter, A Mobley, A Keim, D Contreras, R Oscarson, and C Smathers.

Dr. Andrea Huseth, American Indian Public Health faculty, will publish "Predictors of Health Care Provider Anticipatory Guidance Provision to Older Drivers," in *Traffic Injury Prevention*. Co-authors: G Sanders and M O'Connor.

Dr. Donna Grandbois, American Indian Public Health faculty, contributed Chapter 15 to the new textbook, *American Indian Health and Nursing*, published by Springer. Co-author: M Moss.

Dr. Rick Jansen, Management of Infectious Diseases faculty, will publish "Determinants and Consequences of Arsenic Metabolism Efficiency among 4,794 Individuals: Demographics, Lifestyle, Genetics, and Toxicity" in *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*. Co-authors: M Argos, L Tong, et al.

Dr. Molly Secor-Turner, Public Health in Clinical Systems faculty, was awarded a 3 Year Competitive Personal Responsibility Education Program grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for \$750,000 to implement community-based comprehensive sexuality education. Co-PI: B Randall.

Dr. Mark Strand, Public Health in Clinical Systems faculty, will publish "Utilization of the 9-item Patient Health Questionnaire for Depression Assessment in Type-2 Diabetic Primary Care Patients," in the *Journal of Psychosocial Nursing and Mental Health Services*. Co-authors: R Willborn (recent MPH graduate), M Barnacle, B Maack, and A Werremeyer.

Dr. Donald Warne, DPH Chair and American Indian Public Health faculty, published "American Indian Health Disparities: Psychosocial Influences" in *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*. Co-author: D Lajimodiere.

Pearl Walker, NDSU INBRE project manager, is going to be a part of the Bush Foundation Native Nation Rebuilders program

Melanie Nadeau, Operations Director for the American Indian Public Health Resource Center, was recently honored with a 2015 Alan Allery Award. The award honors outstanding American Indian student health researchers. Selection criteria for the award includes quality, impact and significance of the research conducted by the nominee. The award was presented at the American Indian Health Research Conference in Grand Forks, ND.



# Public Health Chair's Corner

Dr. Warne has been out and about this semester and bringing in national spotlights to the department.

In October, we had the honor of hosting a visit for the Blue Campaign with Maria M. Odom, the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the head of this national initiative. The Blue campaign is focused on ending human trafficking. She and her team are forming a partnership with the North Dakota Public Health Association to raise awareness about and fight human trafficking in the public health sector and Indian country in North Dakota. They are also looking to work with our American Indian Public Health Resource Center in joint efforts to identify key issues and strategies to address human trafficking in ND.

Also in October, Dr. Warne presented at the Inaugural National Conference on Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia in Native American Communities in AZ. Other trips included going to Leech Lake Tribal College peeking students interest in the NDSU INBRE program. Dr. Warne also was at Bemidji State University for a discussion on health disparities and social justice as it relates to American Indian Health.

In November, many from the department headed east out to Chicago for the Annual American Public Health Association Conference. Dr. Warne presented on oral health access and advocacy in ND. We had more than ten NDSU Public Health faculty, staff, and students representing at the conference! Dr. Warne also was in Atlanta in November participating in the "Doctors back to school" program at Hamilton Holmes Elementary School for the American Medical Association.



## Upcoming Events/Resources

Faculty Retreat Jan. 4th

Accreditation site visit May 9-10th

Student Opportunities

The link below is frequently updated with jobs, assistantships, and other professional development opportunities.

[http://www.ndsu.edu/publichealth/student\\_opportunities/](http://www.ndsu.edu/publichealth/student_opportunities/)

Student Travel

The link below will take you to the information and application for applying for student travel awards. Please review this information carefully if you are considering applying. Please understand that this opportunity is not a guaranteed funding source.

[https://www.ndsu.edu/publichealth/student\\_opportunities/](https://www.ndsu.edu/publichealth/student_opportunities/)

## Contact Us

For more information about our program:

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