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Public Health Link

JEFFERSON COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES
MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH E-NEWS



Student Objectives

Graduates of the MPH program are expected to be able to:

- Articulate the principles that are basic to public health, including methods for assessing the determinants of the population's health;
- Communicate effectively with colleagues, in and out of public health, and the lay public, about the scientific principles that form the basis of the discipline;
- Analyze published literature in public health, including the application of relevant aspects of epidemiology and biostatistics;
- Explain the variability in access to care and public health resources, including the workforce in the United States and abroad;
- Articulate the role of psychosocial factors as they relate to personal behavior, public health communications, education and impact;
- Describe the major environmental health hazards, their effects on individuals, their assessment and development of policies for protection of the public's health;
- Serve as a resource for information on health services, including aspects of healthcare financing and outcomes measurement;
- Delineate the legal and ethical principles that inform public health practice.

MPH Spotlight

Vittorio Maio, PharmD, MS, MSPH, is a member of the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program Committee and faculty member currently teaching Health Policy: An International Perspective. He is also a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Policy (DHP) of Jefferson Medical College, where he is responsible for managing and developing health policy research studies. In addition, he is the Director of Outcomes Research Fellowship Programs.

"The [MPH] program was designed to be a small, strong, and supportive team."

Prior to joining the DHP team, Dr. Maio worked several years in Italy within the pharmaceutical field. Dr. Maio's research interests are in the areas of outcomes analysis and medication usage and policy. Current research involves the evaluation of inappropriate medication prescribing for the elderly; the effects of patient prescription cost-sharing on drug consumption and utilization of medical care; and the development of quality measurements in inpatient and outpatient care settings. He is also Associate Editor of the American Journal of Medical Quality.

Dr. Maio received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Perugia (Italy), took the Italian Pharmacist Board Certification, and received both his Master's of Science in Pharmacology and his Master's in Public Health from Thomas Jefferson University.

"As a health outcomes researcher, I continually search for the best resources to expand my knowledge on a wide variety of subjects related to population health and health policy," says Maio. When he completed Thomas Jefferson University's MPH, his goal was accomplished and a solid foundation was laid for his future professional advancement. Maio says "Jefferson's MPH program offered me an expansive curriculum that is interesting and informative and provides excellent insights from the standpoints of all the players in healthcare. The course work and hands-on exercises broadened my skills in and appreciation of related policy, epidemiological and statistical



Vittorio Maio, PharmD, MS, MSPH

fields and how they are all intrinsic to the study of health care issues."

He continues, "The MPH class was undeniably a family. The program was designed to be a small, strong and supportive team." Moreover, he believes the flexible schedule of the program allowed him to complete his degree while continuing to conduct research in the Department of Health Policy. "I highly recommend Jefferson's MPH program to anyone who has a desire to enter the field of population health and health policy," says Maio.

FREE SEMINAR on Global Health & Infectious Diseases

"The Global Burden of Infectious Diseases and its Implications for Public Health"

**Thurs. Nov. 8th,
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
Jefferson Alumni
Hall, M-61**

Presenter:

**Davidson Hamer, MD,
FACP,
Associate Professor
of International
Health and Medicine,
Boston University
Schools of Public
Health and Medicine**

Please RSVP to
Rob.Simmons@Jefferson.edu

Health Policy Forum

**November 7th,
8:30 AM—9:30 AM
218 Curtis
1015 Walnut St.**

**Medication Therapy
Management & Pharmacy
Quality Measurement:
Dave Domann, MS,
RPh, Healthcare
Quality Management
Ortho-McNeil
Janssen Scientific
Affairs, LLC**

**Light Breakfast
Available**

Public Health Perspective: Public Health Advocacy—A Perspective and Opportunities

Advocacy is at the heart of public health education and practice. Advocacy takes many forms, and may include:

- Taking an action directed at changing policies or programs of any type on institution
- Pleading for, defending or recommending an idea before other people
- Speaking up, drawing a community's attention to an important issue, and directing decision makers toward a solution
- Working with other people and organizations to make a differences
- Putting a problem on the agenda, providing a solution to that problem and building support for acting on both the problem and solution
- Aiming to change an organization internally or to alter an entire system
- Undertaking strategies aimed at influencing decision-making at organizational, local, national or international levels
- Using strategies such as lobbying, social marketing, information sharing, education, communication, and community organizing to bring about change
- Enabling people to participate in the decision-making processes which affect their lives

Quality public health education and successful public health practice requires a strong curriculum and firm grounding in the multiple elements of advocacy. Such elements include one or more of the following:

- Coalitions of community groups and professionals
- Clear objectives and targets for change
- Fundraising to support data collection, analysis and sharing
- Supportive data and convincing results through research and evaluation
- Specific audiences who can bring about change
- Appropriate media to reach and convince policy makers
- Coalitions of community groups and professionals

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Advocacy succeeds by: 1) educating leaders, policy makers, or those who carry out policies; 2) reforming existing policies, laws, budgets, and developing new programs and 3) creating more democratic, open and accountable decision-making structures and procedures.

Multiple local advocacy organizations are working on various determinants of health. These include Project HOME (affordable housing, and reduction of poverty), the Women's Health and Environment Network (environmental exposure and cancer risk), Physicians for Social Responsibility (reduction in interpersonal violence), Penn Environment (clean water and climate change), and the Philadelphia Health Leadership Network (access to care for all). There obviously are many others at the local, Regional, National and International level. I encourage our students and faculty to become more involved in the world of advocacy.



—James Plumb, MD, MPH

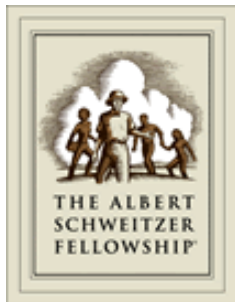
If you are interested in sharing your Public Health Perspective on an important issue in the field, please e-mail James.Plumb@Jefferson.edu

Delaware Valley Schweitzer Fellows Program

This is an update about the Delaware Valley Schweitzer Fellows Program (DVSFP). Established in September 2006, the DVSFP is steadily building its presence in the Delaware Valley area under the leadership of David B. Nash, MD, MBA and colleagues in the Department of Health Policy at Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University. The program is designed to serve disadvantaged populations in, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey, and Delaware.

The National Schweitzer Fellows Program seeks to build “**Leaders in Service**,” who are dedicated to working with the underserved in their communities, through the fellowship year and beyond. Fellows design and implement their own community service project that address local unmet health needs and participate in monthly Fellowship activities. Each fellow will receive a \$2000 stipend for completing a minimum of 200 service hours. The 2007-2008 Delaware Valley Schweitzer Fellows were chosen through a competitive selection process from the area’s top health and human service schools, including Drexel University, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, St. Joseph’s University, Temple University, University of Medicine and

Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), and Widener University, School of Law. Fellows are currently engaged in community service projects, that represent a variety of areas of focus such as: health educational programs and screening at Chinatown Clinic, People’s Emergency Center, and Delmarva Rural Ministries, Inc.; Environmental health & behavioral health programs at the Caring People Alliance @ Fels South Philadelphia Community Center and Emlen Elementary School;



Pastoral care at the Attic Youth Center. As JCGS students, we hope that you will consider the fellowship as an opportunity to expand your TJU learning experience. This is a unique opportunity, and only a few students are selected each year to participate. Hopefully, this year we will have at least one TJU student in the 2008-2009 Fellowship year. For more information about Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the Delaware Valley Fellows and current projects, or application guidelines, please visit our website: <http://www.schweitzerfellowship.org/features/us/del> or contact Nicole M. Cobb at Nicole.Cobb@Jefferson.edu.

SAPHE
(Safety, Awareness,
& Public Health
Education)

Interested in getting involved? Join us at the first meeting for this student organization, Mon Oct. 22nd 5:15 in M-21, JAH
Food will be provided

Information Session

Tell your friends!

Wed., November 14th 2007,
5:30 PM – 7 PM
Jefferson Alumni Hall, M-61

Learn about the school, our Master’s programs, and financial aid opportunities. Light dinner will be served.

RSVP: Lisa Chosed, 3-0154 or Msbasicsciences@jefferson.edu

Thesis Presentations

Public Health Thesis Presentations will be on Thursday, Nov. 15th at 10 AM in M-13 JAH

Presenters are:

James Fink—Use of Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP) at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (TJUH)
Amy Marshall—The HPV Vaccine: A Policy Analysis of a State-Mandated Vaccination Program in Pennsylvania

Please come and support your fellow students and maybe you will get ideas for your future presentations!



MPH Faculty Dinner Meeting

Tues, Nov. 27th
5:30-7:30 PM in the Jefferson Club, JAH

If you have not RSVPed, please e-mail Lisa.Chosed@Jefferson.edu

Edited By: Lisa Chosed, Comments & Suggestions: Lisa.Chosed@Jefferson.edu or 3-0154.