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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.

Public Health Link

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

MPH Spotlight

Albert G. Crawford, PhD, MBA, MSIS

Al Crawford came to Jefferson in 2001 and is now an Assistant Professor in the Jefferson Medical College Department of Health Policy (DHP) and in the Jefferson College of Graduate Studies and the lead Quality Analyst for the Jefferson University Physicians (JUP) Clinical Care Subcommittee (CCS). He earned his PhD in Sociology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1976, his MBA in Health Administration from Widener University in 1985, and his MS in Information Systems from Drexel University in 1998.



Al Crawford, PhD, MBA, MSIS

Before coming to Jefferson, Al held positions at the University of Pennsylvania Department of Sociology and School of Medicine Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Widener University, Graduate Hospital, Independence Blue Cross, and Care Science, where he worked with David J. Brailer, MD, PhD, who went on to become the first National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

During Al's 7 years at Jefferson, he has focused on research and has published 17 journal articles and 3 book chapters, as well as making numerous presentations at professional society meetings. Al serves as an Associate Editor of the American Journal of Medical Quality, whose editorial office resides at the DHP. His research expertise and experience at Jefferson includes clinical outcomes, pharmacoeconomics, health services, and health information technology, but his current focus is outpatient quality measurement and quality improvement (QI). During the past 4 years, Jefferson has become a national leader in health care quality and safety through the efforts of David B. Nash, MD, MBA, Chair of both the DHP and the CCS, Neil Goldfarb, DHP Vice Chair for Research and JUP Director of Ambulatory Care Performance Improvement, and other CCS members and staff. As the lead CCS analyst, Al has designed and imple-

mented QI projects in collaboration with CCS staff and faculty, students, and staff of the 16 CCS clinical departments. Al also directs work at Jefferson to develop new quality measures for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' evolving Physicians Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). Al is currently developing a reporting system, based on PQRI and other national quality measurement and pay-for-performance systems, to enable JUP physicians to know and improve the quality of care they deliver.

Al has taught the introductory biostatistics course (GC660) for the past 3 years and takes pride in having led the successful effort to introduce hands-on SAS statistical software experience into that course. He will teach Applied Regression Models (GC 670) this Spring II and looks forward to introducing SAS software experience into that course as well. Al has served on several MPH Thesis committees and looks forward to helping many other MPH students design their analyses and complete their Theses.

Al is married to Liang-Xi (Lucy) Sun, and they have 4 children – Chu-Lei (Charlie), 22, a US Navy veteran and now a pre-Med student at the University of Washington in Seattle, Kathryn (Kate), 18, a freshman at the Pennsylvania College of Art and Design in Lancaster, William, 15, and Kelly Sun (10).

Al is an Eagle Scout, like his 3 older brothers, and he looks forward to his son William becoming an Eagle. One of Al's and William's most satisfying accomplishments was their 2-week backpacking trip last Summer at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, which included climbing a 12,441 foot mountain.

A devotee of both classical and folk music and dance, Al is a 30-year Philadelphia Orchestra subscriber and enjoys singing in his church choir (as well as serving as a Deacon), playing trombone, and doing ballroom, zydeco, English Country, and New England contra dancing. He takes pride in the 1st place finish among the Comic groups in this year's Mummer's Parade by the Kingsessing Morris Men, the English Morris dance group of which he has been a member for the last 20 years.

The Greater Philadelphia Schweitzer Program Presents:

Perspectives on Health & Human Rights

**Tues, April 8th 6-8 PM
Drexel University—
Hahnemann Campus
New College Bldg,
Geary Auditorium**

Featuring the following speakers:

Nan Feyler, JD, MPH,
*immigration, hiv/aids and
civil rights expert*

**Sabina Neem, MSS,
MLSP,** *prevention specialist,
the attic, LGBT youth center*

**Alex Otieno, MPH, PhD
Candidate,** *instructor of sociology
and international peace & conflict
resolution, Arcadia University*

**RSVP:
Schweitzersymposium
@gmail.com**

MSPH VS. MPH

Students currently in the MSPH program who are interested in earning an MPH instead as part of our new program will have the option to do so. Please view our policy in the Public Health Pulse site.

Addressing the Public Health Crisis in Philadelphia

An interesting several months lies ahead for the Public Health Community in the Philadelphia Region. Legislators are debating the many facets of Governor Rendell's Prescription for Pennsylvania. Some components have been implemented. National candidates of both parties are proposing "health care reform". Mayor Nutter has embarked on his plan for a Healthier Philadelphia. It is the latter that might have the most local impact in the near future.



The appointment of Dr. Donald Schwarz as Philadelphia's Deputy Mayor for Health and Opportunities and

Health Commissioner signals the potential for new directions and innovations for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and other Human Service Agencies. As Mayor Nutter proclaimed on the campaign trail - "Philadelphia has the opportunity and resources to be a national leader in public health. All that is missing is the political will." He went on to state: "in the past, we have not fully supported our Health Department or developed the collaborations needed to make our city healthy and assure real health opportunities for our residents".

Mayor Nutter, his Administration, and Dr. Schwarz have embarked on:

- Improving access to health care services by reducing waiting times, estab-

lishing an outreach program, and getting patients enrolled in insurance programs;

- Promoting a healthier city by directly addressing environmental and public health issues such as obesity, violence and STD's; and
- Restoring public health leadership by promoting innovation and collaboration with other health entities in the city.

This "promotion of innovation and collaboration with health entities" should provide opportunities for Jefferson Faculty and Students to work more closely with the City in the coming months. We all should look forward to assisting in making Philadelphia a national leader in public health. More importantly, we can more effectively impact dismal local statistics, such as:

- more than 3,400 Philadelphians die prematurely every year;
- nearly half of all children are at risk for obesity
- the number of Philadelphians without health insurance has nearly doubled in the last six years to 160,000.

For further information about opportunities and programs, contact James Plumb MD, MPH at James.Plumb@Jefferson.edu or 215-955-6340.

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

Public Health Student Wins Alumni Travel Fellowship

Public Health student, Joshua Gagne, who presented his thesis in 2007 and is awaiting graduation this summer, won the College of Graduate Studies Alumni Travel Fellowship in order to defray the cost of attending the 13th Annual International Meeting of the International Society for Pharmacoconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) being held May 3-7, 2008 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada where he will be making a podium presentation. ISPOR is the leading international organization in the field of health economics and outcomes research, and its annual meeting provides a unique forum to facilitate the interchange of scientific knowledge in such disciplines. The title and authorship of Josh's project is as followed: Exposure to contraindicated and other potentially dangerous medications during pregnancy: A population based study in Italy. Josh J Gagne, Vittorio Maio, Vincenzo Berghella, Daniel Z. Louis, Joseph Gonnella.



Due to the public health significance of his findings, Josh was encouraged to proceed further after presenting his thesis by disseminating his evidence through a variety of venues, including publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal and presentation at national and international meetings.

The MPH program would like to congratulate Josh on this remarkable accomplishment. More than 1100 abstracts are submitted to ISPOR and fewer than 80 were selected as podium presentations.

Graduate students are able to apply for the Thomas Jefferson University, College of Graduate Studies Travel Alumni Fellowship (the next deadline is June 1). Contributions from the College of Graduate Studies Alumni Association are used to fund these fellowships. They are used to partially defray the cost of attending a symposium at which the student is making a presentation related to the student's graduate study. If you would like to see the guidelines, please come to M-46 JAH.

Public Health Informatics Symposium Monday, April 28th 9:30-11:30 Bluemle 101

Please join us for this symposium. Registration begins at 9 AM. The keynote speaker is Dr. John Loonsk of the US Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS). There will also be representation from the PA Department of Health in Harrisburg to talk about the newly released PA Health Initiative, as well as from the local county health department. This will provide national, state, and local perspectives on Public Health Informatics. There will be a focus on case study examples of the utility of PH Informatics. A tutorial on PH Informatics Standards is available at:

<http://www.phdsc.org/knowresources/tutorials/tutorials.htm>

(Flyer will be sent out shortly)

April MSPH Thesis Presentations

Presentations will be held in BLSB 101 on April 16th 1-4 and April 22 9-11:30.

All students are highly encouraged to attend in order to show support for your classmates and to see what to expect for your presentations.

Please note, students are welcome to sit in JAH M-46 and view these projects that former Public Health students have submitted.

PULSE

Please note that all MPH and Certificate of PH students, as well as MPH Faculty are members of the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program Organization on Pulse. You can find pertinent information about the program and upcoming events.



You Are Cordially Invited to Attend:

The Public Health Response to Climate Change in Philadelphia

National Public Health Week
Luncheon and Panel Discussion

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Jefferson Alumni Hall

10th and Locust Street

Thomas Jefferson University

Do you wonder how climate change affects your health? Are you concerned about the air quality in the city? What can you do to protect your own health and the health of your community? This event is an opportunity to listen to perspectives on climate change and explore innovative solutions and strategies for improving health and energy efficiency.

Featured topics and presenters:

Climate Change and Our Health

Mona Sarfaty, MD Research Assistant Professor, Department of Health Policy and Department of Family and Community Medicine, Thomas Jefferson University

Protecting Philadelphians from the Urban Heat Island

Darlene Messina, MS Consultant in Sustainability and Livable Communities

How Air Quality Can Protect You from Global Warming

Joseph Otis Minott, Esq. Executive Director, Clean Air Council

The Greening of Thomas Jefferson University

Randy Haines, CEM Energy Manager, Thomas Jefferson University



Limited enrollment!

To register for this program, please contact

Lisa Chosed by April 2, 2008 at (215) 503-0174 or lisa.chosed@jefferson.edu.

*Sponsored by the Master of Public Health Program, College of Graduate Studies
Department of Health Policy
Thomas Jefferson University*

Public Health Link edited By: Lisa Chosed, Comments & Suggestions: Lisa.Chosed@Jefferson.edu or 3-0174.