

PROGRESS REPORT



The word 'PROGRESS' is on the top row and 'REPORT' is on the bottom row. Each letter is a different color and contains a different illustration. The 'P' in 'PROGRESS' has a hand and a person. The 'R' in 'REPORT' has a wave and a mosquito.

2016

Milken Institute School
of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

LETTER FROM

THE DEAN

This past August marked the passing of one of public health's most impactful heroes, D.A. Henderson, who directed a 10-year World Health Organization effort that eradicated smallpox throughout the world and launched international childhood vaccination programs. Born in Ohio, D.A., as he was known, was a passionate and inventive epidemiologist who also went on to become dean of the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University and an advisor on bioterrorism to several presidents. D.A. signed my Johns Hopkins University MPH diploma, but I didn't get to meet him until later as a Johns Hopkins faculty member when we both worked on issues related to preparedness and response. His reputation and contributions to the field were legendary. He embodied passion, intelligence, strength and confidence and showed so many of us in public health that having an impact often goes beyond the laboratory and the rigors of scientific undertakings. In that regard, D.A. was passionate about making sure that smallpox would never be reintroduced into our world. At times public health leaders are required to navigate uncharted political waters, understand complicated international law, and build cooperation in mistrustful communities. In short, he showed us what having real impact is all about.

This year, against a backdrop of senseless and extreme gun violence, unimaginably horrific terrorist attacks, debilitating climate change, unparalleled disease outbreaks — like the Zika virus — pandemics, fires and floods, Milken Institute SPH faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors and friends all continued in our public health efforts to have a positive impact on the health of populations around the globe.

One of the most rewarding developments this year was the opening of the public health laboratory on the 7th floor of the Science and Engineering Hall. Our faculty moved into this state-of-the-art research complex in August and will launch research projects encompassing virology, immunology, environmental and occupational health, analytical chemistry and much more. We also continued to grow with the recent addition of the GW Biostatistics Center and Computational Biology Institute to our school. Both organizations are multi-disciplinary and bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise in understanding the role medicine, biology, statistics, and epidemiology play in understanding diseases and other conditions.

I was especially proud to participate in Vice President Joe Biden's Cancer Moonshot initiative this year. Milken Institute SPH, in collaboration with Case Western Reserve University, will be developing community-wide programs that seek to prevent cancer and reduce health disparities in Cleveland and the DC metro area. We were one of the few national projects chosen to announce the research at the summit held at Howard University in June.

In March, the Milken Institute held its first-ever public health summit in Washington, DC, in partnership with our school. Several of our faculty participated in stimulating panels where topics ranged from obesity, health disparities, chronic diseases, superbugs, Zika virus and more. It was an incredible event where scientists, business leaders, journalists, government officials and many others all came together to focus on public health.

You will not only read about many other exciting developments and activities that took place throughout 2016 at our school in the following pages but also about our response to the Pulse nightclub shootings, the Flint water crisis and the passage of the Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act.

When I think back on my various experiences as a public health student, practitioner, researcher and educator, I remain undeniably inspired by the many outstanding people I have met along the way. Only a few will probably get the chance to lead the eradication of a deadly disease like D.A. Henderson, but, more importantly, many more will soldier on and make significant contributions to public health both big and small. Now, more than ever, we need students, teachers, supporters, donors and friends willing to walk this path to help build a safer and healthier world.

Robert Frost once said, "In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: It goes on."

And so must we.

In good health,



Lynn R. Goldman

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we need students,
teachers, supporters,
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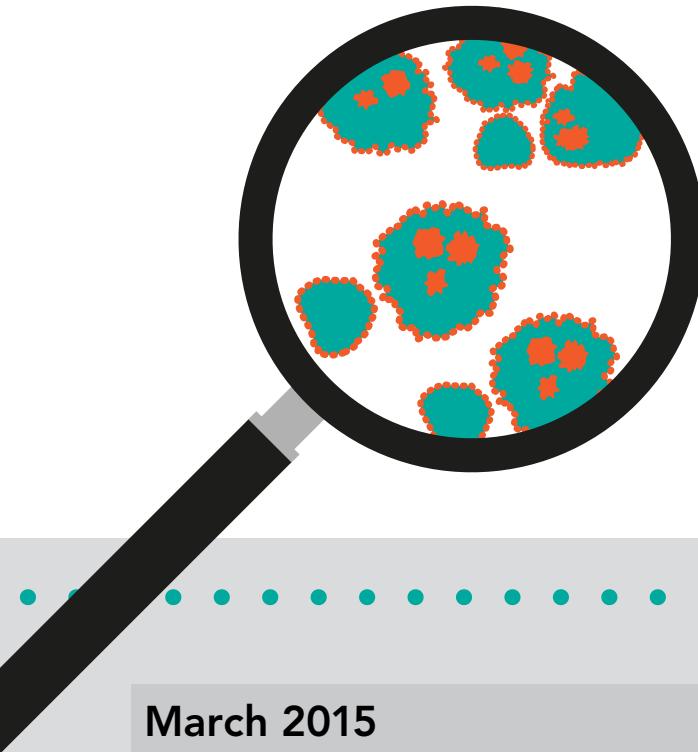


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— Dean Lynn R. Goldman



ZIKA



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Tom Frieden says that “speed is of the essence” in fighting the virus.

One of the most notable effects of the virus has been seen in infected pregnant women whose babies have been born with microcephaly, a birth defect where a baby’s head is smaller than expected, often with smaller brains, a condition that leads to developmental issues.



March 2015

Zika Virus outbreak hits Brazil, infecting an estimated 1.3 million people by year’s end.

January 2016

Locally transmitted cases of Zika are reported in 20 countries. Travelers returning to the U.S. from affected regions carrying the virus grow in number.

February 2016

The World Health Organization declares Zika a “public health emergency of international concern,” and researchers and the public race to understand more about the effects of the disease and various modes of transmission. Global Health Professor Ron Waldman makes an appearance on CCTV America explaining the characteristics of the virus. One of the most notable effects of the virus has been seen in infected pregnant women whose babies have been born with microcephaly, a birth defect where a baby’s head is smaller than expected, often with smaller brains, a condition that leads to developmental issues.

March 2016

During the Milken Institute Public Health Summit, held in Washington, DC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Tom Frieden says that “speed is of the essence” in fighting the virus. Frieden raises concerns about the spread of the virus to Puerto Rico and some communities in Southern states as well as the sexual transmission of the virus by those who have visited affected regions. “We have to do everything possible to reduce the risk to pregnant women,” he says, noting that a Zika vaccine is at minimum a few years away.

April 2016

CDC officials warn that Zika outbreaks can be expected in many U.S. states this summer from Central and Southern California to New Jersey. Hundreds of cases are reported in Puerto Rico.

May 2016

Controversies arise over how to fund the containment of and preparation for Zika in the U.S. President Obama’s request for \$1.9 billion in additional funding for Zika is denied by Congressional Republicans, who argue that funds appropriated

to fight Ebola should be used. Health Policy and Management Professor Jeff Levi tells news outlets, including the *LA Times* and *National Journal*, “It’s no way to respond to an emergency.” He adds, “We have to get to a point where there is sufficient trust between Congress and the administration — no matter which parties are in office — to be able to free up money for emergencies.”

July 2016

Democrats and Republicans are at a standstill over Zika funding. A proposed bill targeting Puerto Rico, which has seen a massive increase in Zika cases, would provide funding for a number of hospitals and health centers but specifically leaves out private family planning clinics, like Profamilias, the Puerto Rican branch of Planned Parenthood. Health Policy and Management Associate Professor Peter Shin is quoted in over a dozen publications about how this would affect the young, low-income women served by these clinics. “It takes a different set of tactics to reach the teenage or young adult women,” he says. Shin also says that these clinics generally do better at connecting with women who are more at risk at having unprotected sex. And because poverty and Zika are closely linked, these women are more at risk.

Shin also points to the economic damage of not passing a funding bill on Public Radio’s *Marketplace*. “States are potentially going to be having to pick up the costs later, when you have the Zika-related illnesses.” He adds, “So you can talk about a billion dollars now, or you can be talking about tens of billions of dollars down the road.”

Late July 2016

Congress goes on a seven-week recess without passing any funding measures to combat Zika.

Summer 2016

Olympics are held in Rio. Public health officials urge caution but say there’s no need to cancel the games. However, some media personalities who cover the events and nearly 20 athletes who were scheduled to compete have decided to stay home over the risk of Zika.

Mosquito-borne cases are reported in Miami, Florida.

Puerto Rico declares a state of emergency in August with over 10,600 cases recorded.



LAUTENBERG CHEMICAL SAFETY ACT

- Official name: The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act
- Co-Sponsors Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) and Sen. David Vitter (R-La.)
- June 2016 — signed into law
- Mandates safety reviews for chemicals currently in commerce
- Requires chemicals to be proven safe before use in the market
- Explicitly protects vulnerable populations — children and pregnant women
- Dean Goldman serves as a strong advocate for the law
 - Testifying before Congress in its support
 - Authoring an Op-Ed in *The Hill* and a blog post in *The Huffington Post*
 - Discussing the merits of the law on the *Diane Rehm Show* with Sen. Tom Udall

"I want to extend my appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Lynn Goldman for her invaluable expertise and involvement as we crafted bipartisan legislation to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976. Many stakeholders and experts participated in the process as we undertook the first major environmental reform in over 20 years, but Dr. Goldman played a unique role. Her testimony before the Senate Environment Committee and her engagement with senators and staff as someone with key insights from her time at the Environmental Protection Agency helped shape the legislation for the better in the public's interest."

— Sen. Tom Udall



"This bill was a compromise, one reached by Republicans, Democrats, the chemical industry, public health leaders like myself, and environmental groups, such as the Environmental Defense Fund. And although it is not perfect, this historic measure goes a long way toward fixing a broken system that had allowed two generations of Americans to be exposed every day to potentially toxic chemicals."

— Dean Goldman,
The Huffington Post



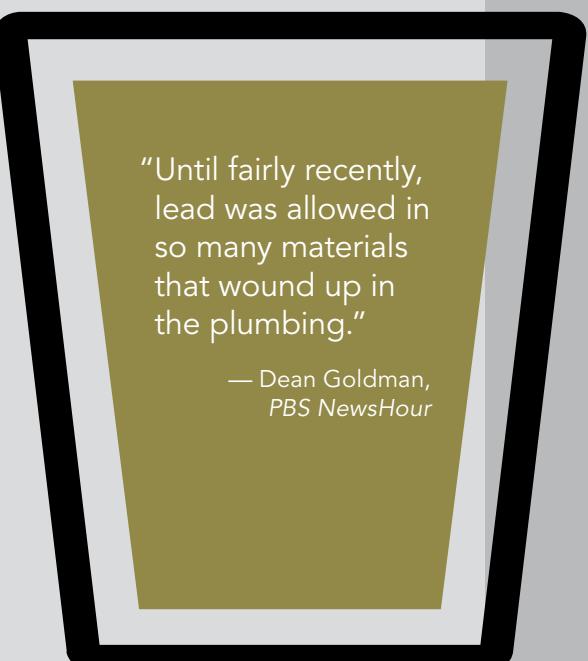
- 98,310 citizens
- 1 lead-contaminated water supply
- 2014 — Flint River becomes main water supply
- 2016 — President Obama declares a state of emergency
- Thousands of children are exposed to unsafe lead levels
- Dean Goldman responds:
 - Appearing on *PBS NewsHour*
 - Authoring a blog post in *The Huffington Post*
 - Commenting in *USA Today*

Dean Goldman calls for the systematic replacement of old lead pipes in U.S. cities as well as stronger enforcement of the EPA Lead and Copper Rule to respond more quickly when contaminated water is identified. "We can't erase the failures of the past, but policymakers can champion a plan to prevent another water crisis," she says.

FLINT WATER CRISIS

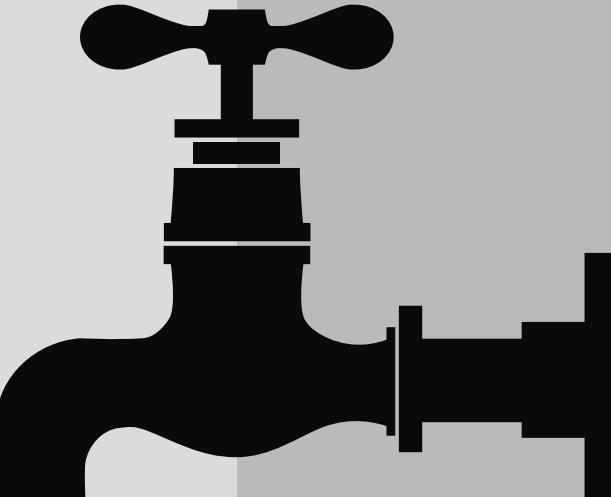
"As a pediatrician I've seen children affected by lead poisoning, which can lead to brain damage and other lifelong health problems. As a former EPA official and now as the dean of a school of public health I also know this is a tragedy that never had to happen."

— Dean Goldman,
The Huffington Post

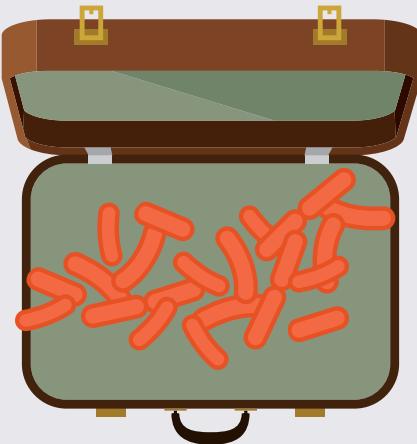


"Until fairly recently, lead was allowed in so many materials that wound up in the plumbing."

— Dean Goldman,
PBS NewsHour



DANGEROUS SUPERBUG GENE SPREADS TO U.S.



- May 2016 — bacteria with dangerous *mcr-1* gene is found in one person in the U.S.
- *Mcr-1* found in nearly 30 countries
- Gene is resistant to Colistin, the antibiotic of last resort
- EOH Professor and Antibiotic Resistance Action Center Director Lance Price releases a statement and is quoted in over 30 publications, including *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*

Less than two months later...

- *Mcr-1* is found in a second U.S. person
- A variant of *mcr-1*, *mcr-1.2*, which is also resistant to Colistin, is found for the first time on a multidrug-resistant strain of the pathogen *Klebsiella pneumoniae*
- Belgian scientists report a similar gene, *mcr-2*, in *E. coli* bacteria from pigs that is also resistant to Colistin and may spread more easily between bacteria

Lance Price, microbiologist and internationally recognized expert scientist pioneering the use of genomic epidemiology to understand how misuse of antibiotics in food animals affects public health, is at the forefront of the national and international conversations highlighting the issue. Price consistently calls attention to the overuse of antibiotics in human medicine and animal food production, and the very serious threat of the spread of superbugs.



— Lance Price

“It’s hard to imagine worse news for public health in the United States. Infectious-disease doctors have come to rely on Colistin to treat infections by the deadly bacterium called CRE, also dubbed the “phantom menace” by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Colistin is the last drug that works against many of these bacteria, so we may soon be facing a world where CRE infections are untreatable.”

“Information is power, and the updates to the nutrition facts label represent sound public health policy with the potential to move Americans toward better health.”

— William Dietz

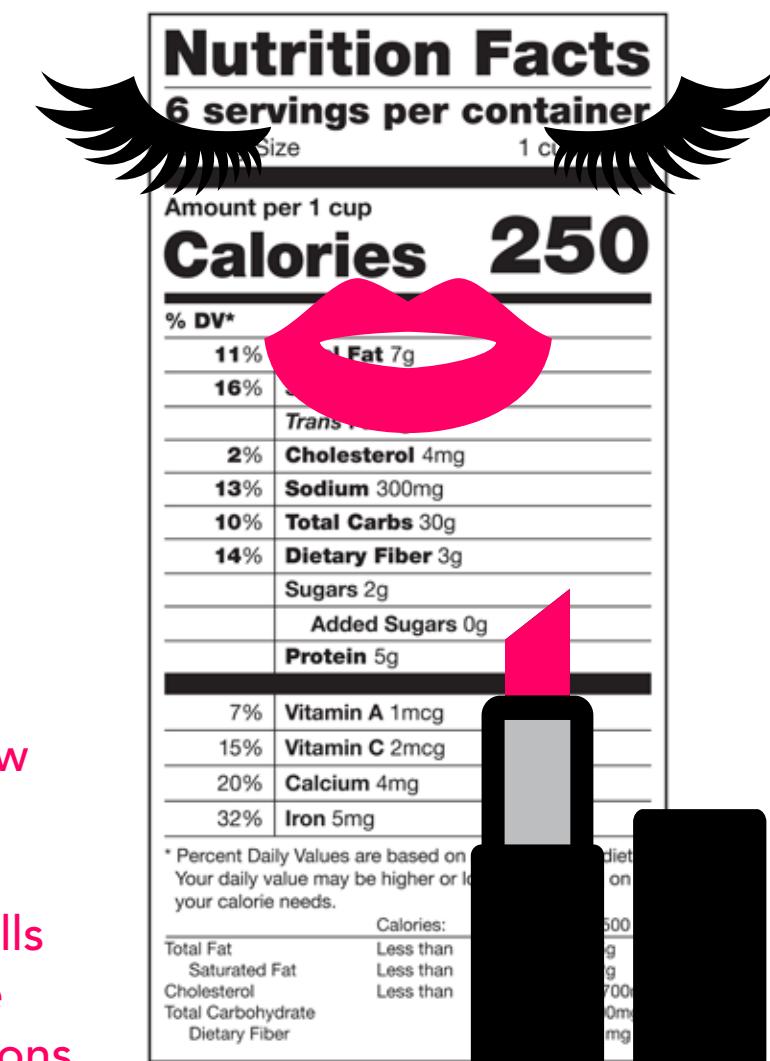
NUTRITION FACTS FOOD LABEL GETS A MAKEOVER

- Announced May 2016; in full use by 2018
- Larger type for “Calories,” “Servings Per Container” and “Serving Size”
- Highlights “added sugars” — not just total sugar
- Updates serving sizes based on what people actually eat
- William Dietz responds:
 - Comments on the changes in over a dozen publications
 - Authors *Huffington Post* blog post

“Transparency Trumps Sugar: The New Nutrition Label and the Fight Against Obesity” — *The Huffington Post*

William Dietz, chair and director of the Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness at Milken Institute SPH, authors this blog post praising the changes and expressing hope for its impact on the obesity epidemic.

“There are physical limits to how low you can go with sugar or sodium. That said, we haven’t hit those limits yet,” — Dietz tells *Forbes*. He was quoted on the topic in over a dozen publications.



TEXAS: ANTI-ABORTION LAW STRUCK DOWN

- June 2016 — 5-3 Supreme Court ruling
- Threatened closure of clinics across TX
- Law would have put low-income women at a higher risk
- First time SCOTUS has imposed limits on state abortion restrictions in more than 15 years
- GWSPH responds:

Amicus brief to the Supreme Court, January 2016, which was featured in a number of prominent news organizations including *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times* and *Politico*.

Professor Sara Rosenbaum authors *Health Affairs* blog post

Two specific provisions of a Texas law restricting abortion clinics created a “grave risk to public health,” Dean Goldman and 16 Milken Institute SPH faculty members, along with dozens of public health leaders, said in an amicus brief submitted to the Supreme Court.

“The majority opinion represents a full-throated reaffirmation of the balancing test first set forth by the Court 25 years ago in *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern United States v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992). That test calls for careful judicial review of abortion-related legislation whose stated purpose may be to protect women’s health but is allegedly unnecessary, has ‘the purpose or effect of presenting a substantial obstacle to a woman seeking an abortion,’ and thereby ‘impose[s] an undue burden’ on the right to abortion.”
(Slip op. at 1)

“When Common Sense and Public Health Prevail: *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt*”— blog post by Sara Rosenbaum, the Harold and Jane Hirsh Professor of Health Policy and Management, published in *Health Affairs* days after the ruling.

“Love is protecting others, especially those who are most vulnerable.”

Dean Goldman

“Love is adequate mental healthcare for those who need it.”

Kiran Edelstein, student

“Love is working hard to get a degree so I can help change the world to make it a safer place and people can get the healthcare they need.”

Sharon Wildberger, student

“Love is standing up for those who can no longer stand up for themselves.”

Corey Barton, student

“Love is advocating for and working towards equitable policy that provides the same level of protections and rights to all persons.”

Rachel Gunsalus, student

“Love is a sentiment to rejoice, and for not to be judged. Love is love is love is love.”

Annalisa Provensano, student

JUNE 12, 2016
PULSE NIGHTCLUB

#LOVEIS

Orlando, Florida

- 49 dead, 53 injured
- 1 gunman
- Deadliest mass shooting in U.S.
- GWSPH responds with #LoveIs campaign

As the nation came together to grieve and heal, so did our students. We produced a series of videos that allowed students to share their feelings and what love means to them. The #LoveIs campaign launched with a video from Dean Goldman where she expressed her grief at the horrific events and emphasized the need for increased gun violence prevention efforts.

After the shooting, the American Medical Association officially adopts the policy of calling gun violence a “public health crisis.”

Staying true to our mission to provide the best public health educational experience that will foster the next generation of public health leaders, Milken Institute SPH launched two new programs this year. We continue to push the envelope in research, and our faculty are playing key roles in shaping the health of the nation.



MILKEN INSTITUTE PUBLIC HEALTH SUMMIT



Freda C. Lewis-Hall, President Steven Knapp and Lyda Hill

A special highlight of the summit was a conversation with Tom Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — who also appeared before Congress on the same day.

"It's so important that we build systems around the world to define threats when they first emerge, stop them wherever possible and prevent them to the greatest extent."

— Tom Frieden



[View event videos](#)



CDC Director Tom Frieden

On March 1 and 2, 2016, the Milken Institute held its first public health summit in Washington, DC. Milken Institute SPH Dean Lynn Goldman and other GW leaders and faculty participated in the two-day event, which convened leaders from a broad range of disciplines in an effort to find solutions to some of the most pressing global public health challenges. The summit was jam-packed with activities starting with the installation of William H. Dietz as the Sumner M. Redstone Chair in the morning. The afternoon progressed with a lunch hosted by President Steven Knapp and Dean Goldman with special guest Milken Institute Chairman Mike Milken that was followed by executive briefings and discussions led by Redstone Chair William Dietz, Professor and Director of the Antibiotic Resistance Action Center Lance Price, and Professor and Chair of the Global Health Department Jim Tielsch. The summit officially kicked off with a reception and lively dinner hosted by Mike Milken and Dean Goldman and attended by leaders from academia, industry, foundations and government.



The overarching goal of the conference was to foster greater consensus and collaboration among public and private institutions so that resources can be deployed more effectively.

"Our Public Health Summit continues work that the Milken Institute has done for decades on the impact of advances in medical research and public health, both to improve lives and foster prosperity," said Milken Institute CEO Michael Klowden. "Our focus on public health is driven by the fact that the U.S. spends roughly 90 cents of every health dollar on treatment, and only a dime on prevention and research. While discovering cures is a major scientific achievement, it's even more effective to prevent disease in the first place."

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING HALL PUSHES PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH INTO NEXT FRONTIER

Scientific research is essential to the advancement and future of public health. Our investment in that future can be seen in the school's new state-of-the-art space in GW's Science and Engineering Hall (SEH), which opened in August 2016. For the first time in the history of Milken Institute SPH, the school now has dedicated laboratory space, located on the seventh floor of SEH featuring wet labs, classrooms, state-of-the-art teaching labs, and conference and study spaces.

The labs support the many research projects in the school, including virology, environmental and occupational health, analytical chemistry and the new Antibiotic Resistance Action Center. In addition to specialized equipment within the large labs, there will be a BSL 3 lab on the east side and a DNA sequencing core on the southeast corner of the space.

The building was designed with collaboration in mind. Each floor has shared common areas outside the labs, where there are also banks of workstations. Tables and chairs dot common areas, where students and researchers can meet. A spiral staircase links the public health floor with the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and Biology greenhouses located on the eighth floor, encouraging workflow between the two schools.

With this new facility, Milken Institute SPH students and faculty have the resources at their disposal to truly push public health science and research forward, and impact the health of the world's populations.





WILLIAM H. DIETZ INSTALLED AS SUMNER M. REDSTONE CHAIR

"Dr. Dietz brings invaluable expertise to the Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness," President Steven Knapp said. "He leads a multidisciplinary effort to find and evaluate innovative ways of addressing the epidemic of obesity through improved nutrition, physical activity and relevant changes in public policy."



Forrest Maltzman,
Lynn Goldman,
William Dietz and
Steven Knapp

William H. Dietz has spent the last four decades conducting pioneering scientific research and interventions in the fields of obesity, nutrition and physical fitness. For 15 years he served as the director of the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention before joining Milken Institute SPH in March of 2014 as director of the Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness. On March 1, 2016, he was formally installed as the inaugural Sumner M. Redstone Chair in a ceremony held at Milken Institute SPH.

Family, friends, students, faculty and GW leaders such as Dean Goldman, President Steven Knapp, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Forrest Maltzman, and Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations attended the installation ceremony.

An expert in the field of childhood obesity, Dietz has a portfolio that includes more than 200 research papers in scientific journals, including *The New England Journal of Medicine* and *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. He was the author of the first study, in 1985, to demonstrate a relationship between television viewing habits and obesity in young children.

In addition, Mike Milken, chairman of the Milken Institute, attended on behalf of Sumner Redstone. He emphasized the importance of public health by reflecting on his personal connection with Dietz. The two were graduate students at the University of Pennsylvania — one in medicine, one in business — at the same time, though they never met as students.

The installation of Dr. Dietz as the Sumner M. Redstone Chair marks another historic landmark moment at Milken Institute SPH in recent years.

GW'S BIOSTATISTICS CENTER AND COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY INSTITUTE JOIN MILKEN INSTITUTE SPH

The GW Biostatistics Center and the Computational Biology Institute (CBI) recently joined Milken Institute SPH, bringing top interdisciplinary faculty members and research staff conducting landmark studies in epidemiology, clinical medicine and evolutionary biology to the school.

The Biostatistics Center will continue to be located in Rockville, Maryland, under the leadership of Elizabeth Thom, PhD, who is the center director and a principal investigator on a number of large-scale research projects. The change will amplify the center's ongoing work as the coordinating center for large-scale multi-center clinical trials and epidemiological studies and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration between the center's staff and faculty members throughout GW, including Milken Institute SPH.

The Biostatistics Center, established in 1972, leads major research projects of national and international scope, almost all under the auspices of the National Institutes of Health. Center faculty and staff have published nearly 1,500 scientific articles related to clinical trials methods, statistical or epidemiologic methodology, as well as results from medical investigations, many of which have changed clinical practice.

CBI, which is an interdisciplinary effort building on the University's strengths in the life sciences, mathematics, and computational science, also joined Milken Institute SPH in 2016.

Housed on GW's Virginia Science and Technology Campus and led by Keith Crandall, PhD, CBI will carry on its landmark work that involves the application of data-analysis approaches to biological systems through software development. Crandall and his team have already pioneered ways to analyze genome data, trace disease outbreaks, study the evolution of drug resistance, and diagnose the root cause of illnesses faster and more effectively.

CBI and its staff blend its own skills with the expertise of engineers, mathematicians, statisticians, clinicians and others to contribute to knowledge and resources that can be used by scientists on a global scale.

Now under the Milken Institute SPH, both the Biostatistics Center and CBI will carry on with the mission finding answers to basic questions in medicine, biology, public health and other fields that can advance the state of knowledge but also might lead to better treatments of diabetes, cancer, pregnancy complications, Alzheimer's disease and other age-old as well as new and emerging diseases.



MONIQUE TURNER APPOINTED ASSISTANT DEAN OF MPH PROGRAMS

In June 2016, Prevention and Community Health Associate Professor Monique Turner was appointed assistant dean of Master of Public Health (MPH) programs at Milken Institute SPH. Turner received her PhD in communication from Michigan State University. She has held faculty positions in departments of communication at the University of Oklahoma, the University of Texas, and the University of Maryland, where she was the Director of the Center for Risk Communication Research. Turner's expertise is in campaign message design and evaluation, risk communication, risk perception, and cognitive processing of health risks — including informed decision making and critical thinking. Most recently, Turner was the program director for the DrPH in health behavior and the PhD in social and behavioral sciences. She also recently received the Milken Institute SPH excellence in graduate teaching award.

HEALTHINFORMATICS@GW: LEARNING IN THE AGE OF BIG DATA

Big data is transforming the healthcare industry on a daily basis. The Affordable Care Act created new requirements calling for healthcare providers to implement electronic health records (EHR) and other technology solutions designed to improve patient care. We are living in an age of mobile health including wearable technology, telehealth and myriad apps that generate data. Milken Institute SPH is again on the front lines of education innovation by creating a new online degree that will educate and train students in the burgeoning field of health informatics, teaching them to leverage data analytics and IT-based solutions that will improve patient outcomes and drive the future of quality healthcare delivery in the U.S. and abroad. The degree, the Master of Science in Management of Health Informatics and Analytics, called HealthInformatics@GW, is designed for professionals with a minimum of three years of experience in healthcare, who are looking to demonstrate strategic leadership, technological and decision-making abilities to make a difference in a variety of settings and organizations.

"Rising demand in the field can be attributed to the dramatic increase in biological and clinical data, as well as pressure to have better patient outcomes," says HealthInformatics@GW Program Director Sam Hanna. "This program, tailored



for current managers and executives in healthcare, will teach students to look at healthcare through a new lens and develop improvements that impact organizational, operational and medical needs for providers and patients alike."

Program graduates will be able to effectively translate data to improve healthcare decisions and develop an expertise in areas such as health policy, community health analytics, and health innovation and disruption. They will develop skills in project management, leadership, business intelligence, health innovation, predictive analysis and the Internet of Things.

Beginning in January 2017, HealthInformatics@GW will be delivered through live, face-to-face online classes, on-campus immersive experiences and an interactive social technology network that allows students to access course content from any location with an internet connection. It joins the school's two other online programs, MPH@GW and MHA@GW.



FIRST MHA@GW CLASS GRADUATES

In May 2016, the first online Master of Health Administration students graduated.

NEW MPH IN GLOBAL EPIDEMIOLOGY AND DISEASE CONTROL



"This program meets the unmet need in global health programming for personnel trained in the effective use of quantitative methods to evaluate disease control programs and to conduct research on new approaches to the control of major disorders of public health importance."

— James Tielsch

In the spring of 2016, Milken Institute SPH launched its newest residential program, the MPH in global epidemiology and disease control. "This new program is designed to focus on using epidemiologic methods to inform disease control programs with a concentration on low- and middle-income countries," says Department of Global Health Chair and Program Director James Tielsch. "It merges traditional training in epidemiologic methods with a focus on their use in the design and evaluation of both infectious- and chronic-disease control programs."

Graduates of the program are equipped with the epidemiological tools to develop targeted and effective interventions, generate and use data to assess the burden of disease, and determine the success of such interventions on infectious and chronic diseases. These skills are particularly important in reaching underserved and low-income communities, which need to make the most of the limited resources available. Students also learn how to provide robust policy and program recommendations, and will learn how to communicate findings across many distinct audiences, from researchers to reporters.

"This program meets the unmet need in global health programming for personnel trained in the effective use of quantitative methods to evaluate disease control programs and to conduct research on new approaches to the control of major disorders of public health importance," Tielsch says.



SARA ROSENBAUM APPOINTED CHAIR OF THE MEDICAID AND CHIP PAYMENT AND ACCESS COMMISSION

As the newly appointed chair of the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), Sara Rosenbaum, JD, the Harold and Jane Hirsh Professor of Health Law and Policy, continues to forge a career that influences, educates and informs public discourse on many important public health issues from Congress to the White House to the classroom.

MACPAC is a nonpartisan legislative branch agency that provides policy and data analysis and makes recommendations to Congress, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the states on a wide array of issues affecting Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The U.S. Comptroller General appoints MACPAC's 17 commissioners, who come from diverse regions across the U.S. and bring broad expertise and a wide range of perspectives on Medicaid and CHIP.

Rosenbaum has served as a MACPAC commissioner since the agency's establishment. She is considered one of the nation's leading experts in Medicaid, which has been a focus of her work throughout her 40-year career. She has emphasized public engagement as a core element of her professional life and has provided broadly bipartisan service to every presidential administration and to Congress since 1978.

Alumni from the Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences will also serve as fellows on PAGAC, assisting and supporting the committee in their work:

Health Promotion Science Fellows for HHS' Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Alison Vaux-Bjerke, MPH '11
Sarah Prowitt, MPH '16

National Cancer Institute Cancer Research Training Awardee
Emily Bhutiani, MS '16

Recorder
Tim Hughes, MPH candidate

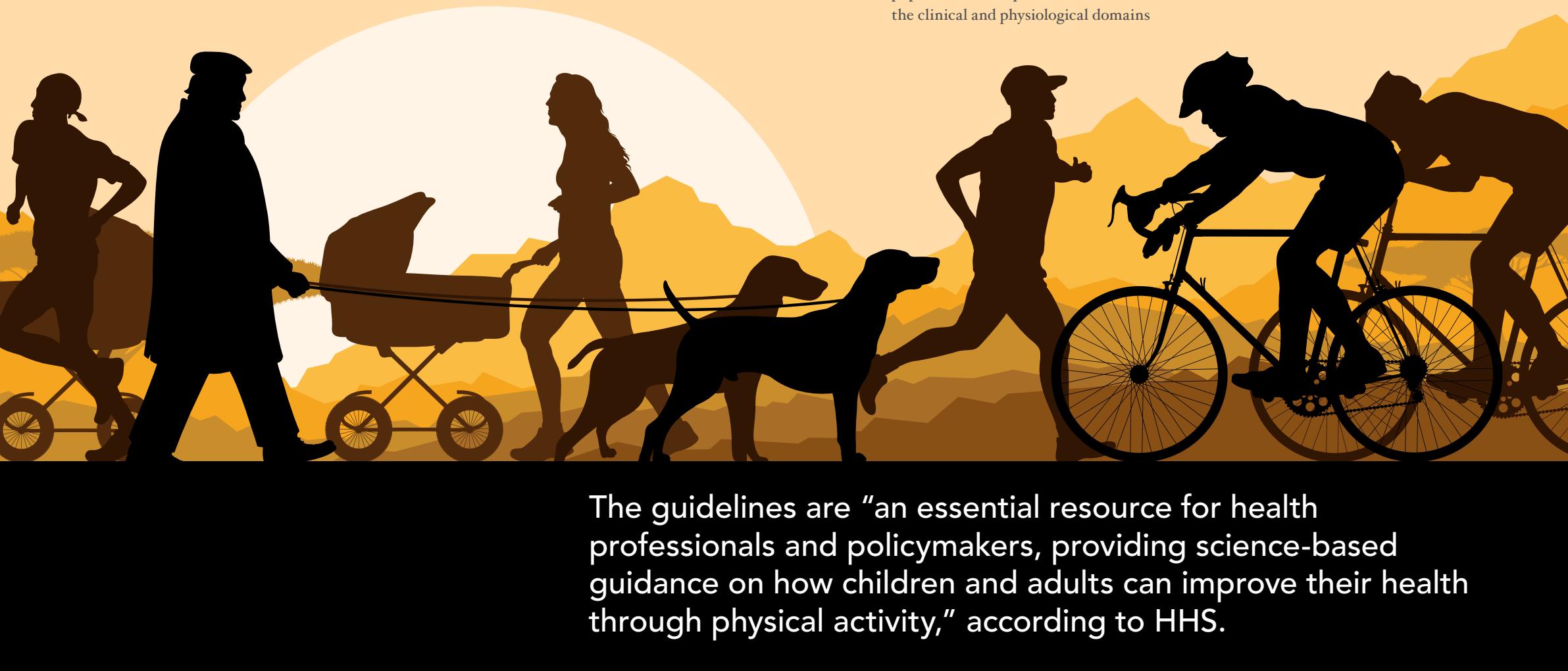
LORETTA DIPETRO APPOINTED TO 2018 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY GUIDELINES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On June 29, 2016, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that Exercise and Nutrition Sciences Professor and Chair Loretta DiPietro was one of 17 nationally recognized experts in physical activity and health to be appointed to the 2018 Physical Activity Guidelines Advisory Committee (PAGAC). She was also selected to chair the PAGAC subcommittee on aging.

Over the next two years, the committee members will look at the current scientific evidence surrounding physical activity and health, and provide recommendations that will contribute to the development of the second edition of the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans.

Through her accomplished career, DiPietro has bridged the gap between population-based public health and the clinical and physiological domains

of exercise science. She is a widely published researcher with particular interest in the role of physical activity in the health of older adults, and has been awarded grants from the National Institute on Aging and the American Cancer Society. DiPietro has lectured at medical schools, public health schools and other organizations around the world. She joined Milken Institute SPH in 2008.



The guidelines are "an essential resource for health professionals and policymakers, providing science-based guidance on how children and adults can improve their health through physical activity," according to HHS.

NEW ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION



In July 2016, Milken Institute SPH appointed its first Associate Dean of Finance and Administration, Gordon Taylor. In this new role, Taylor works closely with the school and university leadership to align the school's mission with its resources. He is leading the charge in developing and implementing the school's long-term financial strategy and planning.

Prior to joining Milken Institute SPH, Taylor was associate dean for finance and administration for the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Oregon and associate dean and executive officer for the dean of the College at Dartmouth College.

Before transitioning to higher education, Taylor had a 30-year career in finance and investments, serving as a director of Salomon Brothers in New York and London, an advisor to the Resolution Trust Corporation, founding president of AIG Capital Partners, and co-founder and managing director of Violy & Co.



On March 1, 2016, Thomas A. LaVeist, PhD, took the helm as chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management. LaVeist joins Milken Institute SPH after spending 25 years at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where he was the William C. and Nancy F. Richardson Professor in Health Policy and director of the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions. Throughout his impressive career, LaVeist has become one of the leading experts on health policy, healthcare equity and solutions to health disparities.

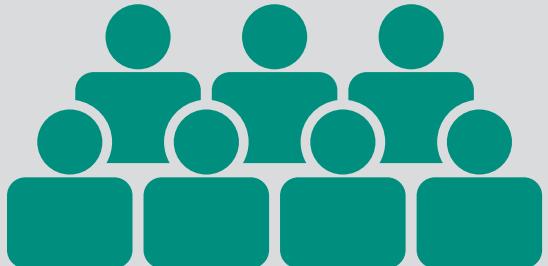
"Dr. LaVeist is a world-renowned expert on health disparities and has more than 25 years' experience researching, writing and speaking on this topic," said Dean Goldman. That research has focused on the impact of socioeconomic and racial inequities on the health of individuals and communities. He has published more than 100 articles in premier scientific journals in addition to major news outlets and even academic textbooks. In addition to his written work, he is also currently working on the book and documentary film *The Skin You're In*, which focuses on health disparities in America.

His vision for the department includes infusing the curriculum with health equity, population health, and innovation in healthcare delivery and management.

LaVeist received his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, his doctorate in medical sociology from the University of Michigan, and a postdoctoral fellowship in gerontology and health management and policy at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

NEW CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT NAMED

NEW FACULTY



Bernadette Dunham, DVM, PhD
Visiting Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health



Patti Gravitt, PhD, MS
Professor of Global Health



Wisam Hanna
Teaching Instructor in Health Policy and Management and Program Director for HealthInformatics@GW degree



Christina Heminger, DrPH, MS
Teaching Assistant Professor of Prevention and Community Health



Kristian Henderson
Teaching Instructor in Health Policy and Management



Thomas LaVeist, PhD
Professor and Chair of Health Policy and Management



Scott Quinlan, PhD
Teaching Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics



Larry Hamm
Professor Emeritus of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences

NEW EMERITI



Through the support of the Office of Research Excellence, Milken Institute SPH continues to lead the way in submitting and winning cutting-edge research grants that drive national and international public health policy, practice, and compelling discussions. In 2016 alone, Milken Institute SPH expended over \$35 million in research funding with our federal NIH portfolio growing by 23 percent, totaling about \$27 million. Milken Institute SPH's new state-of-the-art research and teaching lab spaces on the seventh floor of GW's Science and Engineering Hall will enable the school to expand its research portfolio and engage in cross-disciplinary research with faculty from the School of Engineering and Applied Science, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Our students will also gain hands-on lab experience with the latest technology being used in the field, setting a strong foundation for the public health researchers of tomorrow.

CANCER MOONSHOT

As part of Vice President Biden's Cancer Moonshot initiative, Milken Institute SPH, in collaboration with the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), will develop community-wide programs aimed at preventing cancer and reducing healthcare disparities in Cleveland and the DC Metro area.

The project was announced at the Cancer Moonshot Summit at Howard University on June 28, 2016, where over 350 researchers, oncologists and other care providers, data and technology experts, patients, families and patient advocates came together to help double the rate of progress in the understanding, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of cancer. Dean Goldman spoke to the crowd of experts at the summit about work being done at GW and the new CWRU partnership. About 40 percent of men and women have been or will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives, Dean Goldman said. For 23 percent, it will be a fatal diagnosis.

"We all want cures. We all want survivorship, healthy survivorship, from cancer," she said. "We all want earlier detection of cancer, but most of all none of us want to get cancer in the first place."

Cleveland and DC both have above-average smoking rates, particularly within African American communities. As part of the new collaboration, GW and CWRU researchers aim to lower the smoking rates for at-risk populations with higher incidences of undiagnosed

"We need you badly, and I really do believe it's within your power to turn despair into hope sooner than later"

— Vice President Biden,
Cancer Moonshot Summit

lung cancer. Investigators will also focus on cervical and other cancers stemming from the human papillomavirus.

The joint project will use m-health, including text messaging, social media, cognitive behavioral approaches and other technological interventions, to

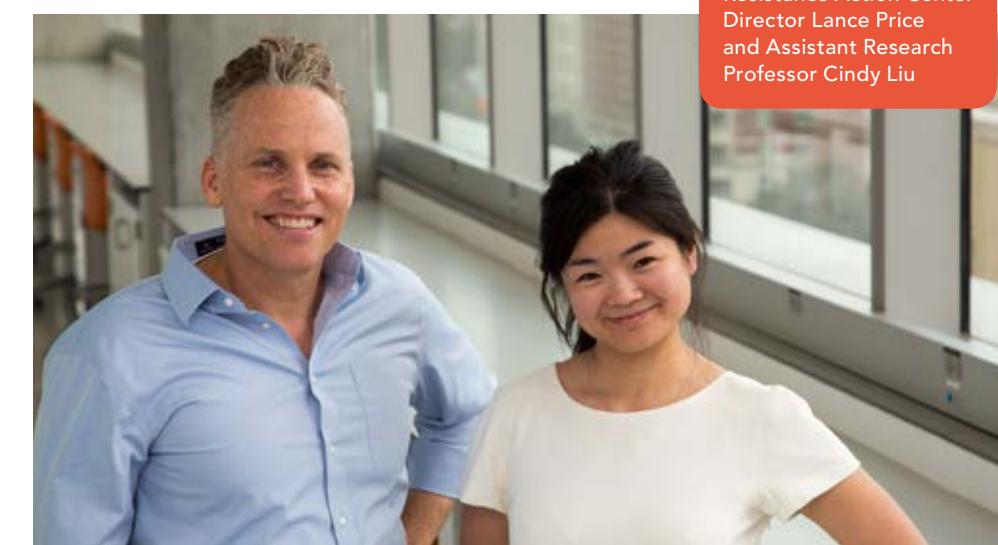
motivate and help longtime smokers in these vulnerable neighborhoods quit. In addition, the research teams will look to launch a project aimed at getting more children vaccinated to protect them from HPV, which can lead to cervical and other types of cancer.



EOH PROFESSORS AWARDED OVER \$7 MILLION TO STUDY THE HUMAN MICROBIOME

In June 2016, Professor and Antibiotic Resistance Action Center Director Lance Price, and Assistant Research Professor Cindy Liu, both from the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, were awarded three National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) grants totaling nearly \$7.5 million. For the studies, the researchers will look at the human microbiome, the collection of bacteria and other microbes that live in and on the human body.

- **\$3.3 M from NIAID** to study bacterial ecosystem of the penis and its affect on an individual's risk for acquiring an HIV infection.
- **\$3.7 M from NIAID** to examine bacteria in the human nose to find strategies to protect people from dangerous Staph infections.
- **Nearly \$450 K from NIAID** to study and identify harmless bacteria that can kill bad bacteria like Staph, particularly antibiotic-resistant MRSA, in the human nose.



Professor and Antibiotic Resistance Action Center Director Lance Price and Assistant Research Professor Cindy Liu

"These studies will tell us more about the colonies of microbes living in and on the human body," said Price. "We will be looking for ways to alter the microbiome and protect people from disease that can range from sexually transmitted HIV to potentially lethal superbug infections."

One way is by introducing good bugs to crowd out the bad, Liu says. "If we are successful, this probiotic approach could be used to prevent the spread of superbugs that have become resistant to multiple antibiotics," she says.

In addition to Drs. Price and Liu, scientists on the projects are from the Rakai Health Sciences Program, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and School of Medicine, the University of Toronto, Statens Serum Institut, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Texas Medical Branch.

GW'S HEALTH WORKFORCE INSTITUTE RECEIVES MILLIONS IN SUPPORT OF WORKFORCE EQUITY

In March 2016, researchers at GW's Health Workforce Institute (GWHWI) received \$5.5 million from The Atlantic Philanthropies to promote health workforce equity by identifying, connecting and preparing leaders in the field to advance social mission in health professions education. The five-year project also enables GW to augment its pipeline development programs for underserved students interested in health careers in the DC area.

"We live in a world of health disparities. This Atlantic Philanthropies sponsored initiative will enable GW to pioneer a new and expanded set of programs focused on the reduction of health workforce disparities."

— Fitzhugh Mullan

Led by the Murdock Head Professor of Medicine and Health Policy, Fitzhugh Mullan, the GWHWI launched in 2015 to address the gap in education for nurses, physicians and future healthcare leaders on strategies to reduce health disparities. The institute is a multidisciplinary team co-directed by Mullan and Health Policy and Management Associate Professor Polly Pittman.

Atlantic's support will enable three initiatives to advance the GWHWI's health equity efforts:

EDUCATING LEADERS

Design and implement an annual, yearlong Leaders for Health Equity Fellowship program to build and support a network of 75 global multidisciplinary leaders with the technical knowledge, skills and network to advance health workforce equity in their communities, institutions and professional circles.

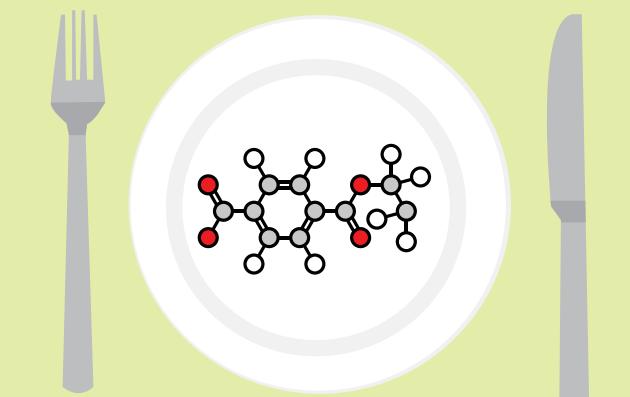
BUILDING PIPELINES

Develop and augment pipeline programs for disadvantaged youth in the DC area who are interested in learning about healthcare, health equity and careers in the health sciences. The initiative will involve GW medical, public health and nursing students mentoring and coaching DC-area high school students.

FOSTERING NETWORKS

Collaborate with the Beyond Flexner Alliance in developing a national network of organizations dedicated to transformative change in health professions education around the principle of social mission.

"WOULD YOU LIKE A SIDE OF CHEMICALS WITH THAT?"



PHthalate

noun phthal·ate \tha-lät\

A class of industrial chemicals used to make food packaging materials. Research suggests these chemicals can leach out of plastic food packaging and can contaminate highly processed food. Studies have linked phthalate exposure to a number of serious health problems in children and adults.

Consumers may be getting more than a side of fries with their fast-food order, new research by Environmental and Occupational Health Assistant Professor Ami Zota found. According to her April 2016 study, people who reported consuming more fast food in a national survey were exposed to higher levels of potentially harmful chemicals called phthalates.

The study, one of the first to look at fast-food consumption and exposure to these chemicals, used data from 8,877 participants who had answered detailed questions about their diet in the past 24 hours, including consumption of fast food. These participants had also provided researchers with a urinary sample that could be tested for the breakdown products of two specific phthalates: DEHP and DiNP.

Zota and her colleagues found that the more fast food participants in the study ate, the higher the exposure to phthalates. People in the study with the highest consumption of fast food had 23.8 percent higher levels of the breakdown product for DEHP in their urine sample. And those same fast-food lovers had nearly 40 percent higher levels of DiNP metabolites in their urine compared to people who reported no fast food in the 24 hours prior to the testing.

The groundbreaking research was featured in nearly 1,000 stories around the world. The study, published in *Environmental Health Perspectives*, was co-authored by former Global Environmental Health student Cassie Phillips and Research Associate Susanna Mitro.

GWSPH RESEARCH CONTRIBUTES TO NATIONAL POLICY CHANGE ON NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

In two years....

- **PREVENTED**
120 new cases
of HIV
- **SAVED**
~\$44 million
- **70% DECREASE**
in newly diagnosed
HIV cases

The debate over needle exchange programs has been a contentious one, with critics arguing that these programs encourage illicit drug use, while proponents point to research that shows drug users who come in for clean needles often get other health services, including referrals to programs that treat drug addiction. In 2007, a ban on federal funds to research these programs was lifted in DC, and the city's Department of Health quickly started a program that was the basis for a 2015 study by Prevention and Community Health Assistant Research Professor Monica Ruiz.

"End the Ban on Federal Funding for Needle Exchange Programs"

— *Roll Call* Op-Ed co-authored by Ruiz and Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC).

In October 2015, Ruiz participated in Congressional briefings, hosted by the Coalition for Syringe Access, within the House of Representatives and Senate, where she shared findings from her study.



"Our study adds to the evidence that needle exchange programs not only work but are cost-effective investments in the battle against HIV."

— Monica Ruiz

Using surveillance data and a modeling technique, the researchers were able to determine the number of new cases of HIV from injection-drug use (IDU) and forecast how many cases of HIV would have occurred if the DC funding ban hadn't been lifted.

The researchers also looked at the cost savings associated with this policy change in DC. Taking estimates from the CDC on the average lifetime cost of treating HIV, they calculated that averting 120 cases of the virus would lead to a savings of nearly \$44.3 million — savings Ruiz says can benefit taxpayers because many injection-drug users are covered by publicly funded health plans.

The study was featured in over 60 news outlets including *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *NPR* and *Forbes*. Ruiz's study was also used by advocacy groups who lobbied to have the federal ban on funding for these programs lifted. In January 2016, it was formally announced that the federal funding ban had been effectively lifted.

A LONG WALK

- Nearly 17 million women and children — mostly girls — are responsible for hauling water long distances to their homes.
- Adult women were the primary collectors of water across the countries studied
- Of children, 62 percent of girls took on the responsibility
- 30+ minutes per trip
- 40+ LB jugs of water

Often, the debate surrounding access to water in sub-Saharan African countries focuses on how to provide uncontaminated, safe drinking water, but as Environmental and Occupational Health Professorial Lecturer Jay Graham will tell you, that's not the only issue. Graham's recent study looks at the amount of time spent and physical exertion required in collecting water in 24 sub-Saharan African countries. It is one of the first studies to look at the absolute number of people affected and the gender imbalance in water-collection labor.

Water collection can lead to serious health issues, such as arthritis, from carrying jugs of water that weigh 40 pounds or more. In addition to skeletal-system issues, women and girls are put at risk of fatigue, illness, disease from exposure to unclean water, and even sexual violence on these trips. For children, this chore also means missing out on time in school.

Graham hopes the findings will encourage public health leaders in sub-Saharan African countries to closely examine the gender imbalance and take steps to fix it. "Our study suggests water collection by children and gender ratios should be considered when measuring a nation's progress toward providing better access to water."



IS THE U.S. PREPARED FOR EXTREME-WEATHER RISKS POSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE?

Climate change is more than melting polar ice caps in the Arctic; its effects are also seen in the U.S. Climate-change-related extreme-weather events, such as wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters, pose serious health threats ranging from post-traumatic stress disorder to loss of life. In an effort to see how prepared America is for climate-change-related events, Environmental and Occupational Health Associate Professor Sabrina McCormick looked closely at six American cities, ranking them based on their level of preparedness.

After assessing the factors that affect climate-change adaption, McCormick found that Portland, Boston and Los Angeles are all in the advanced to middle stages of planning for extreme-weather events linked to climate change, while Raleigh and Tucson are in the early to middle stages. Tampa, however, a city with the highest risk for hurricanes in the U.S.,

was at the bottom of the list with little to no planning, and McCormick says that politics plays a large role in this inaction.

For the study, the researchers interviewed 65 local decision makers in each of the six cities, finding three factors that play a role in how well city planners plan for or prepare for climate change — swing factors like the risk of extreme weather, scientific uncertainty and political opposition, and a well-informed public that is politically engaged.

"This research is critical to moving cities forward in addressing climate impacts so that economic risk can be reduced and human health can be protected."

— Sabrina McCormick



ADHD DIAGNOSIS AMONG KIDS AND TEENS ON THE RISE



Twelve percent of U.S. children and teens had a diagnosis of Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in 2011, a 43 percent increase from 2003, according to a large national study based on parental reports of an ADHD diagnosis. This analysis suggests that 5.8 million U.S. children ages 5 to 17 now have this diagnosis. ADHD can cause inattention and behavioral difficulties, says lead researcher and Epidemiology and Biostatistics Associate Professor Sean D. Cleary.

The study reported a surprising increase of ADHD in girls — from 4.3 percent in 2003 to 7.3 percent in 2011. In addition to gender, the researchers also kept track of race/ethnicity and other relevant socio-demographic factors that have previously been found to be related to ADHD diagnosis. Very few previous studies have looked at the prevalence of this

disorder among different racial or ethnic groups, Cleary said. This study found an 83 percent increase in parent-reported ADHD diagnosis among Hispanic youth. "Additional studies must be done to identify the underlying cause of the increase," Cleary says.

The question of why the condition seems to be increasing is important because the diagnosis often comes with a prescription for a stimulant drug such as Ritalin. Such drugs can help children and adults with ADHD focus and stay on task. However, critics worry that the drugs may be over-prescribed.

The report was based on data in a National Children's Survey from 2003 to 2011, sponsored by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



FIVE NEW PROJECTS WILL TACKLE HIGH DC SMOKING RATES

The DC Metro Tobacco Research and Instruction Consortium (MeTRIC), a partnership of DC-based scientists and other experts in tobacco control, was awarded funding for five innovative research projects that promise to take aim at tobacco-related inequities that affect the District of Columbia.

MeTRIC initiated this pilot grant program to jump-start innovative team science across its members and seeks to find solutions to DC's tobacco problem, especially for its most vulnerable populations.

Each project received an award of \$30,000. The research will be conducted over the next year.

1. Eric Lindblom, senior scholar at the O'Neill Institute for National & Global Health Law at Georgetown University, and Professor Leighton Ku from Milken Institute SPH. Lindblom and Ku will examine the risks and consequences of the labeling for "little cigars" or "filtered cigars" under existing federal, DC and local definitions.

2. Lorien Abroms, co-director of MeTRIC and associate professor at Milken Institute SPH. Abroms and her colleagues will study new ways of using mobile phones in health systems to reach smokers who want to quit.

3. Amy Cohn, research investigator at the Schroeder Institute for Tobacco Research and Policy Studies, and Professor Doug Evans from Milken Institute SPH. Their project will examine health behavior among young adults who use menthol cigarettes.

4. Kenneth Tercyak, associate professor and director of behavioral prevention research at the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Kimberly Horn, MeTRIC director and associate dean of research at Milken Institute SPH. Tercyak and Horn will assess youth tobacco product use and the effects of the regulatory landscape in DC's most underserved wards.

5. Raymond Niaura and Jessica Elf, director of science and post-doctoral fellow at the Schroeder Institute, and Lorien Abroms from Milken Institute SPH. This project will address quitting for smokers with HIV/AIDS.

Each of these projects includes a team of nationally and internationally recognized scientists as well as students, dedicated community advocates and public officials who will work together to address high smoking rates that still persist in some parts of the DC metro area, Horn says.



MIKE RAMADAN

Laboratory Manager
Weight Management & Human Performance Lab



Ramadan joined GWSPH in July 2016. He is a recent graduate of Northern Virginia Community College where he earned his Associate in Applied Science in radiologic studies.

Through his degree, Ramadan has extensive training on operating the DXA scanner, one of the core technologies used at the lab to determine bone density and tissue fat. Ramadan will continue his studies at GW this fall as a Clinical Management and Leadership program student. Ramadan immigrated to the U.S. from Beirut, Lebanon, at the age of 16.

JOHANNAH ZABAL

Laboratories Coordinator
iStart Laboratories



In her role as Laboratories Coordinator, Zabal is primarily responsible for the Body Composition Laboratory and the Exercise Physiology

Laboratory at the Milken Institute SPH building. She earned her Master of Science in exercise science with a concentration in strength and conditioning here at Milken Institute SPH and is a certified strength & conditioning specialist and certified personal trainer through the National Strength & Conditioning Association (NSCA). She enjoys participating in research and teaching, as well as managing the laboratory spaces at 950 New Hampshire Ave.

MILKEN INSTITUTE SPH VIRGINIA LAB ON THE DR. OZ SHOW

On February 8, 2016, the *Dr. Oz Show* featured reporter Jenna Wolfe's visit to Milken Institute SPH's Weight Management and Human Performance Lab to investigate the science behind the latest weight-loss trend — the negative-calorie diet. Through the lab's state-of-the-art equipment and testing services, Exercise and Nutrition Sciences Professor and Lab Director Todd Miller demonstrated how negative-calorie foods, which are foods that you burn more calories digesting than you gain when eating, can impact our daily caloric intake allowance.



The lab, located on GW's Virginia Science and Technology Campus (VSTC) in Ashburn, Virginia, offers services including metabolism testing, body composition analysis, VO₂ testing, and nutrition and dietary counseling.

FOGGY BOTTOM LAB PUTS SENIOR ATHLETE TO THE TEST ON CBS SUNDAY MORNING



While they may be over 90 years of age, senior athletes like Dottie Gray, Orville Rogers and Dixon Hemphill say they don't consider themselves "old." They exercise regularly, compete in races and break world records. These extraordinary athletes were the focus of the *CBS Sunday Morning* special, "Senior athletes: Going the distance," which aired in August 2016. The show featured 91-year-old Dixon Hemphill as he visited the Milken Institute SPH lab on the school's Foggy Bottom campus to test his fitness and health.

Using the DXA Body Scan and the VO₂ Max test, Hemphill's results showed that he has just 14 percent body fat — that of an athletic 20-year-old — and the aerobic physical fitness of someone 30 years younger. Exercise and Nutrition Sciences Professor and Chair Loretta DiPietro and Lab Director and Assistant Professor Geoffrey Hudson were impressed but not surprised. DiPietro says that regular exercise begun at any age can have amazing positive health benefits.

RESEARCHERS WILL EXAMINE THE TRANSFORMATION OF MEDICAID UNDER HEALTH REFORM

Milken Institute SPH researchers have received a \$446,508 grant from The Commonwealth Fund to continue their ongoing examination of Medicaid's transformation under national health reform. From its roots as a small companion to cash welfare programs, Medicaid has transformed into the nation's single largest source of health insurance, projected to cover some 77 million children and adults by the end of this decade.

The project, led by the Harold and Jane Hirsh Professor of Health Law and Policy Sara Rosenbaum, will focus on many dimensions of the program: Medicaid's role in covering people made newly eligible under the Affordable Care Act, its relationship to the larger health insurance system; Medicaid's alignment with the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the leadership role of states in using Medicaid to transform healthcare delivery through managed care.

The project is named "Medicaid Transformation in an Era of National Health Reform." Rosenbaum, along with Research Associate Sara Rothenberg, Senior Research Associate Sarah Schmucker, Senior Research Associate Jessica Sharac and Research Assistant Rachel Gunsalus — all with the school's Department of Health Policy and Management — will conduct the analysis.

POLICY ANALYSIS

“

Being in the heart of Washington, DC, it's no surprise that the work of our researchers is shining a light on health policy issues on the local, state and national level.

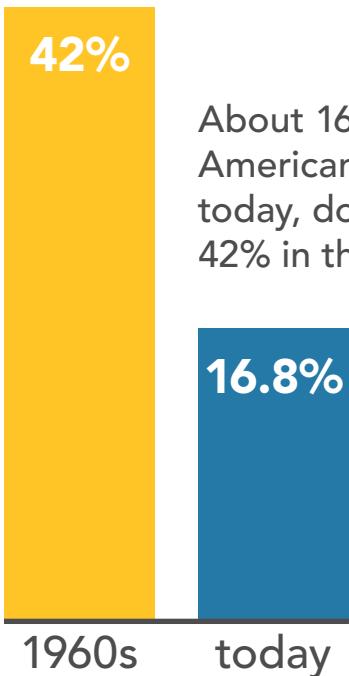
From Medicaid to physician training programs, we're leading the dialogue and shaping policies that will lead to better health for all.

– Thomas LaVeist, Chair, Department of Health Policy and Management

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STATE MEDICAID PROGRAMS MUST HELP LOW-INCOME SMOKERS KICK THE HABIT

About 16.8 percent of Americans smoke today, down from 42 percent in the 1960s. That reduction in the number of American smokers represents a big win for public health. However, this decrease hasn't been seen among minorities and others in low-income neighborhoods. In fact, smoking rates for those with a GED certification are stuck at 43 percent, says Health Policy and Management Professor and Director of the Center for Health Policy Research Leighton Ku.



About 16.8% of Americans smoke today, down from 42% in the 1960s

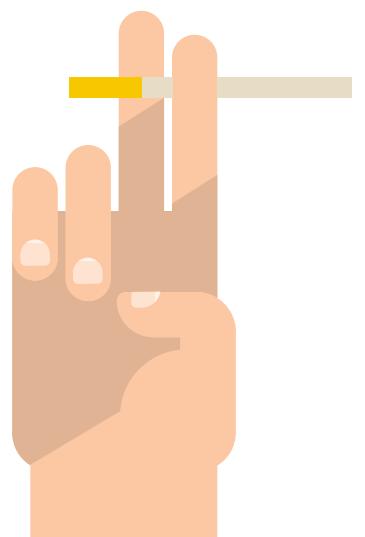
Those low-income smokers are at risk for a laundry list of serious health problems including lung cancer and heart disease that will cost the U.S. billions of dollars from resulting medical bills and lost productivity. Yet research by Ku and his colleagues shows that Medicaid could be doing a lot more to help low-income smokers quit. The January 2016 study, published in *Health Affairs*, shows that only 10 percent of smokers covered by Medicaid received medication or the additional help they needed to kick the habit.

Ku says that the Affordable Care Act required that all state Medicaid programs cover at least some counseling and FDA-approved therapies, such as nicotine gum and antismoking drugs. Yet his study found that some states actually put up obstacles, making it harder for smokers to access drugs that can control the urge to smoke. Such barriers might save Medicaid money in the short term, but they're costly in the long run.

"Every state Medicaid program could make smoking cessation a higher priority to improve health and lower healthcare costs."

— Leighton Ku

One study estimated that every \$1 invested in antismoking programs could save Medicaid \$3 because of a rapid reduction in hospital visits.



FUNDING CUTS PUT TEACHING HEALTH CENTER PROGRAM IN JEOPARDY

The Teaching Health Center Program (THC) was created in 2011 under the Affordable Care Act to increase the number of primary care doctors and dentists trained to practice in underserved parts of the United States, such as isolated rural areas. Two reports from Milken Institute SPH explain why the future of the THC program is uncertain.

In the first report, Health Policy and Management Professor Leighton Ku and his colleagues at the Geiger Gibson/RCHN Community Health Foundation Research Collaborative looked at the impact of funding cuts on the THC program. The researchers found that continued funding loss for the program could disrupt the training of current medical residents and cut off the pipeline of newly minted primary care doctors.

"Without continued support, the Teaching Health Centers program will not be able to train the doctors needed to deliver primary care to millions of Americans," Ku says.

A second analysis, this one published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, looked at the cost of training medical residents in the THC program. Health Policy and Management Professor Marsha Regenstein and Fitzhugh Mullan estimate that it costs \$157,602 per resident per year for the training. Yet the THCs currently receive just \$95,000 for each resident.

Most THCs cannot support residency programs without adequate and stable funding, the authors say, adding, "If the funding shortfall continues, it would put the entire THC program at risk."

Actual cost to train each resident, per year

\$157,602

Current funding

\$95,000

Funding gap

\$62,602

PUERTO RICO'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS STRUGGLE WITH ECONOMIC CRISIS

In recent years, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has been hit with many fiscal challenges, but recently the situation has worsened: Puerto Rico is now facing a \$72 billion debt crisis and deepening poverty. In addition, due to a high unemployment rate many residents of these islands in the Caribbean Sea suffer from higher-than-average rates of life-threatening diseases.

Against that backdrop of an archipelago in trouble, a high proportion of residents (nearly one in 10) depend on community health centers for crucial healthcare. But a 2015 report by the Geiger Gibson/RCHN Community Health Foundation Research Collaborative concludes that these community health centers face an uncertain future brought on by the sharp economic downturn and other factors.

The report says that many people who seek care at Puerto Rico's community health centers get health insurance through public health programs such as Medicare or Medicaid. At the same time a series of Medicare/Medicaid policies that affect only the islands have left these community health centers struggling with reduced payment levels.

The situation has been exacerbated by an exodus of 4,000 health professionals, including primary care doctors, who have left the islands for better prospects on the mainland and other places. Despite the challenging environment, the report finds that Puerto Rico's health centers continue to perform well on a variety of quality of care measures. Can the community health centers in Puerto Rico continue to act as a critical part of the Commonwealth's healthcare safety net? Yes, but only if the shortfalls in Medicare and Medicaid payment rates are addressed, the report concludes.



"Our mission is to provide physicians and other prescribers with the information they need to write the best prescriptions, based on the best evidence."

— Susan Wood

RX

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

BETTER PRESCRIPTIONS FOR BETTER HEALTH

Milken Institute SPH, together with the District of Columbia Department of Health (DOH), launched a new center with the goal of providing impartial evidence about drugs and therapies to physicians and other DC healthcare professionals. The DC Center for Rational Prescribing (DCRx) offers a series of online courses that healthcare professionals can take in order to learn more about available medicines, potential side effects, and how to weigh the evidence so that they prescribe the best, most affordable drugs and therapies for their patients.

Health Policy and Management Associate Professor Susan F. Wood and her colleagues at Georgetown University Medical Center helped develop the continuing education courses that are now offered free of charge to DC

healthcare professionals. Currently, the courses offered include modules on:

- Rational Prescribing for Older Adults
- Medical Cannabis: An Introduction to Biochemistry and Pharmacology
- Medical Cannabis — the Evidence on Efficacy
- The Drug Approval Process in the United States
- Generic Drugs: Myths and Facts

DCRx was created to help physicians and other healthcare professionals who must stay on top of the fast-changing medical literature on drugs and at the same time sift through the information provided by the drug companies. The continuing education courses are free to DC physicians and healthcare professionals and at a low cost to healthcare professionals not licensed in the District.

SIGN _____

DATE _____

Over the course of the year, Milken Institute SPH hosted over 140 events. We partnered with many companies, agencies and organizations that are creating meaningful change in public health. Our events brought together public health experts, leaders, government officials, faculty, students and others to discuss public health problems and solutions ranging from mental health to education for girls to eating disorders and much more. Here are a few of the highlights.



The event was featured in national and international media, including

- CNN
- New York Times
- Newsweek
- USA Today
- Reuters
- Voice of America

OUT OF THE SHADOWS: MAKING MENTAL HEALTH A GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY

Mental disorders impose an enormous disease burden and obstacle to development in countries around the world. Studies estimate at least 10% of the world's population is affected and that 20% of children and adolescents suffer from some form of mental disorders. For the first time ever, a two-day series of events, co-hosted by the World Bank and the World Health Organization during the World Bank-International Monetary Fund spring meetings, were held to address global mental health issues and move them from the margins to the mainstream of the global development agenda. Milken Institute SPH partnered with WHO and the World Bank for the April 2016 events.

The meetings engaged finance ministers, multilateral and bilateral organizations, the business community, and technology innovators, and emphasized the urgent investments needed in



Photo: World Bank



Photo: World Bank

mental health services and the expected returns in terms of health, social and economic benefits.

The event kicked off with an Innovations Fair in the Convening Center of Milken Institute SPH to showcase effective, generalizable, replicable and sustainable innovative approaches, not only for improving access to care, but to also introduce altogether new interventions. The Innovations Fair was followed by a high-level keynote panel featuring World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, WHO Director General Margaret Chan, and other global leaders and influencers. On the second day, Dean Goldman gave the welcoming remarks, and Patrick Kennedy, former member of U.S. House of Representatives and author of *A Common Struggle*, gave the keynote addressing mental health illness and stigma. Through the partnership, a number of Milken Institute SPH students and faculty were able to participate in this historic meeting.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL WITH FREIDA PINTO



"We don't tell these stories to make you feel further despondent or discouraged. We want to tell them with an element of inspiration. We want to be able to uplift these girls and not view them as victims."

— Freida Pinto



An estimated 62 million girls around the world fail to reach their full potential because they are denied a right to an education, actress Freida Pinto told audience members at an October 9, 2015, event at Milken Institute SPH. The event, held in celebration of International Day of the Girl, focused on the film *Girl Rising* and its accompanying campaign to solve this problem through the power of storytelling.

The film brings this issue to life through the eyes of girls in nine developing countries, sharing their moving stories through a mix of documentary film-making and re-creations with actors and the girls themselves. Event attendees saw a screening of three of those stories. While the film depicts the heart-breaking struggles these young girls have had and continue to experience, *Girl Rising* also conveys their strength and empowerment, leaving viewers inspired to make change.

After the film screening, Pinto and *Girl Rising* Producer Martha Adams took to the stage to discuss the documentary, its mission and the issues at hand in a conversation moderated by Dean Goldman.

Prevention and Community Health Associate Professor Amita Vyas, who worked as a producer with Pinto on the Hindi version of the film, said that she loves the film because "it inspires action... But what that action is, is up to you."

IN DEFENSE OF FOOD

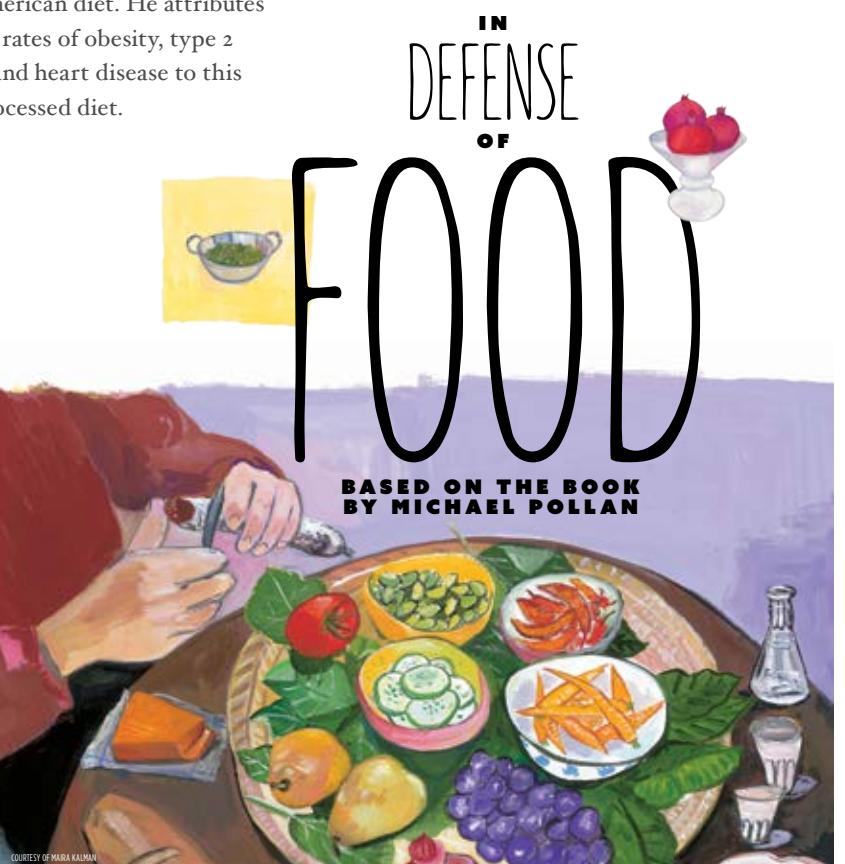
How has the modern diet of processed foods impacted our health and agricultural practices? That was the topic of discussion at a November 2015 event with journalist and *New York Times* Best-Selling Author Michael Pollan. The event featured a pre-screening of the Emmy-nominated PBS documentary *In Defense of Food*, a new film that explores the science behind Pollan's 2008 book of the same name, followed by a panel discussion of the issues raised.

In addition to Pollan, the panel, moderated by Redstone Center Director William Dietz, included the documentary's Producer Michael Schwarz, the White House's Senior Policy Advisor for Nutrition Policy and Executive Director of the First Lady's Let's Move! initiative Debra Eschmeyer, and GW's Executive Director of Sustainability Kathleen Merrigan.

"It's very rare in our lives where the answer to a complicated question is so simple, but when it comes to eating it is."

— Michael Pollan,
In Defense of Food, PBS 2015

After traveling the world, researching and exploring different diets, Pollan developed a maxim to answer the important question of "What should I eat to be healthy?" — "Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants." He implored guests to eat "real food" — vegetables, fruits, grains, fish, poultry — in their original unadulterated forms, encouraging people to stay away from processed, "edible food-like substances" he says now comprise far too much of the American diet. He attributes increased rates of obesity, type 2 diabetes and heart disease to this highly processed diet.



KIKIM MEDIA PRESENTS "IN DEFENSE OF FOOD" PRODUCER/DIRECTOR MICHAEL SCHWARZ PRODUCER/TELESCRIPT EDWARD GRAY EXECUTIVE PRODUCER KIKI KAPANY EDITORS RHONDA COLLINS AND GAIL HUDDLESON NARRATOR MICHAEL POLLAN CINEMATOGRAPHY VICENTE FRANCO SOUND RAY DAY ORIGINAL SCORE CHRISTOPHER HEDGE ANIMATION EKIN AKALIN ILLUSTRATIONS MAIRA KALMAN COLORIST GARY COATES POST-PRODUCTION AUDIO PHOENIX SOUND DESIGN ONLINE EDITOR ALYN DIVINE MAJOR FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AND PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE



kikim.com

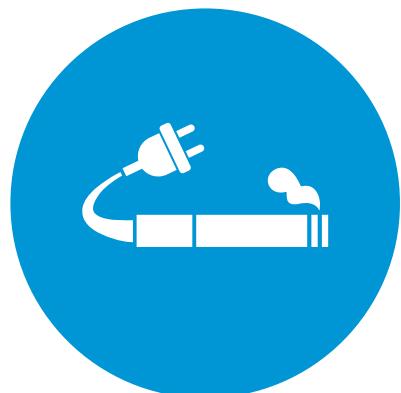
facebook.com/indefenseoffoodthemovie

twitter.com/idofmovie

SMOKE AND MIRRORS: SAFETY CONCERNS OVER E-CIGARETTES

E-cigarettes continue to be a hot-button topic as questions remain on their safety, whether they may help smokers quit and major concerns over increased usage among teenagers. To explore this issue further, we welcomed Brian King, deputy director for research translation from the CDC's Office on Smoking and Health, to speak at the school's first keynote address during GW's Research Days in March 2016.

Dr. King gave an engaging talk on the rise of e-cigarettes and their possible benefits as well as dangers. He admitted that the electronic devices had a "potential benefit ... under certain circumstances" but also questioned



"[Are e-cigarettes] safer? Yeah. Safe? No."

— Brian King

NATIVE VOICES EXHIBIT



In the fall and winter of 2015-2016, The National Library of Medicine's (NLM) Native Voices Traveling Exhibition was on display at Milken Institute SPH. The exhibition, Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness, examined concepts of health and medicine among contemporary American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian people. The interactive display allowed viewers to watch interviews and listen to the personal stories of tribal leaders, healers, physicians, clergy, educators and students concerning health and wellness. Visitors could also learn about specific issues, such as the unique role played by the Navajo Code talkers during World War II.

FEATURED STUDENTS / ALUMNI

Each year, our students and alumni excel both in and out of the classroom. Their diverse backgrounds and interests contribute to the vibrant academic environment of the school, and their work in the field has considerable impact in communities around the world desperately in need of innovative public health thinking and solutions.

STUDENT MIKE DE VIVO FEATURED ON HGTV'S TINY HOUSE, BIG LIVING

In the summer of 2015, Prevention and Community Health student Mike De Vivo and his wife Jasmine started the process of building their tiny dream home, landing them a spot on the HGTV show *Tiny House, Big Living* in May 2016. The De Vivos wanted their tiny home to reflect their healthy, active lifestyle, so they customized it to meet their needs. Their 340-square-foot home is equipped with features such as a climbing wall on the back exterior of the house, TRX hookups on the front exterior and a rope to climb up to the interior loft space. It's also a sustainably designed space made from all natural materials including locally sourced ambrosia Maplewood, insulation and piping materials, nontoxic paint and a "fancy compost toilet," as De Vivo says.

De Vivo plans to use the tiny home building process towards his Culminating Experience required for graduation from the MPH in public health communications and marketing



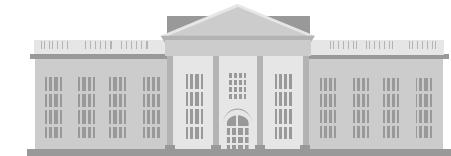
"We talked about these things in my classes — how to contact the head of an organization and talk to them about your projects and research, and how to have a balanced dialogue."

— Mike DeVivo

program. "I'm doing a quantified self-study," he says, tracking general health parameters to see how they change once he moves into the tiny house.

De Vivo saw concepts learned in the classroom play out during the construction process. He found behavior change psychology useful in helping him identify the priorities around designing his home, and how that will affect his health and habits through the fitness-focused and sustainable features. Classes in his program also made him more confident in reaching out to people in the tiny-house field.

¡FELIZ CINCO DE MAYO DE LA CASA BLANCA!



In 2016, MPH student Brenda Trejo made a powerful statement — she wrote a letter to President Obama expressing her gratitude for the sacrifices her parents and grandfather made when they emigrated from Mexico to the U.S. She told the president how those sacrifices gave her the opportunity to graduate from high school, earn a Gates Millennium Scholarship and obtain two bachelor's degrees, and finally pursue her MPH in global environmental health. To her surprise, shortly after sending the letter, she received an invitation to celebrate Cinco de Mayo at the White House.

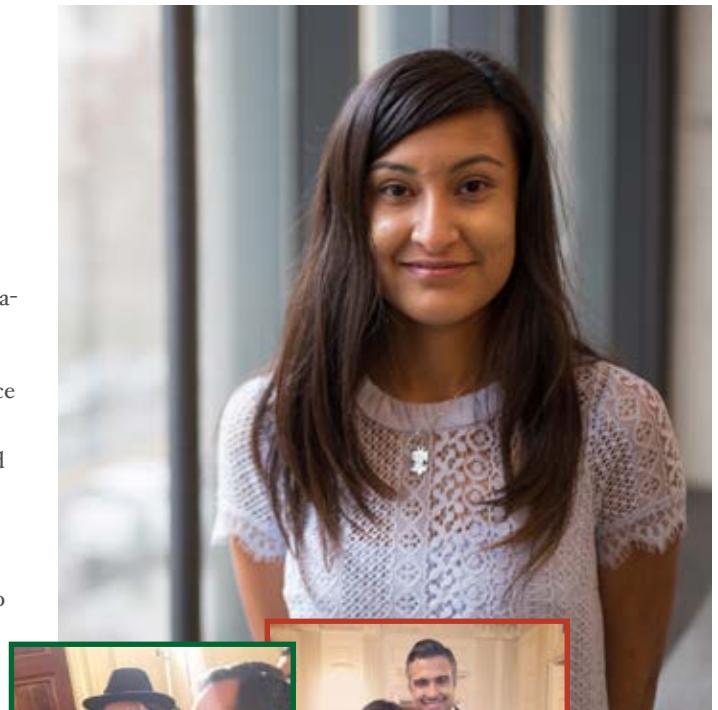
At the party, Trejo was able to meet, and snap selfies with Vice President Joe Biden, actor Jaime Camil of television's *Jane the Virgin*, 6-year-old immigrant justice activist Sophie Cruz, and the band Maná, whom she had expressed a great appreciation for in her letter to President Obama. When Maná dedicated their song "Dónde Jugarán los Niños? (Where Will the Children Play?)" to encourage action on climate change, Trejo says it inspired her "to keep pursuing ways to address environmental health disparities."

"As a Mexican American, the White House inviting Maná to the Cinco de Mayo Celebration, to me was like an acknowledgement of the myriad of ways that Mexicans contribute to the US. When I received a personal invitation to the celebration, it made me feel like my community's contributions to this country were being celebrated."

— Brenda Trejo

The White House published Trejo's heartfelt letter to President Obama on their Tumblr page.

Beyond her White House experience, Trejo says that "the GW EOH department has been instrumental in exposing me to opportunities that can help me become an environmental health advocate." After the celebration, through support from EOH faculty and staff, she served as a global health fellow



Bottom four photos:
Brenda Trejo

with HealthWorks Collaborative and AVODEC in Jinotega, Nicaragua, helping local communities with water assessment. She was also selected as the recipient of the 2016 Cory L. Richards Memorial Scholarship through the Guttmacher Institute from more than 150 candidates.



Back in 2014 Wendy Ellis never dreamed she'd be pursuing a doctoral degree in public health and soon leading an innovative project to build healthy, resilient communities in five cities around the United States.

Ellis was one of the first recipients of a Michael and Lori Milken Public Health Scholarship, a program made possible through a \$10 million gift from the Milken Family Foundation, when she started her Doctor of Public Health in health policy in 2014. Since then, she has transitioned from her work as the manager of child health policy for Nemours, a nonprofit children's health system, in its DC office to developer and co-principal investigator of the Building Community Resilience (BCR) collaborative.

BCR, developed by Ellis as part of her doctoral studies, is an innovative new process that addresses the negative health outcomes experienced by children in low-income and vulnerable

STUDENT WENDY ELLIS LAUNCHES BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

“Connecting public health, health systems and cross-sector organizations is difficult but necessary work to improve population health. There is no roadmap for the BCR work, but with these five sites we are creating a blueprint to help build strong, resilient communities so that all kids have the chance to thrive.”

— Wendy Ellis

 Learn more about the BCR initiative in this video

communities. The approach fosters collaboration across sectors from public health to healthcare systems to payers and other community and business interests. William Dietz, director and chair of the Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness at the school, serves as co-PI on the project. Under Ellis' direction, BCR staff and operations transitioned to Milken Institute SPH from Nemours in the fall of 2016.

In 2016, Ellis' BCR initiative received an \$800,000 grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. BCR is now operating in:



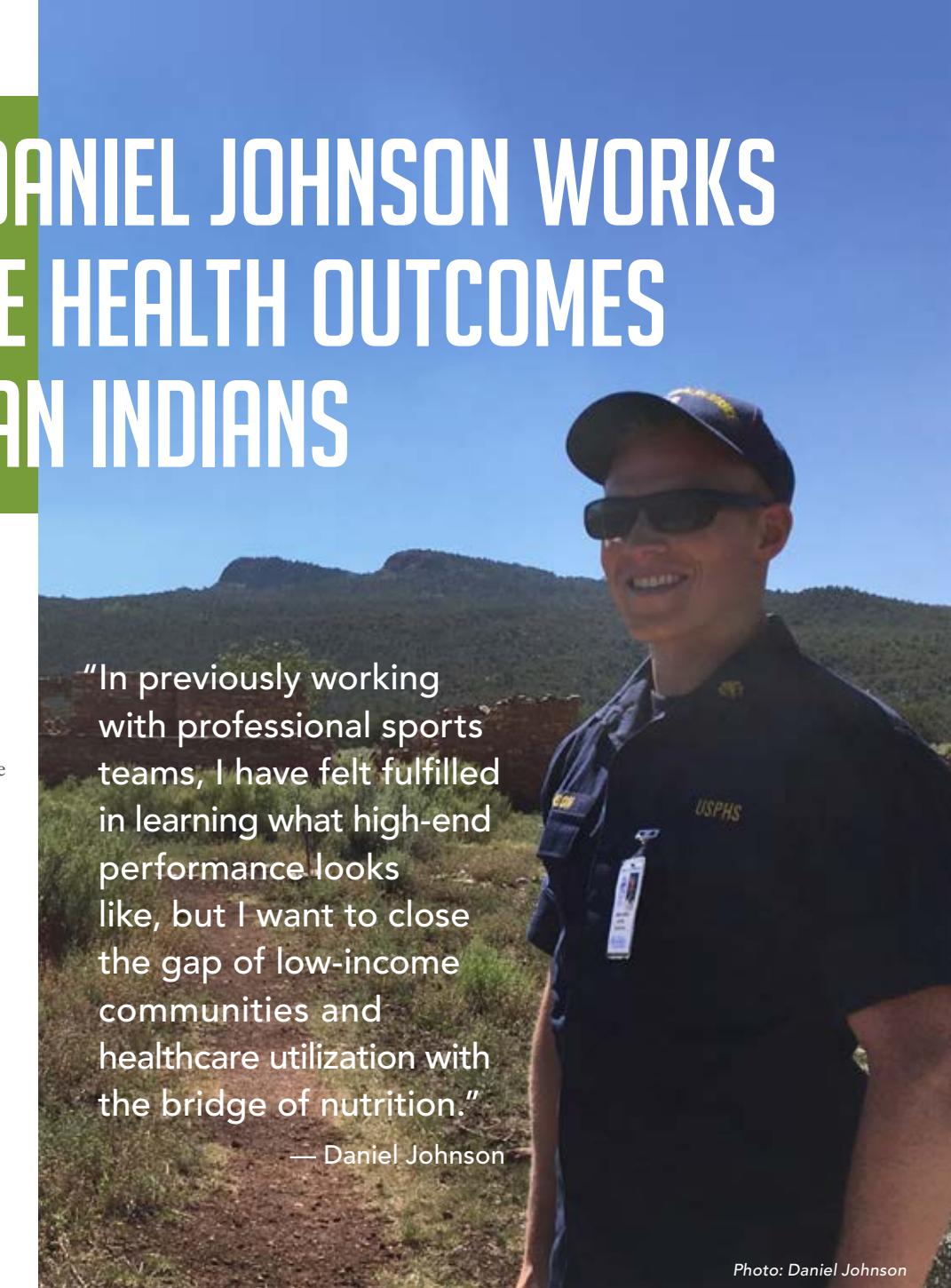
ALUMNUS DANIEL JOHNSON WORKS TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The American Indian population struggles with a unique set of health challenges, some of which can be attributed to poor diet. As a clinical dietitian with the Whiteriver Hospital of the Indian Health Service (IHS) in Arizona, MPH@GW alumnus Daniel Johnson, MPH '15, is working to improve the health of his patients, incorporating his public health nutritionist training to understand the cultural and societal factors influencing their diet and health.

Johnson says one of the primary culprits of poor nutrition on the reservation is the increased consumption of highly processed foods, which often lead to obesity, diabetes and other chronic conditions. “As a dietitian, I work on the front line of lifestyle and behavior change to instill successful health practices among a people who value life, family cohesion and cultural traditions,” he says. “Because of these, it is ever so important for me to humbly respect and appreciate every choice that my patients utilize to bring food to their tables.”

Johnson got his start with IHS on the Navajo Nation while working on his practicum for his online MPH program. As an experienced sports nutritionist, having worked with high school, college and professional athletes, Johnson collaborated with IHS to develop and implement a plan for integrating sports nutrition into the local high schools.

The program's success “seemed a clear fit to bring more nutrition help to families



“In previously working with professional sports teams, I have felt fulfilled in learning what high-end performance looks like, but I want to close the gap of low-income communities and healthcare utilization with the bridge of nutrition.”

— Daniel Johnson

Photo: Daniel Johnson

THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS):

an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services responsible for providing federal health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

ihs.gov

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS



"I am looking forward to stepping outside of my comfort zone, delving into a field that I'm incredibly passionate about, and absorbing as much of this research experience as possible. With this opportunity, I am honored to be in an environment of such excellence and expertise and inspired to truly challenge myself."

YASAMAN ZIA

MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, 2013
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health/CDC Fellowship Recipient

In 2016, alumna Yasaman Zia was selected for an intensive one-year fellowship with the CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, working in the Women's Health Fertility Branch within the Division of Reproductive Health. Her projects focus on HIV prevention of maternal-to-child transmission.

"Milken Institute School of Public Health heavily influenced my interest in health policy and public service through internships in the public and private sectors and motivation from inspiring professors. Over the course of this fellowship, I'm looking forward to developing my leadership skills and collaborating with like-minded colleagues and fellows who are dedicated to pursuing a career in public service."

MILKEN INSTITUTE SPH ALUMNI SELECTED AS 2016 PRESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT FELLOWS

Founded in 1977, the competitive PMF Program matches outstanding graduate students with federal opportunities.

AHIMSA GOVENDER

MPH in Health Policy, 2013
2016 Presidential Management Fellow

Ahimsa Govender is working with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources at The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Her work will include coordinating with HHS agencies, the Office of Management and Budget, and Congressional Committees to support policies that can be included in the president's budget.

"As an MPH student at GW, I learned all the necessary skills to work and thrive in the public health field, and I took leadership courses that prepared me for to work as a PMF. As I begin my fellowship, I am looking forward to learning new skills and gaining new opportunities that will push me forward as a leader in public health."

CHRISTINE KAMAMIA

MPH in Epidemiology, 2015
2016 Presidential Management Fellow

Christine Kamamia is working with Division of Outcomes Measurement at the Center for Program Integrity within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. She will be involved in analyzing, developing, and implementing a wide range of program integrity initiatives that support CMS' lines of business.

"I am excited to apply what I have learned both in and out of the classroom to this new experience as a Presidential Management Fellow and to gain even more knowledge and skills as I grow in my career in the global health diplomacy field."

JACOB OLIVO

MPH in Global Health Policy, 2016
2016 Presidential Management Fellow

Jacob Olivo is working with the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy (OGAC) within the Department of State. He will be working within OGAC and with the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) country teams, engaging various stakeholders to ensure those most impacted by HIV/AIDS have greater access to nondiscriminatory and nonstigmatizing prevention, care, and treatment services.

"As a class of 2016 Presidential Management Fellow with OEDA within CMS, I look forward to continuing to build on what I learned in the Master of Public Health program at the Milken Institute School of Public Health. I am excited to take on the important policy development and data analytics work OEDA provides for multiple agencies in the federal government and am thankful to have had such great, dedicated professors that have prepared me for this task."

LYDIA ORTH

MPH in Health Policy, 2015
2016 Presidential Management Fellow

Lydia Orth is working with the Office of Enterprise Data Analytics (OEDA) within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to work for Niall Brennan, chief data officer and the director of the office.

As of the end of July 2016, Milken Institute SPH raised more than \$172 million from more than 1,000 donors during Making History: The Campaign for GW. The school's core campaign pillars of support for students, faculty and research and building a state-of-the-art academic and LEED Platinum certified building have resonated loud and clear with our public health community. During the final two years of Making History, we will continue to focus on enhancing the academic experience of our students, and support for the ground-breaking research of our faculty. To our donors, alumni, and friends — thank you for helping us make history.



**DEVELOPMENT SUCCESSES
& THE CAMPAIGN FOR GW**

SOCIAL-JUSTICE ADVOCATE SUPPORTS WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH



By all accounts Clara Schiffer was an amazing woman. Born poor in Brockton, Massachusetts, she went on to graduate cum laude from Radcliffe College and earned a master's degree in economics from George Washington University in 1939. Throughout her career she was a tireless advocate for social justice and, in particular, women's rights. Her commitment and generosity lead to a \$100,000 gift, which allowed the Jacobs Institute of Women's Health to establish the Clara Schiffer Project on Women's Health to honor her legacy. Most recently, the project awarded four Clara Schiffer fellowships to enable GW graduate students to work on projects related to women's health.



MILKEN INSTITUTE SPH BOARD OF ADVISORS

Pictured from left to right:
 Kenneth Moritsugu, Margaret Hamburg, Richard Southby, Roslyn Brock, Lynn Goldman, Diane Knapp, Feygele Jacobs, Ellen Sigal, Peter Kovler
 (Not Pictured: Fred Brown, Ed Greissing and Michael Klowden)

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION AWARD:

CINTHIA JOSSETTE AREVALO

Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Public Administration
 Conducted field research for her dissertation, Cultural Competence in Childbirth in Multicultural Ecuador: Lessons for Evaluation.

MPH RESEARCH ASSISTANT AWARDS:

MEGAN COUILLARD

Milken Institute SPH
 Worked for the Bridging the Divide project, which connects researchers to advocates and policymakers on reproductive-health topics.

ROSALIND FENNELL

Milken Institute SPH
 Worked on the Accomplishments of the Domestic Violence Hotline, Online Communications, and Text (ADVHOcAT) project, which addresses phone and digital resources for survivors of domestic violence and dating abuse.

MONIKA JUZUMAITE

Milken Institute SPH
 Worked for the Biomarkers of Sexual Violence and Risk of HIV Acquisition and Transmission in Women study, which investigates biological mechanisms of sexual trauma, chronic violence and depression, which might lead to enhanced risk of HIV in women.

I GW PUBLIC HEALTH



The campaign generated school-wide buzz and raised over \$3,000 in support of funds of the students' choice.



STUDENT PHILANTHROPY CAMPAIGN

"Cultivating a new generation of public health leaders and educating them on the impact of philanthropy is crucial to the school — especially in a field such as Public Health which requires more giving of oneself than taking of others. The collaboration and passion felt during the I <3 GW School of Public Health campaign was palpable, and their support is a testament to their selflessness and drive to make a difference. I feel honored to collaborate with these truly inspirational students."

— Kaylynn Yankovich, Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement



During the week of February 15, 2016, The Public Health Student Association and the Office of Alumni Engagement partnered together to raise awareness for student philanthropy through the #IHeartGWSPH campaign. Milken Institute SPH students came out to learn about why philanthropy is important, pledged their support for the school, and shared why they "heart" GWSPH.

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Next year will mark the 20th anniversary of our school. When I look back I can't believe how far we have come. When I look forward I see a future shimmering with hope and the promise of meaningful progress in the fight for the health and well-being of people everywhere.

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