Dear Colleagues:

In September I kicked off a fundraising effort for Public Health Sciences in which I asked each of you to consider making a charitable contribution to the PHS Research and Development Fund. The good news is that we have started the new decade with nearly $16,000 in our fund, contributed by 23 donors. Gifts range in size from $50 to $5000. A PHS committee has established procedures for accessing these funds and we have two applications currently under review. As a reminder, the fund is designed to support the research and professional development needs of faculty and staff in the Division. We have a particular interest in using the fund to offer caregiver travel awards to early career faculty. In this case, these awards will provide financial support to defray some of the costs of traveling with dependents, or extra care at home, while attending professional meetings critical to promoting the advancement of early career scholars. I am grateful for any charitable contribution that you are able to make. You may use the school’s electronic giving platform (https://wfsm.abilafundraisingonline.com/PHS) or ask Nancy Buchheimer for a paper form. I will provide updates in future newsletters about our faculty and staff who have benefitted from these funds. Thanks to those 23 donors who have given generously to support our team!

Lynne

Meet the BAs

The Division of Public Health Sciences has a valuable team of five Business Administrators (BA) that work closely to assure that the research and education mission is well-managed. The team includes one BA in each of the four departments (Ha Sprinkle, EPI; Margie Troxler, BDS; Lynn Myers, SSHP; Deanna Sizemore, IS) and one in the administrative unit (Nancy Buchheimer). Combined, the five BAs have worked at Wake Forest for 102 years! The role of a Business Administrator is broad and diverse. They have responsibilities for the oversight and general management of departmental finance, budgets and personnel. They prepare and manage comprehensive annual budgets and oversee the revenue cycle. They oversee the day-to-day operations and work closely with the Chair in support of the academic mission. They oversee a team who coordinate and facilitate pre- and post-award submissions and administration of departmental contracts and grants. They work directly with the Human Resource department in assisting the onboarding of new faculty and staff. In addition, the BAs meet bi-weekly as a team to assure standardization of policies and procedures across the four PHS departments, and they attend quarterly meetings of all institutional BAs to maintain a working knowledge of institutional policies.
Congratulations to Emily Dressler and her family as they welcome a new baby boy, Hunter Robert Dressler. Born 11/22/2019.

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Tim Morgan, Emeritus Faculty-BDS on November, 22, 2019. Tim was Director of Biostatistics for the cancer center (1988-1991) and Section Head for Biostatistics from 1988-1993 and 1998-2000. Tim had a distinguished career as a scholar, administrator, and mentor and in recognition was appointed as a professor emeritus in 2018. He was admired by his colleagues and will be remembered for tremendous contributions to his field.

Roy E. Strowd, III, MD, successfully defended his thesis in the Clinical and Population Translational Sciences (CPTS) Program on January 7, 2020 titled “Use of Neuromuscular Ultrasound for the Evaluation of Chemotherapy Induced Peripheral Neuropathy”. Roy is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurology and is the Director of the Health Professions Education Institute at Wake Forest Baptist Health. His Thesis Advisor is Dr. Glenn Lesser. Other committee members include Drs. Fang-Chi Hsu and Michael Cartwright. Dr. Elizabeth Jensen served as Examination Chair. Dr. Strowd is expected to graduate in May 2020.

Suzanne Danhauer, PhD, Associate Professor, Social Sciences & Health Policy, has received the Outstanding Women Leaders of Winston-Salem award from the City of Winston-Salem on January 21, 2020.

The PHS Research and Development Fund has been established to provide resources for faculty and staff in support of our research mission. The intent of the R&D Fund is to assist in furthering professional growth or academic endeavors. Applications are now being accepted to access these funds. https://redcap.wakehealth.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=4JK8WAA7NJ

The Birthday Social Club kicked off the New Year celebrating birthdays for January. The club meets each month to celebrate a member’s birthday with cake and ice cream. Interested staff and faculty can join, please see Mark Brown, 6-7218, wmbrown@wakehealth.edu Cost is $10 for the year.

The Second Harvest Food Bank thanks Public Health Sciences for giving generously to help many in need. The donations received from PHS in 2019 amounted to 240 pounds of food.

In The News

CPTS Program in Transition
The Clinical and Population Translational Sciences MS program will be expanding its curriculum to include core courses in implementation science and biomedical informatics for all students, and will also add courses in organizational change, team building, a learning health system team science practicum, and a learning health system colloquium. The program will change its name to Translational and Health System Science, and will have two tracks: Clinical and Translational Investigation, and Learning Health System Science. In addition, the program will offer two 15-credit certificates in each of the track areas. It is anticipated that the program will have trainees from the new TL1 program in the CTSI, led by Dr. Gary Rosenthal, entitled the Academic Learning Health System Scholars Program, as well as students from other areas. We believe we will be one of only two programs nationally to offer graduate training in learning health system science. The program is anticipated to start in August 2020.
New Faculty

**Beverly Levine, PhD, Assistant Professor, Social Sciences & Health Policy**
Bev received her PhD in epidemiology with a concentration in biostatistics in 1997. She focused on cancer research, and often served in the role of statistician/methodologist on projects. In addition to her work in the Department of Social Sciences and Health Policy, where she conducts statistical analyses on observational and randomized trial data of cancer survivors, she also serves as a member of the biostatistics core of the Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center. As part of this core work, she works most closely with physicians and researchers studying lung and head/neck cancers.

**Meng-Yun Lin, PhD, Assistant Professor, Social Sciences & Health Policy**
Meng-Yun received her PhD in Health Services Research with a concentration in Health Economics in 2018. She was an AHRQ T32 post-doctoral fellow at Boston University School of Medicine. Her research applies econometric methods and advanced statistical methods to examine the impacts of policies and financial incentives on healthcare utilization, spending, and outcomes, with a focus on vulnerable patients and providers serving disadvantaged populations. She is particularly interested in questions that will inform evidence-based practice and policy in the era of delivery system reforms, such as variations in the efficiency of care delivery across providers.

**Justin Moore, PhD, Associate Professor, Implementation Science**
Justin is a behavioral scientist who conducts community-engaged research focused on the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based strategies for the promotion of health behaviors in youth and adults. He also conducts epidemiological research examining the behavioral determinants of obesity, cardiometabolic health and related comorbidities. He is focused on eliminating health disparities so everyone can live a healthy and fulfilling life regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status or geography. He is also actively engaged in global health research. Justin transferred to PHS from Family and Community Medicine.

**New Staff**

**Social Sciences & Health Policy**
Susan Fesperman—Project Manager II—January 6

**Biostatistics and Data Science**
Judy Sivansay—Data Collector—October 14
Eric Reynolds—Associate Project Manager—January 6

**Epidemiology & Prevention**
Amanda Vega—Research Data Abstractor I—December 2
Charlie Mitchell—Data Collector—December 9
Roderick Smith, Jr—Assistant Project Manager—January 6

**Team Spotlight**

The SEARCH for Diabetes in Youth (SEARCH) study was initiated in 2000, and has been funded for 20 years with funding to address major knowledge gaps in the understanding of childhood diabetes. Wake Forest serves as the data coordinating center for the SEARCH study providing scientific support for protocol development, statistical analysis, and data management. The CDC provides funding for the SEARCH Registry Study which is a study of the incidence and prevalence of type 1 diabetes and type 2 diabetes in youth occurring over the past two decades in five geographically distinct locations of the U.S. and represents the largest, most diverse study of diabetes among U.S. youth. We observed that the incidence of both type 1 and type 2 diabetes increased significantly over this period, particularly among youths of minority racial and ethnic groups. The NIDDK provides funding for the SEARCH Cohort Study which has followed, longitudinally, a cohort of children since their diagnosis with either type 1 or type 2 diabetes. These children are now young adults and they are at the stage of life where they are developing complications of diabetes. We measured diabetic kidney disease, retinopathy, peripheral neuropathy, cardiovascular autonomic neuropathy, arterial stiffness, and hypertension in over 2000 youth with diabetes.

**Study Team:** Ralph D'Agostino, Jr, PhD, Lynne Wagenknecht, DrPH, Elizabeth Jensen, PhD, Jasmin Divers, PhD, Andrew South, MD, Beth Reboussin, PhD, Brian Wells, PhD, Ramon Casanova, PhD, Leora Henkin, Carrie Williams, Maureen Goldstein, Jennette Stafford, Scott Isom, Cindy Scurken, Kristin Lenoir, Jerry Barnes, Ken Wilson, John Hepler, June Pierce, Julia Spell, Danielle Cunio, Rhonda Blaine, James Lovato
New Grant Awards

Carl Langefeld, Professor, Biostatistics and Data Science
Epigenetics of Methylphenidate Effects in Children with ADHD
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Carl Langefeld, Professor, Biostatistics and Data Science
Predicting Uveitis Onset in Children with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis
NIH/NEI

Alain Bertoni, Professor and Associate Director, Public Health Sciences
Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis - Field Center - Task A
NIH/NHLBI

Doug Easterling, Professor, Social Sciences & Health Policy
Scan of Equity Funders to Identify Strategies to Amplify the Power of Marginalized Groups
The Colorado Health Foundation

Justin Moore, Associate Professor, Implementation Science
A Coordinated Parent/Child Dyad Weight Loss Intervention: Dyad Plus
NIH/NICHD

Kristina Lewis, Assistant Professor, Epidemiology & Prevention
The Bariatric Experience Long Term (BELONG) II for Racial and Ethnic Minority Patients
NIH/NIMHD

Jennifer Ross, Assistant Professor, Social Sciences & Health Policy
Little Cigar and Cigarillo Warnings to Reduce Tobacco-Related Cancers and Disease
NIH/NCI

Transfer Grants

Amresh Hanchate, Professor, Social Sciences & Health Policy
National Estimates of the Impact of the Affordable Care Act on Healthcare Utilization, Outcomes and Quality Among Hispanics
NIH/NIMHD

Amresh Hanchate, Professor, Social Sciences & Health Policy
Unintended Consequences: Medicare Performance Programs and Health Disparities
NIH/NIMHD

Amresh Hanchate, Professor, Social Sciences & Health Policy
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Due to Ambulance Diversion
NIH/NHLBI

Job Openings

Social Sciences &Health Policy
Contact LeeAnn Gleiser, lgleiser@wakehealth.edu, 3-5267
- Project Manager II
- Database/Analyst
- Assistant Project Manager
- Research Fellow

Epidemiology & Prevention
Contact Ha Sprinkle, hsprinkle@wakehealth.edu, 6-4520
- Assistant Project Manager
- Research Data Abstractor I
- Project Manager I

Biostatistics and Data Science
Contact Margie Troxler, mtroxler@wakehealth.edu, 6-7108
- Biostatistician II
- SAS Analytical Programmer I
- IT Program Manager I
- Data Collector/temporary
- Programmer/Analyst II