



### MPH Program Mission

The mission of the graduate Master of Public Health (MPH) program is to enhance the health of our communities through the development of future public health leaders via multidisciplinary education, research, community practice, and service.

### MPH Program Vision

Our vision is that the Thomas Jefferson University's MPH program is recognized as a center of excellence for integrative population health training throughout the greater Philadelphia region and beyond.

### MPH Program Goals

#### **Instruction Goals**

To provide all MPH students with quality graduate level education in core and elective courses and in community-based learning opportunities via Clerkship and Capstone projects that facilitate student mastery of public health competencies.

#### **Research Goals**

To provide opportunities and train all MPH students in the development and translation of public health research through coursework and the Capstone research project.

#### **Service Goals**

To provide structured service-learning opportunities for students through Clerkship, Capstone and other continuing education initiatives as formal and informal components of the MPH program and to encourage faculty to participate in public health community.

# Public Health Link

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

## MPH Spotlight

Elaine Yuen, PhD

Dr. Elaine Yuen is Research Associate Professor in the Department of Health Policy and a Research Associate in the Center for Research in Medical Education and Health Care at Jefferson Medical College. She received her Ph.D. in Health Care Planning from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Yuen has also trained clinically as an interfaith hospital chaplain at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, caring for diverse patients and their families, and providing them with spiritual and emotional care.

Dr. Yuen is co-teaching "Cultural Humility and Competency in the Health Professions and Population Health (OT 797)" which is done in collaboration with the College of Health Professions curriculum during the Fall 2008 term. The course includes web-based learning on cultural competence and humility, as well as personal reflection and development of professional and organizational action plans that address cultural diversity. Dr. Yuen is also teaching "Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (PH 607)" this November as a four Saturday morning workshop course. This course will introduce students how public health information may be displayed and analyzed in graphical map formats.

As a researcher, many of Dr. Yuen's projects have addressed issues of cultural and ethnic diversity. She has also examined how these differences may impact upon the provision of health care and health outcomes. She has led numerous studies using quantitative and qualitative methodologies. She is currently the lead evaluator in a community-based research project studying how media may be used to educate diverse communities about health issues. It's named "Our Stories, Our Health" and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson and the Benton Foundations. TJU is partnering with the Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition in South Philadelphia, WHYY (Philadelphia's local NPR station) and the University of Pennsylvania. In the project, community members iden-

tify health needs, as well as develop, produce and evaluate videos on hypertension and access to care. Dr. Yuen has enjoyed this project; it's been especially gratifying to see the Vietnamese elders take on their roles as videographers, interviewers and interviewees, and become leaders in their community.

Dr. Yuen is also Principal Investigator in two other projects: costs and quality of cancer care in Italy; and hospitalizations for ambulatory care sensitive conditions in Pennsylvania. Other previous projects have assessed ethnic disparities in GERD recognition and treatment; biopsychosocial factors contributing to asthma prevalence in Philadelphia school children; television programming and awareness of caregiver needs; mental health of Korean immigrant women as they care for their elderly relatives; and access to care and avoidable hospitalization for patients with asthma and diabetes in the greater Philadelphia area.

Dr. Yuen has written and lectured on spirituality and healthcare, decision-making at the end of life, and cultural diversity in end of life care, and is currently developing research projects in this area. She recently was a co-investigator for a pilot project testing the cognitive and emotional benefits of a mindfulness meditation program for residents of Cathedral Village, a senior independent living facility (the average age of program participants was 86 years!) This work has given her an appreciation of the communication skills, linguistic and otherwise, that are necessary in caring for patients and their families at this very important time. She's currently working on a paper about active listening, presencing and how to develop a creative solution based on the on-the-spot listening and expertise that is self-existent in the situation.

On a personal level, Dr. Yuen has two grown sons, and raised them as a single mother. A Buddhist practitioner, she is also a teacher and minister (Upadhaya) at the Philadelphia Shambhala Meditation Center. She is between a second and third generation Chinese American (also known as ABC or American Born Chinese); and has always lived in some zone of acculturation. A major force that has continued since her childhood has been acting as a bridge between cultures. In her childhood it was between Chinese and American cultures. Now many other cultures and perspectives are joined within her work, such as those of art and science, or spirituality and medicine, or direct patient care and research. She enjoys thinking about the similarities and differences of these cultures and their underlying belief systems, and how these could be bridged.



*Elaine Yuen, PhD, an MPH Student Advisor and Core Faculty Member*

## Re- Accreditation Update

The MPH program is up for re-accreditation and working diligently to fulfill the requirements and welcome the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) Site Visitors on Oct. 13 & 14. The Final Self-Study was submitted to CEPH on September 12.

## Health Policy Forum Fall 2008

### Nov 5: The Women's Wellness Guide

Leslie Stiles, *Executive Director*, Pennsylvania Commission for Women

### Dec 10: Jefferson Center for InterPro- fessional Education

Molly A. Rose, RN, PhD  
Christine Arenson, MD  
*Co-Directors*, Center for InterProfessional Education Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

# MPH Program to Move to New Jefferson School of Health Policy and Population Health (JSHPPH)

The Board of Trustees of Thomas Jefferson University approved the establishment of the Jefferson School of Health Policy and Population Health (JSHPPH) on July 28, 2008. The mission of the new School is to prepare leaders with global vision to develop, implement and evaluate health policies and systems that improve the health of populations and thereby enhance the quality of life. In keeping with this mission, beginning fall 2009 JSHPPH will offer the Master of Public Health degree (which will be relocated from Jefferson College of Graduate Studies – JCGS) as well as new graduate degree programs in health policy, healthcare quality and safety, and chronic care management.

## Why a School of Health Policy and Population Health?

To put it simply, US healthcare is in crisis and the health of the nation's population is at risk. Assuring positive health and delivering effective healthcare confronts issues of affordability, accessibility, efficiency, productivity, quality and safety. It is no longer possible to prepare high-quality health-care providers and public health educators



without addressing these issues head on. But addressing them requires a holistic perspective that views the world as a system and looks for patterns and connections within this system; it requires a perspective that analyzes problems in context and looks to the patterns and their determinants to develop responses that are the best solutions. This is the essence of population health, and this is the focus that needs to inform all health policy. All of the disciplines within the new School – public health, health policy, healthcare quality and safety, chronic care management – look at issues through the lens of population health.

## Why relocate the MPH program from JCGS to the new School? What impact will this move have on the MPH program and current students?

Since its founding in 1969, the mission of Jefferson College of Graduate Studies has been to prepare scientists to engage in medical research. JCGS's focus is the basic sciences – biochemistry, molecular and developmental biology, genetics, immunology, pharmacology, pathology and physiology. The MPH is not a basic science research program and therefore does not fit easily into JCGS's mission, curricula, or areas of faculty expertise. In contrast, the MPH program is central, if not critical, to the mission of the Jefferson School of Health Policy and Population Health. As the centerpiece and flagship program, the Master of Public Health will have greater visibility and recognition and access to more resources – established faculty in areas of public health competencies; community connections that are nation-wide; expanded programming and research opportunities; enhanced student services such as career development and job placement. Of equal importance for learning and leadership, MPH students will share space, classes and discussions with students in health policy and healthcare quality and safety to form a graduate community that shares a common mission and common goals – improving the health of populations and improving the quality of life.

Students currently enrolled in the MPH program will be able to finish as they planned and will not be affected by the move to the new School. Their courses and requirements will remain the same. Stay tuned! More news will follow as the transition progresses!

<http://www.jefferson.edu/JSHPPH/>

Caroline Golab, PhD  
Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs  
Jefferson School of Health Policy and Population Health

## September 5th MPH Orientation

Jefferson's MPH program held its 2008-2009 orientation for new students (those who entered the program beginning in Jan. 2008 and later) on Sept. 5. 45 MPH students and faculty were in attendance. Students and faculty introduced themselves, their backgrounds and interests in public health. It was encouraging to see a highly diverse group of new Jefferson MPH students for this year.

Dr. David Nash, Chair of the Jefferson Department of Health Policy and Dean of the new School of Health Policy and Population Health welcomed the students and discussed the new School that will begin operations in Sept. of 2009. The MPH program will move over to the new School from the College of Graduate Studies and become the core graduate program for the new School which will include other graduate degrees in Health Policy, Quality and Safety, and Chronic Care Management.

Dr. Rob Simmons, Director of the MPH program, summarized the MPH program and some of its new courses and processes. Some new public health courses for 2008-2009 include Cultural Humility and Competence for Health Care and Population Health (OT797), GIS Mapping (PH 607), Health Communication (PH 509), Public Health Policy and Advocacy, and Introduction to Global Health. He also described public health professional development seminars that the program has sponsored and encouraged students to provide input on topics of future interests.



*SAPHE Representatives, Maura Murphy & Katie Thomas addressing students*

materials in the student packets.

Dr. Mona Sarfaty, Chair of the MPH Curriculum Committee provided an overview of the public health courses and their sequencing, culminating in the Capstone Seminar course. Dr. Jim Plumb, Coordinator of the MPH Clerkship projects, discussed the Clerkship experience as an integral part of public health learning as mentioned the Clerkship guidelines and examples of Clerkship projects are available for

MPH students to view. Dr. Rickie Brawer, Chair of the MPH Accreditation and Program Evaluation Committee provided an update on the re-accreditation of the MPH program by the Council for Education in Public Health (CEPH) and the upcoming site visit on Oct. 13-14. Many current



*Dr. David Nash addressing students.*

health students here at Jefferson working with a mentor (person with chronic health conditions). MPH students were encouraged to participate in Jeff Health Mentors on a voluntary basis.

Katie Thomas and Maura Murphy described the student public health service organization, SAPHE and encouraged public health students to participate in order to plan, organize, and implement health service initiatives within Jefferson and our surrounding communities. SAPHE coordinates their efforts with several other Jefferson student service organizations.

### Public Health November Capstone Presentations

Thursday, November 20  
BLSB 107  
2—4 pm

If you would like to present, abstracts are due to the MPH Program Office by Oct. 20th. All other Clerkship and Capstone paperwork should be turned in by this time as well.



### PULSE & JeffMail

Please note that all MPH and Certificate of PH students, as well as MPH Faculty, are members of the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program Organization on Pulse. Students are encouraged to check this site often for pertinent program information, policies, and announcements.

Reminder that students will always be contacted through their Jefferson email accounts and not a personal account. You may have your Jefferson email forwarded to your personal account. If you need assistance on how to do set this up, please contact [Lisa.Chosed@Jefferson.edu](mailto:Lisa.Chosed@Jefferson.edu).

# New Spring I MPH Elective— PH 509: Health Communication

What role does communication play in health promotion and disease prevention?

How can we use the media to improve public health?

How can we communicate effectively with our patients or clients about their health?

What is social marketing and how can we use it effectively to promote health?

In collaboration with University of Delaware, this new course in Health Communication is being offered to address these questions, and to train public health professionals and clinicians in the skills and knowledge needed to effectively communicate both individually and community wide about health. The course will include strategies to improve patient and consumer health literacy as well as addressing web-based health communication.

Given the role of communication and social marketing in society today, public health and healthcare providers must become skilled at communicating effectively and accurately about health issues with patients and the general public.

**When: Sat 9 AM - 5 PM, Jan 10—Feb 7, 2009**

**Site: University of Delaware Wilmington Downtown Campus;  
8<sup>th</sup> & King Street (2 blocks from Wilmington, DE SEPTA Station)**

**Course Info: PH , 3 Credits**

**Instructor: Dr. Michael Peterson**

***For more information about this course contact:***

**Dr. Rob Simmons, Director TJU Public Health Program  
(215-955-7312, [Rob.Simmons@Jefferson.edu](mailto:Rob.Simmons@Jefferson.edu))**