



THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Department of Health Management & Policy Newsletter

Summer 2013



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Keith Mueller, PhD
Gerhard Hartman Professor
and Head, Department of
Health Management and
Policy

Letter from the Department Head

This has been a banner academic year for the department. Each of our graduate programs enrolled high-quality students who are matriculating successfully through their programs and on their way to rewarding internships this summer. The Master of Health Administration (MHA) Program was reaccredited for seven years by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education; our official notification came in November. The Quality Improvement Committees for each program have completed work redesigning graduate programs to better prepare students for careers in the ever-changing world of health management, policy and research. Their work culminated in a department self-study document putting forth our strategic goals, objectives, and strategies for the next 5-7 years. The major developments are to establish two new programs, an Executive MHA and a new Master of Science in Health Policy. We plan to launch both programs in September, 2014, after completing the review and approval process at the University.

The self-study document, as part of the seven year review of the department underway this summer, created an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the department since 2005. We have maintained high national rankings for our graduate programs and continue to attract high-quality students. Applications for academic year 2013/14 were at or near record levels for each program, and admissions committees reported that the quality continues to be excellent. Our graduates continue to do well in their careers, initially and during the lifespan of their work. Research productivity is at an all-time high for the department, as measured by refereed

publications and extramural funding obtained. Faculty and staff continue to make significant service contributions to the community, state and nation through volunteer activities and as a result of the practice and policy impact of their research.

The seven year review also highlights the important role our alumni have in our success. We believe HMP alumni are more committed to the success of current students than alumni in any other comparable department. Alumni are critical resources to our graduate students, helping prepare them for successful careers through teaching and advising. We are very appreciative of those contributions, and for the spirit of community that exists across alumni, students, faculty and staff.

Finally I want to acknowledge special recognitions of HMP faculty, staff and alumni by the College of Public Health. Brad Wright and Xi Zhu received new faculty research awards, announced in April. George Wehby received the outstanding teaching award given to faculty within their first ten years. Torrie Malichky received the staff service award. Michelle Niermann (class of 1994) received the College Alumni award recognizing her accomplishments throughout her career. John Colloton (class of 1957) received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters degree in the Graduate College ceremony on May 17, in recognition of his 44 years of service to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, leadership in medicine and public health, and ongoing commitment to the university and its work.

Keith J. Mueller

Keep us updated!

We're constantly updating our department's Alumni Directory and we want to make sure that your information is correct. If you think that your contact information has changed since the last time we released it, please visit our website and complete the "[Update Your Info](#)" form. You can access the most up-to-date copy of the directory on our department's [website](#) under "Alumni."

Message from the Alumni Board

Greetings!

With the end of the school year, I would like to reflect on what I am thankful for this year.

I am thankful for the HMP students. I am proud of your accomplishments this year. You will be excellent health care leaders and advocates for our patients and their families.

I am thankful for our HMP professors and staff. Your expertise, research and thought provoking questions inspire us. We have the best faculty and staff educating our students and advancing the profession toward excellence. The University of Iowa is fortunate to have such talented professionals.

I am thankful for our alumni and your honorable service. Your commitment to the University of Iowa, the HMP program and students is

admirable and uplifting. We are grateful to have such generous alumni.

The HMP program is successful because of you. Your advice and leadership has been instrumental in guiding the department toward achieving our goals. I am thankful for what we have accomplished together this year and for your dedication to our students. I look forward to working with you in FY14 to accomplish our goals.

Have a happy and healthy summer!

Sincerely,

Christina Freese-Decker




**Christina Freese-Decker, '02,
President, Spectrum Health
United Memorial**

Mark your calendars!

35th Annual Iowa Healthcare Executive Symposium

"Perspectives on Healthcare Transformation"

October 24 - 25, 2013

October 24th

College of Public Health Building
3:00–5:00 pm

Panel Session:

"Career Positioning: Strategically Mapping Your Early Career Development"

1.5 ACHE Credits Available

- **Julie Manas, '85**, President and CEO, HSHS Western Wisconsin Division; President and CEO, Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire, WI
- **Sean T. O'Grady, '93**, FACHE, President, NorthShore - Glenbrook Hospital, Glenview, IL
- **Emily J. O'Banion, '00**, System Vice President, Process Excellence, OhioHealth, Columbus, OH
- **Jessica M. Aguilar, '08**, Director, Hospitalist Program & Emergency Department Physicians, Sanford Health, Sioux Falls, SD

October 24th continued:

Reception:

Kinnick Stadium Press Box
5:30–7:30 pm

October 25th

Sheraton Hotel Iowa City
8:00–1:30 pm

Keynote Speakers:

- **Paul H. Keckley, PhD**
Executive Director, Deloitte Center for Health Solutions, Washington, DC
- **Richard C. Breon, MA**
President and CEO, Spectrum Health, Grand Rapids, MI
- **R. Shawn Martin**
Vice President, Practice Advancement & Advocacy at The American Academy of Family Physicians



Thomas E. Vaughn, PhD
Director of MHA Program

MHA Program Update

In November, we finally received the official notification of our seven-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Health Management Education (CAHME). Program strengths cited by the accreditation team included multiple opportunities for interacting with, and receiving advising and mentoring from alumni and other professionals.

A related development is the change in the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) criteria for MHA programs. We are no longer required to have our students take the College of Public Health Biostatistics or Epidemiology courses. As a consequence, the MHA Quality Improvement Committee is reviewing all of our analytics courses to determine how we can better prepare our students to engage in process improvement and the increased focus on population health. We will be reaching out to alumni as we revise the curriculum to address these needs.

Our restructured applicant interview process was again successful, despite weather issues that stranded an applicant in Chicago. We will have an incoming class of 27 students this fall. I want to thank the alumni who participated in interviewing these applicants: Tim Ahlers, Rich Armstrong, Cindy Geyer, Scott Kallemeyn, Dennis Hunger, Lynette Lancial, Justin McDonald, Annie Obrecht, Rebecca O'Rourke, Denise Rettig, Melissa Whisler, Kyle Wilcox, Mark Willis, Glen Winekauf and Chad Wolbers.

We are pleased, but not surprised, that all 32 students seeking summer internships were placed. The organizational sites range

across the nation (13 states) and the ocean (Japan). Many of these internships are sponsored by our alumni which I believe is a tribute to the positive impact the program had on their professional lives.

We have several achievements to announce. Our students (Sam Neiswender, Casi Roethler, and Phil Wirtjes) earned honorable mention in the University of Alabama Birmingham Annual Healthcare Case Competition. Three teams (Connie Lee and Casi Roethler, Scott Hurtgen and Andrew (AJ) Nice, and Nick Howald and Phil Wirtjes) participated in a case competition hosted by the University of Kansas. Scott and AJ advanced to the finals in the competition.

Almost 50 students attended ACHE Congress this year. I believe this was far more than any other program. As always, the educational sessions are beneficial, and the opportunity to network with alumni is one of the highlights of the event.

If you have not done so already, I encourage you to log onto our website and read the [student blog](#). I also encourage you to join our [LinkedIn site](#). It is a good way to keep track of your fellow alumna as they advance through their careers.

As always, we are very grateful for all our alumni and friends of the program contribute to developing the next cohort of Iowa-trained healthcare leaders. The opportunity for students to interact with and learn from alumni and other practicing executives is among the strengths of our program. If you have suggestions on ways to strengthen the program, or want to be more involved with the program, the students, or the College of Public Health, please contact Jean Sheeley, Keith Mueller, or me.

Best regards,

Tom



Brian Kaskie, PhD
Director of MPH in
Policy Program

MPH Program Update

Hello from the MPH Program in Policy!

I am delighted to report that this has been another busy and productive academic year for students and faculty in the MPH Program in Policy. First off, I would like to acknowledge that we had a record number (five) of students graduate with the MPH degree in Policy. They are Justin Dedecker, Bryan Garter, John Heinemann, Peter Schumacher, and Jessica Waters.

I also like to report that Chris Atchison, Bobbi Buckner-Bentz, Sara Imhof, Keith Mueller, Brian White, Brad Wright, and I have succeeded in re-configuring the MPH in Policy degree. The vision of the "new and improved" Master's Degree in Public Health Policy sub-track is to prepare highly-qualified graduates for government relations careers in advocacy organizations, consulting firms, government agencies, private, non-profit, and other organizations explicitly involved with health policy. The program mission is to provide students with content knowledge and skills pertaining to the practice of health policy. Our students will acquire the analytic, communication, and interpersonal skills necessary to succeed in real-time policy making roles, involving the development and implementation of health policies.

We also have moved toward creating a new degree program. Pending approval from the Iowa Board of Regents, we have proposed to begin the Master of Science (MS) Degree in Health Policy in AY2014. This new degree program will complement the MPH and provide students with content knowledge and methodological skills pertaining to the practice of health policy analysis and research. Students will acquire a range of skills that allow them to analyze and empirically evaluate policy content, formation, implementation, and outcomes. The vision of the Master of Science (MS) degree in Health Policy is to prepare graduates for policy analysis and research careers in a variety of settings including academic institutions, government agencies, private, non-profit, and other organizations explicitly involved with health policy where a combination of qualitative and quantitative methodological skills are sought.

Also, we're already starting to look forward to the fall semester. On Tuesday, October 15th the University of Iowa Health Sciences Policy Council will be convening the sixth annual Rebalancing Health Care in the Heartland. This year's conference will focus on "the business of healthcare" and consider how health reform implementation impacts employers, state and individual economies.

Enjoy the summer!

Brian

2013 Summer Internship Placements

- Nicolas Aguilar – Iowa Healthcare Collaborative, Des Moines, IA
- Alisa Strohhahn – University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Ophthalmology Department, Iowa City, IA
- Ryan Cochran – University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Legal Department, Iowa City, IA
- Chelsea Cooling – Unity Hospital, Allina Health, Fridley, MN
- Mark Corbeil – HCA Physicians Services, Brentwood, TN
- Dominica Curtis – Office of Statewide Clinical Education Programs, UI College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA
- T.K. Everett – The Emory Clinic, Emory Healthcare, Atlanta, GA
- Meredith Funke – The Emory Clinic, Emory Healthcare, Atlanta, GA
- Tim Goody – Veterans Administration, Iowa City, IA
- Nicholas Howald – StoneCrest Medical Center, TriStar Health System, Smyrna, TN
- Scott Hurtgen – University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, VA
- Janet Kang – University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, IA
- Hannah Kinrade – Mercy Hospital, Alegacy Creighton Health, Council Bluffs, IA
- Jessica Larson – Association of Washington Public Hospital Districts, Seattle, WA
- Connie Lee – MediRevv, Coralville, IA
- Nicholas Lenard – Kameda Medical Center, Japan
- Erin Moen – University of Iowa Children's Hospital, Iowa City, IA
- Jeremy Murdock – Great River Medical Center, Burlington, IA
- Edward Myers – Office of Statewide Clinical Education Programs, UI College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA
- Andrew Nice – Southern Hills Medical Center, HCA, Nashville, TN
- Andrew Patzke – St. Jude Medical, Irvine, CA
- Alyssa Pennington – The Emory Clinic, Emory Healthcare, Atlanta, GA
- Adam Price – Iowa Health Alliance, Iowa City, IA
- Tessa Quintero – New Ulm Medical Center, Allina Health, New Ulm, MN
- Casandra Roethler – Geisinger Quality Institute, Geisinger Health System, Wilkes-Barre, PA
- Claire Simpson – JPS Health Network, Fort Worth, TX
- David Solberg – Husch Blackwell, Kansas City, MO
- Paige Wallace – Unity Point Health, Des Moines, IA
- Claire Watkins – Rush-Copley Medical Center, Aurora, IL
- Katie Westfall – Avera Health, Sioux Falls, SD
- Sara Whetstone – Bergan Mercy Medical Center, Alegacy Creighton Health, Omaha, NE
- Philip Wirtjes – Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Des Moines, IA



Don't forget to 'like' the University of Iowa MHA Facebook page for the latest updates on what is happening with the program, students, and faculty!



Take a look at the HMP Student Blog at hmpstudentblog.blogspot.com. Current students will be blogging on their internship experiences throughout the summer!



Join the program's LinkedIn group to stay in touch with fellow alumni.

On May 17, 2013, the HMP students, faculty, and staff joined to celebrate the graduation of the Class of 2013. Rick Seidler, FACHE, and President/CEO of Trinity Regional Health System shared insights on the importance of leadership in healthcare. Michael Johnson, '13, then shared a checklist with classmates on how to succeed in the future as well as reflected on his time in the program.

Following the presentations, students were recognized individually and presented with a gift—a diploma frame generously donated by alumni. Select students were then recognized for their achievements while in the program. The winner of both the John W. Colloton Outstanding Student Award and the Frank N. Whitson Award for Academic Achievement was **David Whelan, '13**. The Colloton award winner is chosen by current students and denotes someone who holds great potential for making distinguished contributions to the profession. The Whitson award is presented to the student with the highest academic performance.

The winner of the MPH Award, given to a MPH student who demonstrates a commitment to understanding and improving the public's health as well as a commitment to underserved populations, was **Peter Schumacher, '13**. The Milford E. Barnes Award, given to a student that demonstrates scholastic excellence, commitment to public health, and outstanding service, was awarded to **Bryan Garter, '12**.



TOP LEFT TO RIGHT: Rick Seidler, FACHE, sharing his perspective on the future of healthcare; Michael Johnson, '13, reflecting on the Class of 2013's past and present; Dr. Tom Vaughn presenting David Whelan, '13, with the John W. Colloton Outstanding Student Award and the Frank N. Whitson Award for Academic Achievement BOTTOM: The HMP Class of 2013 at Brown Deer Golf Club

Congratulations to the HMP Class of 2013 Graduates!

Master of Health Administration

Alison Amendola	R. Michael Johnson	Tyler Peterson
Carol Ayangbile	Janet Kang	Jennifer Poppen
Megan Browning	Levi Kannedy	Nicolas Rusher
Derek Daly	Andrew Koons	Elizabeth Schnadt
Justin Dedecker	Riley Lehman	Kristen Siegler
Anthony Eves	Danielle Lentsch	Dana Vitullo Albaghdadi
Brittany Fett	Russell Leslie	Karly Wallace
Anna Grinter	Larissa Luckel	David Whelan
Alexander Hill	Cory Mead	
William Holets	Samuel Neiswender	
Lucas Johnson	Zachary Oswald	
	Andrew Patzke	

Master of Public Health

Justin Dedecker
Andrew Patzke
Peter Schumacher

MHA/JD student Darcelle Skeete wins David A. Winston Health Policy Scholarship



Congratulations to MHA/ JD student Darcelle Skeete, one of the 2013 recipients of a David A. Winston Health Policy Scholarship. This \$10,000 scholarship recognizes student excellence and achievement based upon the student's record, recommendations from faculty and colleagues, and evidence of their interest and commitment to health policy. As a part of the scholarship, Skeete will be traveling to Washington, D.C. in the fall to attend a one-day health symposium.

Skeete has also been awarded many other scholarships this year, including:

The Margaret P. Benson Memorial Scholarship: This award recognizes a student committed to women's issues, diversity, and social activism.

Skiff Medical Center, Ron Ross Health Care Administration Scholarship: The award recognizes the financial need, past accomplishments, future goals, and leadership experience of a student currently pursuing a degree in Health Care Administration.

The University of Iowa Diversity Catalyst Award: This award honors faculty or staff members, programs or departments, and student or student organizations engaged in diversity initiatives that have served to promote the development of an inclusive, diverse campus community.

The University of Iowa College of Law Dean's Achievement Award: The award is presented to a student, who through his or her own achievements, has exemplified, promoted, or contributed to cultural, racial, or ethnic diversity in the law.

The University of Iowa College of Law Phillip G. Hubbard Human Rights Award Nominee. This College of Law award selects a student nominee to compete for a university-wide award recognizing outstanding contributions in the area of human rights during the previous year.

Wisconsin Trip, Fall 2012

In late Fall, the first-year HMP students packed their suitcases and headed to Milwaukee. The first stop was in Verona, Wisconsin at the “Intergalactic” headquarters of the healthcare software company EPIC. Upon arrival, the group was taken on a campus-wide tour, participated in a Q&A session, and was even allowed to ride the slide that connects the 2nd floor to the ground level. That evening, students traveled to Milwaukee for dinner and networked with area alumni at Mo’s Irish Pub.

The next day consisted of a trip to Froedert & The Medical College of Wisconsin. Students were able to speak with current executives and alumni about specific initiatives Froedert was implementing, as well as discussed career paths, fellowship experiences, and challenges currently facing the healthcare system.

Special thanks to our alumni, friends of the program, and their organizations for hosting and sharing their time with the students: Anna Barth, ‘06, Lori Cahalan, ‘02, Nicole DeKlotz, ‘09, Ben Fee, ‘09, Josh Goeller, ‘12, Eric Jukkala, ‘10, David Olson, ‘86, and Kara Schutts, ‘09.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Alisa Strohbehn, Meredith Funke, and Nicholas Lenard listen to their tour guide at EPIC

Presentation Skills Seminar

Presenting to leadership teams and executives, boards, and other groups within the community is an integral part of being a healthcare administrator. In April, the first-year MHA students were enlisted in a one-day “Presentation Skills Bootcamp” organized and directed by two Iowa MHA alumni, Shane Cerone, ‘95, and Chris Klitgaard, ‘99.

Cerone and Klitgaard spoke to the class on several important topics involved in presenting: How to prepare and plan the presentation to become an expert on the presentation topic and its delivery; how to make a strong first impression (visual cues/appearance and sound of voice are key here); in addition to the many “technical” details of presenting, like ensuring familiarity with the space you will be in.

Following this presentation, the class was split up into two groups as students were asked to prepare and deliver several short presentations. These were recorded to allow for the mentors and classmates to give constructive feedback and for the presenter to view him/herself and identify areas of improvement. Students found having the chance to view themselves present on the screen a great exercise in discovering certain mannerisms or distracting habits we all exhibit when presenting. The challenge to students is to take the feedback and discipline themselves to avoid repeating the same mistakes (e.g. “uhs” and “ums” between words). The overall experience was very valuable and students agreed the feedback and coaching received from Cerone and Klitgaard were very valuable.



TOP TO BOTTOM: Shane Cerone demonstrating professional presentation skills to first-year students; Cerone and Chris Klitgaard.

Chicago Trip, Spring 2013

The first year MHA and MPH in Policy students journeyed to the city of Chicago on April 17-19. The trip included visits to a wide variety of health care providers as well the opportunity to network with alumni currently working in the Chicago area. The trip began with a visit to the American Hospital Association and the American Medical Association, where each organization gave presentations regarding how they are influencing the future of health care delivery.

The next stop was the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. As a specialty hospital, RIC gave students an in-depth look at the types of services a rehabilitation hospital provides and staff also presented about the ethical component of treating patients with disabilities. Students then journeyed to Lurie Children's Hospital. The visit included a presentation that described how the organization is preparing for the many changes being brought about by the Affordable Care Act. Students were also provided a tour of the new hospital, complete with a look at inpatient rooms, the emergency department, and the many interactive additions to the hospital, like a fire truck complete with working lights.

The first day in Chicago ended with a visit to the corporate offices of Vanguard Health. This visit included a presentation by the CEO of Vanguard Health's Chicago region, William Foley. Mr. Foley gave an in depth look at Vanguard's mission, vision, and values, as well as how the company plans to expand and improve within the Chicago area. Students were also granted a unique opportunity to participate in a brainstorming exercise facilitated by the Vanguard administrators and fellows. The exercise gave students a chance to apply their knowledge of population health by taking real-life situations and generating unique ways a health care organization could mitigate those problems and better serve the patients of a community.

The trip culminated with a visit to John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County. During the visit, students were granted the opportunity to speak with different clinicians and tour the trauma ICU, emergency department, outpatient clinics, neonatal ICU, and radiology departments. The first-year class trip to Chicago was a great experience for each MHA and MPH student, and exposed students to different career paths to take in the future.

Special thanks to our alumni, friends of the program, and their organizations for hosting and sharing their time with the students: George Bergstrom, '74, Jill Keats, '89, and Alexis Barbour Florczak, '06.



TOP TO BOTTOM: Nick Waggoner, '12 and Scott Hurtgen; Adam Price, Steve Birchard, '86, and Alisa Strohhenn; The Class of 2014 during a tour of Lurie Children's Hospital

MPH student Conkling wins Department Award

Congratulations to Bryant Conkling, winner of the Department MPH Award. This award is presented annually to a current student with the potential to have a significant impact on public health.

Changing Healthcare By Design

Each spring, the University of Iowa MHA program supports student attendance at ACHE Congress. This opportunity is arranged by the Iowa Student Association for Healthcare Leaders, removing all barriers for student attendance through assisting in organizing hotels, transportation and financial assistance. Every year, the students return with positive reviews of the sessions, social events and network opportunities, and this year was no exception.

Students attend sessions to help them plan for fellowship preparation, assist with professional development, and examine healthcare issues. Students also have the benefit of being able to have their résumé reviewed and receive career coaching one-on-one by a practicing healthcare executive.

Many students choose to work as Program Assistants at Congress, which gives them an additional financial incentive, along with the chance to attend the executive-level sessions and network with students from other health administration programs across the country. Some of the students were even able to

attend special events, such as the Healthcare Executive Women's Breakfast. Over the course of their time at Congress, the students must provide ACHE with 10 hours of service.

This year, ACHE Congress also included a deserved celebration of Tom Dolan, PhD, '77, the departing CEO of ACHE. Through the assistance of the Iowa Hospital Association and a friend of the program, Lori Wightman (President, Unity Hospital, Fridley, MN), many students were able to attend the dinner and program honoring his time with the organization. The room was filled with over 1,000 of the most influential people in health care today, and it was certainly a night to be remembered. A variety of different individuals were invited to speak on Dolan's contribution to the field, leaving all inspired to become better servant leaders for those they manage.

No Congress would be complete without the hallmark University of Iowa social events, the Alumni Reception and Howl at the Moon gathering. Hawkeyes of all ages had a wonderful time, capping off a week filled with learning and new acquaintances.



TOP LEFT TO RIGHT: Chad Wolbers, '99, Nathan Thompson, '09, David Stark, '96, Kent Lehr, '09, Michelle Niermann, '94, Thomas Mulrooney, '05 and Steve Slessor, '08; Alexandra Lackos, '11, Eric Jukkala, '10, Rachel Cain, '10, Alexis Kolpackos, '11, and Stephanie Lim, '11; BOTTOM LEFT TO RIGHT: Anne Dierker, '81, and Samuel Levey, '59 and '61; Tyler Peterson, '13, Steve Slessor, '08, and Adam Scherling, '12.

ISAHL Wraps Up Another Successful Year

Because of the outstanding participation by students, generous contributions from alumni and sponsors, and support of our Department and College, the Iowa Student Association of Healthcare Leaders (ISAHL) is closing out a record-breaking year. Highlighting the year was 48 ISAHL members' attendance at the ACHE spring Congress in Chicago – the largest number of students the UI has ever sent to the event. ISAHL made it possible by providing students with hotel accommodations and reimbursement for travel expenses.

Throughout the year, ISAHL maintained its strong commitment to community service. Members regularly prepared and shared meals with residents of the Iowa City Ronald McDonald House, and worked on home construction projects for Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity. ISAHL fielded student teams for a number of fund-raising events this year, including the River Run to benefit the Extend the Dream Foundation, the Mind Matters trivia contest to raise awareness and funds for the Mid-Eastern Iowa Community Mental Health Center in Iowa City, and the College of Public Health annual kickball tournament to support the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Besides regular social events, ISAHL sponsored its first-annual semi-formal at Atlas restaurant in Iowa City in April, attended by more than 60 members and their significant others, as well as an end-of-the-year potluck in May.

Finally, please join me in congratulating our newly elected ISAHL officers for 2013-2014. Most importantly, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to this year's exceptional executive team: Derek Daly, T.K. Everett, Connie Lee, Jen Poppen, A.J. Nice, and Claire Watkins. Their energy, dedication, and hard work were the main ingredients for our extremely successful and enjoyable year.

Thank you, and I wish you all a relaxing summer.

Alex Hill, 2012-2013 ISAHL President



ISAHL members at the end-of-the-year potluck

Join us for the annual ISAHL Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Do you like golf? Come join us for the Iowa Student Association of Healthcare Leaders Annual Golf Fundraiser Friday, September 20, 2013 at the Finkbine Golf Course, Iowa City, IA. For more information contact ISAHL president Claire Watkins at Claire.Watkins@uiowa.edu.

Congratulations to the 2013 –2014 ISAHL Officers!



Claire Watkins,
President



Jeremy Murdock, VP of
Professional Development



Phil Wirtjes,
VP of Finance



Alyssa Pennington, VP of
Civic Responsibility



Erin Moen, VP of
Social Engagement

Iowa Study Shows Mental Agility Game Slows Cognitive Decline



Fredric Wolinsky, PhD

A new study from Iowa College of Public Health professor Fredric Wolinsky found that people aged 50 and older who played just ten hours of a game priming their mental processing speed and skills delayed declines by as many as seven years in a range of cognitive skills.

“We know that we can stop this decline and actually restore cognitive processing speed to people,” says Wolinsky, professor in the department of health management and policy and lead author on the paper published May 1 in the journal *PLOS One*. “So, if we know that, shouldn’t we be helping people? It’s fairly easy, and anyone can go get the training game and play it.”

The study comes amidst a burst of research examining why, as we age, our minds gradually lose “executive function,” generally considered mission control for critical mental activities, such as memory, attention, perception, and problem solving. Studies show loss of executive function occurs as people reach middle age; other studies say our cognitive decline begins as soon as 28 years of age. Either way, our mental capacities do diminish, and medical and public health experts are keen to understand why in an effort to stem the inexorable tide as much as possible.

Wolinsky and colleagues separated 681 generally healthy medical patients in Iowa into four groups—each further separated into those 50 to 64 years of age and those over age 65. One group was given computerized crossword puzzles, while three other groups were exposed to a video game called “Road Tour,” (since renamed “Double Decision”), marketed by Posit Science Corp. Briefly, the exercise revolves around identifying a type of vehicle (displayed fleetingly on a license plate) and then reidentifying the vehicle type and matching it with a road sign displayed from a circular array of possibilities, all but one of them false icons. The player must succeed at least three out of every four tries to advance to the next level, which speeds up the vehicle identification and adds more distractions, up to 47 in all.

The goal, naturally, is to increase the user’s mental speed and agility at identifying the vehicle symbol and picking out the road sign from the constellation of distractors (which are rabbits, by the way).

“The game starts off with an assessment to determine your current speed of processing. Whatever it is, the training can help you get about 70 percent faster,” says Wolinsky, who has no financial stake in the brain-fitness game.

The groups that played the game at least 10 hours, either at home or in a lab at the university, gained, and retained, at least three years of cognitive improvement when tested after one year, according to a formula developed by the researchers. A group that got four additional hours of training with the game did even better, improving their cognitive abilities by four years, according to the study.

“We not only prevented the decline; we actually sped them up,” Wolinsky says. The full story on the research study can be found [here](#). Wolinsky’s research was also recently featured in a Wall Street Journal [article](#).



Kwame Nyarko

Wakefield Award Winner

Congratulations to Kwame Nyarko, The 2013 Bonnie J. and Douglas S. Wakefield Award recipient. The award, established in 2005, is presented to recognize HMP Doctoral students who best exemplify the mission of the Health Management and Policy Ph.D. Program in terms of excellence or promise of excellence in health services and policy research. The award provides funds to further enhance the recipient’s continued professional development.

**Heterogeneity in the Impact of Tobacco Policies Across Racial and Ethnic Groups**

Padmaja Ayyagari, PhD — Tobacco use is a leading cause of preventable morbidity and mortality in the U.S. with an estimated 400,000 annual deaths attributed to smoking. Ayyagari's research will study heterogeneity in the impact of policy instruments, such as excise tax on tobacco and smoking bans, on tobacco use. Specifically, the project will examine whether these policies have differential effects on the smoking behavior of individuals belonging to different racial and/or ethnic groups.

Improving Quality of Care and Outcomes in Heart Attack Patients

Marcia Ward, PhD — The American Heart Association's *Mission: Lifeline* is a national, community-based initiative. Its goals are to improve quality of care and outcomes in heart attack patients and improve healthcare system readiness and response. In particular, this initiative aims to increase the number of patients with timely access to reperfusion by addressing the continuum of care for ST-segment-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI).

**Integrating Primary Care and Public Health to Combat Chronic Disease**

Brad Wright, PhD — The high prevalence of poorly managed chronic disease in the United States, especially among vulnerable populations, is a key driver of high health care expenditures and suboptimal population health outcomes. While the integration of primary care and public health has the potential to combat chronic disease effectively, the two fields have a long history of operating independently. This is particularly true of federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), which provide primary care, and local health departments (LHDs), which provide a variety of primary care and public health services.

Managing Team Boundary and Role Structure to Improve Patient Safety

Xi Zhu, PhD — In the last decade, the health care community has devoted significant efforts to improving patient safety through interventions to improve teamwork and communication among care providers. However, evidence of current intervention effectiveness is relatively limited and preventable adverse patient events remain common.

One challenge that medical teams frequently face, but the current interventions fail to address, is how to manage “fuzzy” team boundaries and role structures in a dynamic clinical environment where multiple, sometimes overlapping, teams coexist (e.g., an emergency department). There is a critical need to investigate how medical teams function in multi-team environments and to develop strategies that can be used to assist care providers to manage team boundaries and role structures in such environments.

This pilot project seeks to develop methods and collect preliminary data to study the impact of team boundary and role structure on medical team effectiveness and patient safety.

**Methodologies to Adjust for Respondent Status Effects on Health Outcomes**

Fredric Wolinsky, PhD — The use of proxy-respondents and assisted-interviews is an unavoidable necessity when surveys are conducted with older adults, and such data are routinely used in comparative effectiveness analyses and other health services research that seeks to evaluate alternative and competing medical treatments. Little is known, however, about the potential bias that assisted-interviews and proxy-reports may have on estimating prevalence and other model parameters, although our preliminary work suggests that these effects may be considerable. We propose to apply inverse probability of treatment weights combined with multiple regression models (IPTW-weighted regression) and instrumental variable (IV) methods to adjust for potential self-

selection bias in respondent status when predicting disease histories, insurance status, procedures, and the type and volume of health services in data from the *Survey on Assets and Health Dynamics among the Oldest Old (AHEAD)* baseline and follow-up survey data linked to Medicare claims for a nationally representative sample of 6,645 older adults. When combined with cognitive interviews of target persons, their assistants and proxy-reporters on the front-end, and a modified Delphi expert panel on the back-end, this study will develop a strategic plan for re-engineering surveys and survey items to maximize their accuracy for use in comparative effectiveness studies to determine the relative value of different treatment methods so that patients, their families, and their physicians can make the most informed health care choices.

Freese-Decker, '02, Awarded Young Healthcare Executive of the Year



Congratulations to Christina M. Freese-Decker, FACHE, president of Spectrum Health United Hospital, Greenville, Mich., and Spectrum Health Kelsey Hospital, Lakeview, Mich., recipient of the Robert S. Hudgens Memorial Award for Young Healthcare Executive of the Year for outstanding achievement in the field of healthcare management. The award is given to an exceptional healthcare executive who is less than 40 years old, is a Fellow of ACHE and holds a CEO or COO position in a healthcare organization. Freese-Decker received her award on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, at the Malcolm T. MacEachern Memorial Lecture and Luncheon during ACHE's 56th Congress on Healthcare Leadership in Chicago.

HMP Department Remembers Dedicated Alumnus



With profound sadness we pass along the news that Jeff Peterson, '84, passed away on March 4, 2013. Jeff was an extremely involved alumnus, dedicating his time to the program and mentorship to many students over the years.

Jeff was always proud to say that he had started his career in health care as a dietary utensil sanitizer at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo, Mich. "That was a pretty fancy title for my work as a dishwasher," he said. He later got a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University and a master's in Hospital and Health Administration from the University of Iowa.

Over his career he served as President/CEO, Executive Vice President/COO at a number of healthcare organizations including Mercy Health Partners, St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center in Toledo and he ended his career as Executive Vice President, Hospital Division, at Allina Health, MN. Jeff loved his work. He was a man of integrity who celebrated the accomplishments of everyone. In his free time, he enjoyed being with his family, golfing, hiking, skiing and attending Iowa Hawkeye football games.



Richard Breon, '80, Steve Corbeil, '84, and Peterson

College of Public Health Building Earns Platinum LEED Certification

From The University of Iowa College of Public Health Office of Communications and External Relations

The college celebrated the LEED Platinum certification of the CPH Building on April 4 with the unveiling of the LEED medallion, special guests, and a reception. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification is the highest standard for green design. The College of Public Health Building is the first academic building on campus to earn the designation.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Rod Lehnertz, James Balog, Sue Curry, and Barry Butler pose with the LEED medallion

Guest speakers included Barry Butler, UI provost; Rod Lehnertz, director of planning, design, and construction at UI Facilities Management; and James Balog, National Geographic photographer and founder of the Extreme Ice Survey.

The LEED medallion, which will be displayed in the atrium of the CPH Building, is "a sign of our commitment to innovate and adopt best practices to make our college and university the most responsible stewards of all our resources, and to be champions for that ethic in all that we do," said Dean Sue Curry. "I'm proud that the College of Public Health Building is the first academic facility at the University of Iowa to receive Platinum certification," Curry continued. "But I'm even more proud of the fact that this building reflects the values and the mission of this college, which is to improve the quality of life for people in Iowa, the United States, and throughout the world."

Niermann wins College of Public Health Outstanding Alumni Award



Michelle Niermann, '94, was awarded The College of Public Health Outstanding Alumni Award. The intent of the award is to contribute to an enduring sense of community between the College of Public Health and its alumni and is awarded to CPH alum whose achievements are exceptional.

Niermann earned her MA in Hospital and Health Administration in 1994 and has served as the VP of Operations for St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, since 2008. From 2004 to 2008, she was the Vice President of Operational Effectiveness at St. Luke's.

She has been recognized with several awards, including the Iowa Hospital Association's Young Executive Achievement Award in 2007 and the ACHE (American College of Healthcare Executives) Early Career Healthcare Executive for Iowa in 2006. She also serves on the college's Health Management and Policy Alumni Advisory Board and has been an advocate for College of Public Health throughout the state, the

Iowa Health System, and the local ACHE chapter. In addition, she established an exclusive relationship between the college and St. Luke's to train future health care executives, and has personally mentored several CPH students and played an important role in their professional development. Niermann is also in her second year as Chair of the Planning Committee for the Annual Iowa Healthcare Executive Symposium.

Colloton Receives Honorary Degree

From The University of Iowa College of Public Health Office of Communications and External Relations

On Friday, May 17, 2013, at the University of Iowa's Graduate College commencement ceremony, John W. Colloton received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree, the first such recipient from the UI College of Public Health. The award is in recognition of his more than 50 years of service to the UI Hospitals and Clinics, leadership in medicine and public health, and ongoing commitment to the university and its work.

"His achievements at the state and national levels – from building a first-class, comprehensive tertiary care center at the University of Iowa, to his brilliant management of a highly complex teaching hospital, and astute understanding of the multiple roles of the academic medical center – reflect his preeminent stature in health care administration and policymaking," wrote Sue Curry, dean of the College of Public Health, in nominating Colloton for an honorary degree.

The Mason City native earned a master's degree in hospital and health administration from the UI in 1957, then joined UI Hospitals and Clinics as an administrative intern. In 1971, he became UIHC director, a position he held until 1993.

During his tenure, Colloton oversaw dramatic improvement and expansion of the hospital complex, developments that positioned the UIHC as one of the nation's premier teaching hospitals and delivered advanced medical services to all Iowans. He also became a champion for medical education and research, only the second nonphysician to chair the Association of American Medical Colleges.

In 1987, Colloton was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. His other honors include induction into the National Health Care Hall of Fame, the American Hospital Association's Distinguished Service Award, and the Horatio Alger Award for Distinguished Americans. The John W. Colloton Pavilion at UIHC is named in his honor.

Colloton remains a generous supporter of the UI and its College of Public Health (which today administers education programs in health management and policy). He helped establish the college, which recognizes Colloton and his wife, Mary Ann, as Founding Partners.

"His record of sustained achievement at the highest levels of academic health care and his profound commitment to advancing the University of Iowa in all aspects of its educational, research, and outreach mission are unparalleled," wrote Jean Robillard, UI vice president for medical affairs, in supporting Colloton's nomination.

A committee of UI faculty receives nominations for honorary degrees and forwards recommendations to the university's provost and president. The Iowa Board of Regents reviews and approves honorary degree requests.



John Colloton

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Department of Health Management and Policy
105 River Street, N200
Iowa City, IA 52242

Phone: 319-384-4015
Fax: 319-384-4371



The Department of Health Management and Policy
Alumni Newsletter can be found online at
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alumni/newsletter/](https://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/hmp/alumni/newsletter/)

