It seems that it has not been long since the last newsletter, but another busy academic year is beginning. We are expecting another large intake of graduate students this fall, with our total number remaining at well over 100. In undergraduate teaching, enrollment in the bachelor of health sciences and bachelor of health studies programs continues to grow, including in the family health concentration in the BHSt program, which is largely the department’s responsibility. The department’s Population Health course in the undergraduate medical education continues to thrive, and Dr. Adrienne Morrow, the program co-director, alongside Dr. Joss Reimer, is taking a leave of absence from the position this year. Her position is being ably filled by Dr. Davinder Singh, who is also directing our residency program in public health and preventive medicine.

The department continues to enjoy research success, as indicated by the grants and publications shown in this newsletter. The recruitment processes are well underway for the new Tier II Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) allocated to the department in the areas of program science and global public health, health economics, and analytic techniques in population data science and data curation. I will provide updates on these in the next newsletter, and hope to have an update by then as well on the recruitment process for the next head of department, who will be taking over when I step down on January 1, 2020.

So stay tuned!
Dr. Ian Whetter and Dr. Nicole Riese, part-time faculty members in Community Health Sciences, have recently been awarded Awards of Excellence by the Manitoba College of Family Physicians. The Awards of Excellence recognize College of Family Physicians of Canada members who in the past 12 to 24 months have made an outstanding contribution in a specific area pertaining to one or more of the following areas: patient care, community service, hospital or health care institutions, college activities (national or chapter), teaching, research, or other elements of the academic discipline of family medicine.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Tracie Afifi as the new president-elect of the Canadian Academy of Psychiatric Epidemiology (CAPE)! This is a tremendous achievement and one that recognizes the impact of Tracie’s outstanding research. CAPE is crucial in forwarding the agenda of mental health epidemiology at a national level, and has a rich history of trainee development across disciplines. Tracie’s international research impact, her focus on policy change, and her commitment to training the future scientists of Canada make her a natural choice for this position. Not only an important landmark in her shining career, her tenure will also continue to promote the wonderful epidemiological work that happens here in Manitoba.

Dr. Tracie Afifi has also been awarded the 2018-19 Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) Gold Leaf Prize for Early Investigator. The CIHR Gold Leaf Prizes are among the highest honours that can be bestowed on an individual or team for excellence in health research and its translation into benefits for Canadians. Each CIHR Gold Leaf Prize has a value of $100,000.

On April 10, the 49th Annual Winnipeg Schools’ Science Fair was held on the Bannatyne campus. One category of judging for the Grade 4 through 12 student projects is for the Mathematics and Statistics Innovative Application Awards. A team of judges, primarily students and faculty from the department of community health sciences, examined thirty presentations in this category. Three winners were selected, and trophies and cash awards were presented by Dr. Robert Tate at the closing ceremony on April 13.

The judging team (from left to right around the tables) included Yixiu Liu (MSc student), Dr. Mahmoud Torabi, Dr. Rashida Rabbin, Ellie Sachs (MSc graduate), Dr. Audrey Swift, Erfanul Hoque (PhD student), Olawale Ayilara (PhD student), Oluwagbenga Fakanye (MSc student), Dr. Rob Balshaw, Justin Dyck (MSc student), Dr. Aynslie Hinds, Dr. Robert Tate (team leader), and Shuo Jia (MSc student from biochemistry). Missing from the photo is professor Jeff Babb, from the University of Winnipeg.

Community Health Sciences (CHS) welcomes Dr. Davinder Singh as director of the Public Health and Preventive Medicine Residency Program in CHS. Davinder is a recent graduate of our Public Health and Preventive Medicine residency program. During his residency, he also completed his MSc in Epidemiology from the department of community health sciences, studying the control of influenza outbreaks in long-term care facilities. Our sincere thanks to Dr. Brent Roussin for the outstanding work that he has done over the past seven years in developing and expanding the program, and guiding it through the many changes that it has undergone over the years.

Dr. Allan Ronald received the 2019 John Fitzgerald annual award for contributions to microbiology (selected by the Canadian Association of Clinical Microbiologists and Infectious Diseases).

Jordyn Lerner, MPH student and PHPM resident, received a University of Manitoba Emerging Leader Award, which recognizes the outstanding contributions that students make to the enhancement of the institution and our community.

Congratulations to the following Bold Idea Student Award recipients who participated at the Manitoba Student Health Research Poster Competition and the Community Health Sciences Bold Idea Student Poster Competition held on June 10, 2019. A special congratulations goes out to Elizabeth Sachs who won 1st Place Master’s in the overall Manitoba Student Health Research Poster Competition and Lindsay Allen who received an Honorable Mention (Master’s). In the CHS Bold Idea competition: CHS Bold PhD 1st place: Sarah Turner. CHS Bold PhD 2nd place: Krista Wilkinson. CHS Bold Master’s 1st place: Elizabeth Sachs. CHS Master’s 2nd place: Lindsay Allen. Most Bold Award Recipients: Alexandrea Anderson, Susan Burchill, Mona Mohammadnia, Allison Feely, Charity Maritim, Naomi Hamm, Xuejing Jiang, Yixiu Liu, Marcello Nesca, Nikki Hawrylyshen and Stephanie Monkman.

Elizabeth Sachs receives the 1st place Master’s Award.

Naatasha Mohammad has resigned from her role as Manitoba Training Program Coordinator, providing support to the MTP Director, Dr. Malcolm Doupe and to the program. Naatasha is returning to Edmonton. We welcome Maryam Razzaq, who has taken on the role of Manitoba Training Program (MTP) Coordinator. She is located in S111 Medical Services Building.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/AWARDS**

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**GRADUATE PROGRAM**

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY EVENTS

CANADIAN CONFERENCE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION (CCME)

Karen Cook, Dr. Ian Whetter, Chelsea Jalloh, community partners from the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network and two year 2 medical students developed and presented a workshop with counterparts from eastern universities at CCME this past April. The workshop, Developing Partnerships between Community Organizations and Universities to Deliver Service Learning Experiences for Medical Students, considered best practices in service learning programs for medical students with emphasis from community and student perspectives. The workshop was well attended and a summary of discussions is being prepared for workshop facilitators and participants.

BASKETBALL PROGRAMS

Basketball season is upon us once again. In June, the Office of Community Engagement staff and volunteers delivered about 600 basketballs to 16 local, K-6 schools from the Winnipeg School Division. The presentation of basketballs to graduating Grade 6 students is a way to acknowledge students’ graduation to middle school and to support their participation in accessible recreation over the summer months. Karen Cook, co-lead, Office of Community Engagement, attended Pinkham School’s annual assembly to present this year’s basketballs. Thank you to all volunteers for making Basketball for Inner-City Kids 2019 a huge success! Read the UM Today article: https://news.umanitoba.ca/basketballs-from-u-of-m-empower-inner-city-kids/

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Office of Community Engagement supported the following events since last reporting:
- North End Women's Centre – programming support
- Dufferin Community School – Family Centre

NEW RESEARCH GRANTS


NEW PUBLICATIONS


Bernstein CN, Burchill C, Targownik LE, Singh H, Roos LL. Events within the first year of life, but not the noenatal period, affect risk for later development of inflammatory bowel diseases. Gastroenterology 2019;156(8):2190-2197.


REPORTS, BOOKS, CHAPTERS


PRESENTATIONS

Afifi TO. Physical punishment. Invited guest on the podcast Positively Dad recorded in Tampa Bay, Florida, USA, April 29th, 2019.


Hamm NC, Lix LM. Improving chronic disease incidence surveillance methods by developing and applying dynamic classification models to administrative health data. Canadian Society of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Ottawa, ON, May 13-15, 2019.


Kelly C, Dansereau L, Aubrecht K, Grenier A, Williams A. From disabled activists to older people and their families: Understanding the role of directly-funded home care in Canada 4th Transforming Care Conference. Copenhagen, Denmark, June 24-26, 2019.


MEDIA ARTICLES AND NEWS


BOLD IDEAS COLLOQUIUM SERIES

The CHS Bold Ideas Colloquium Series resumes this fall, each Friday at 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in Theatre E, Pathology Building, Bannatyne Campus (unless otherwise stated).

The first scheduled talk takes place on Friday, September 27 at 12 p.m. in Room A106 Chown Building. Title: Celebrating Bold Idea CHS Students. Speakers: Lisa Lazarus, Jordyn Lerner and Elizabeth Sachs. The full schedule will be advertised shortly.