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**Student Objectives**

**Graduates of the MSPH program are expected to be able to:**

- Articulate the principles that are basic to public health, including methods for assessing the determinants of the population's health;
- Communicate effectively with colleagues, in and out of public health, and the lay public, about the scientific principles that form the basis of the discipline;
- Analyze published literature in public health, including the application of relevant aspects of epidemiology and biostatistics;
- Explain the variability in access to care and public health resources, including the workforce in the United States and abroad;
- Articulate the role of psychosocial factors as they relate to personal behavior, public health communications, education and impact;
- Describe the major environmental health hazards, their effects on individuals, their assessment and development of policies for protection of the public's health;
- Serve as a resource for information on health services, including aspects of healthcare financing and outcomes measurement;
- Delineate the legal and ethical principles that inform public health practice.

# Public Health Link

JEFFERSON COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
MASTERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH E-NEWS

## Faculty Spotlight

During the day, I am the Director of the Epidemiology Unit at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), Division of Disease Control, but you may know me better from such roles as instructor for Principles of Epidemiology (MI 580) or thesis committee chair. I also recently joined the MSPH curriculum committee.

The main job of my unit at the health department is to review and plot the infectious disease surveillance data for the city. We are always on the search for any disease clusters or outbreaks that require investigation. We also collaborate with other PDPH staff on evaluations and cost-

benefit analyses of PDPH initiatives, including the city's *Chlamydia* screening program for high-school students. Being an epidemiologist for the city is a bit like being in pre-school: we spend a lot of time counting and making pretty pictures, and then at 2:00, we take a nap. (My boss isn't on this mailing list, is she?)

Before becoming an epidemiologist, I was a veterinarian for the San Francisco SPCA. After 4 years as a practicing vet, I decided to institutionalize myself by entering a PhD program at Cornell University. My dissertation focused on the long-term effects of early age

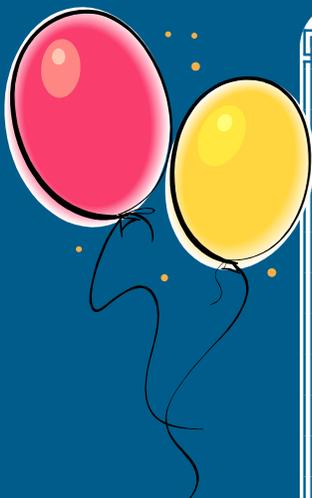
spaying and neutering in dogs and cats. (I'm sure those of you who have taken my class will want to know that this was a retrospective cohort study using both random and systematic sampling. The measure of association was an incidence rate ratio.) While at Cornell, I also conducted research on infections that people can pick up from companion animals and urban wildlife and wrote guidelines for how to prevent such infections.

When I'm not working as an epidemiologist or teaching (torturing) JCGS students, you can usually find me playing cello with the Cypress Trio or the Orchestra Society of Philadelphia. I also enjoy dog training, camping with my partner, and ingesting caffeine and other methylxanthines. (Vic Spain, DVM, PhD)

We are always on the search for any disease clusters or outbreaks that require investigation.  
-Vic Spain, DVM, PhD



Dr. Vic Spain and dog



### Thesis Reminder

If you plan on presenting in November, you must e-mail your abstract to Eleanor Gorman at

[Eleanor.Gorman@Jefferson.edu](mailto:Eleanor.Gorman@Jefferson.edu)

by Oct. 13th.

Presentations will be the week of Nov. 13th.

Your next chance to present, if you plan on graduation June 2007, is in April. Abstracts for those presentations are due March 15th 2007.

The next Information Session will be November 8th in M-61, JAH, 5:30-7:00pm. RSVP Lisa, 3-0154 or [Lisa.Chosed@Jefferson.edu](mailto:Lisa.Chosed@Jefferson.edu)

## Jefferson Master of Science Program in Public Health Receives National Accreditation

The Master of Science Program in Public Health at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia is pleased to announce that it has received accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health, the nation's accrediting body for public health programs.

"We are delighted to have received this important recognition of accomplishment by our young program," says James Keen, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Graduate Studies at Thomas Jefferson University. "We are now looking forward to developing the program further as a leader in the public health education arena in the area."

The program's new accreditation is an important step in the expansion and growth process.

"Public health education and practice is a critical component of Jefferson's future and the welfare of populations," says program co-director Richard Wender, M.D., Alumni Professor and chair of Family and Community Medicine at Jefferson Medical College. "We are so pleased that the outstanding work of our faculty and the high quality of our students have been recognized and validated by our public health accrediting body."

Program co-director David Nash, M.D., MBA, professor and chair of health policy at Jefferson Medical College, agrees. "We are thrilled that our team was successful on the first try at getting the MSPH program fully accredited."

Source: News Release

## Population Health Forum

### Presents: The Rwanda Healing Project

James Plumb MD, MPH; InSung Min MS4, Kelly Sheridan MS2, Ellen Plumb MS2, Emily Hall, Nancy Brisbon MD

September 27<sup>th</sup> 12-1pm  
218 Curtis – 1015 Walnut

*Light Refreshments will be served.  
All are welcome!*

For further information, contact Jim Plumb MD, MPH 215-955-0525



Image source: <http://www.tlfg.ulaval.ca/AXL/AFRIQUE/rwanda.htm>

## Important Announcement at Public Health Open House!



Dr. David B. Nash, MD, MBA, with prospective student

On Wednesday July, 26 the MSPH program hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Open House reception.

Over 75 people attended the event. Guests included current and prospective students, advisory group members, program committee members, staff and administration. The highlight of the evening was Dean Keen's address to the group and the announcement that the MSPH program had received accreditation. The Council on Education in Public Health has now listed us on its website. Please visit it: [www.ceph.org](http://www.ceph.org).

## Opportunity: The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship

Schweitzer Fellows are graduate students in the health disciplines who participate in a year-long, stipend-supported, community service project, and then join the ranks of a national network of Fellowship Program graduates who continue to seek opportunities to serve the community. With guidance from the National Program Office in Boston, a Delaware Valley Schweitzer Fellows Program is now being launched under the leadership of Dr. David B. Nash. Recruitment of Fellowship applicants will take place in the fall of 2006, with the goal of getting underway with the first cohort of Fellows in the late spring of 2007. For further information on the program, including opportunities to sponsor a Fellow, please contact the Program Coordinator, **Nicole Cobb**, MAOM, at 215-955-9995, or [Nicole.Cobb@Jefferson.edu](mailto:Nicole.Cobb@Jefferson.edu).

Source: Health Policy Newsletter



## New Public Health Courses

For the Spring terms, students will be able to register for:

- PH 508: Health Policy: An International Perspective
- PH 606: Qualitative Research Methods

Keep your eyes open for more information, as well as course descriptions on our course listing located on the JCGS homepage:

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

## International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR)

Jennifer Short, PharmD, a fellow in the Department of Health Policy and student in the Public Health program, is the president of the new Jefferson chapter of the ISPOR along with faculty advisor, Laura Pizzi, PharmD, MPH. They say that the goal of this chapter is to provide an environment where students can gain and share knowledge in pharmacoeconomics and health outcomes research. Students interested in this growing field will have an opportunity to network with fellow students, members of the pharmaceutical industry, health-related organizations, and academia. **Jeff-ISPOR** is open to any TJU student. Any questions regarding this organization may be directed to either Laura Pizzi (5-1159, [Laura.Pizzi@Jefferson.edu](mailto:Laura.Pizzi@Jefferson.edu)) or Jennifer Short (5-4137, [Jennifer.Short@Jefferson.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Short@Jefferson.edu)).

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Photos taken by Dr. Dennis M. Gross.