



RUTGERS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CONVOCATION

Friday, May 12, 2017

PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

Please stand

FACULTY MARSHAL

*Stacy Davis, PhD, MPH
Instructor*

GONFALON BEARER

*Yaqun Wang, PhD
Assistant Professor*

WELCOME

*Pamela A. Ohman-Strickland, PhD, MS
Associate Dean for Student Affairs*

CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS

*Brian L. Strom, MD, MPH
Chancellor, Rutgers Biomedical Sciences*

GREETINGS

*May Chan-Liston, PharmD, MPH '14
Governing Board,
School of Public Health Alumni Association*

*Paschal Nwako, PhD, MPH '04
President-Elect,
New Jersey Public Health Association*

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

*Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., MD,
Medal of Excellence Award (MPH)
Stuart D. Cook Student Public Health
Research Awards (MPH/PhD)
Student Government Association Award*

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS (CONTINUED)

*Student Government Association
Excellence in Teaching Award
Student Community Service Award
New Jersey Department of Health
Student Award
Bernard D. Goldstein, MD Award*

SENATOR FRANK R. LAUTENBERG ANNUAL AWARD AND LECTURE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

*Richard G. Marlink, MD
Henry Rutgers Professor of Global Health and
Director, Rutgers Global Health Institute*

RECOGNITION OF DELTA OMEGA INDUCTION

RECOGNITION OF CANDIDATES

*Post-Baccalaureate Certificates
Master of Public Health Degree
Master of Science Degrees*

HOODING CEREMONY

*Doctor of Philosophy Degree
Doctor of Public Health Degree*

CLASS ADDRESS

Nilifa Desilva

CLOSING REMARKS

*Cristine D. Delnevo, PhD, MPH '93
Interim Dean*

RECESSIONAL

Please stand

AWARD DESCRIPTION AND RECIPIENTS

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg Annual Award and Lecture in Public Health

The **Senator Frank R. Lautenberg Annual Award and Lecture in Public Health**, established in 2001, celebrates Senator Lautenberg's outstanding public health achievements. This award is bestowed annually at the Convocation of the School of Public Health in the name of Senator Frank R. Lautenberg to an outstanding leader in public health. Following the presentation of the award, the award recipient delivers the Lecture in Public Health.

Presented to: Richard Marlink

Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., MD, Medal of Excellence Award (MPH)

The **Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., MD, Medal of Excellence Award** is presented by Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences to one student in each of the RBHS schools who has performed at a high level in his or her academic studies; attained notable achievements in basic science and research; demonstrated those high ideals which are traditional to the profession; and engaged in meaningful service to the Rutgers School of Public Health.

Presented to: Nilifa Desilva

Stuart D. Cook Student Public Health Research Awards (MPH/PhD)

The **Stuart D. Cook, MD Student Public Health Research Award** was established in 2004 in honor of Stuart D. Cook, MD, Past President, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). During Dr. Cook's tenure as President, UMDNJ doubled research funding and became the leading research university in New Jersey.

Presented to: Holly Ann Szukis (MPH)

Joetta M. Khan (PhD)

Student Government Association Student Award

The **Student Government Association Student Award** was established in 2006 to recognize a graduating student from each School location for involvement in student activities at the School. The candidate must be a graduating candidate for an MPH, MS, PhD, or DrPH degree at the School; be active in SGA activities or other student-run activities within the School; and have contributed to the growth of the School in terms of student involvement and serving the School community.

Presented to: Veenat Parma

Michele Nicole Calvo

Student Government Association Excellence in Teaching Award

The **Student Government Association Excellence in Teaching Award** was established by the Student Government Association in 2001. This award is given by the Student Government Association to faculty members on each campus for "excellence in teaching and service to public health students."

Presented to: Bernadette West

William Halperin

AWARD DESCRIPTION AND RECIPIENTS

Student Community Service Award

The **Student Community Service Award** is presented annually to a student or students whose fieldwork research has benefited an at-risk community; produced information that has the potential for improving health indicators in the community; and produced a direct positive outcome within the community.

Presented to: **Sundeep Anuraag Gidugu**

Reena Patel

New Jersey Department of Health Student Award

The **New Jersey Department of Health Student Award** was established in 2002 to recognize a graduating student(s) who has made a contribution to the work of the New Jersey Department of Health in the current academic year; was involved in work categorized as public health practice; produced work products that benefited the New Jersey Department of Health; and produced products that are likely to have some sustainable impact or influence on the public's health in New Jersey.

Presented to: **Jessika Anne Weiland**

Bernard D. Goldstein, MD, Award

The **Bernard D. Goldstein, MD Award**, established in 1995 through an endowment from Dr. Goldstein, is awarded annually to recognize academic excellence. Dr. Goldstein was the former Chair of the Department of Environmental and Community Medicine at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, the founding Director of the Rutgers Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute and the former Acting Dean of the UMDNJ-School of Public Health.

Presented to: **Oluwatosin Hannah Ayo-Okuwobi**

Michelle Nicole Calvo

Nilifa Desilva

Pavel Kramata

Suzanne Rose Millward

Joyce Chinonyerem Nwoko

Delta Omega Induction

Delta Omega, founded in 1924, is the honorary society for graduate studies in public health. It celebrates academic achievement, devotion to public health principles and outstanding service in public health. Students are selected from the top ten percent of their graduating class. The 2016 Delta Omega Inductees include:

MPH Graduates:

Jaspreet Meghana Banga

Michele Nicole Calvo

Karina Ann Demair

Nilifa Desilva

Boris Kholdarov

Pavel Kramata

Caryelle Marvissa Lasher

Tracy Ann Listwan

Suzanne Rose Millward

Christa Elizabeth Moor

Ann Marie Hunt Tufariello

MS Graduates:

Qiaohong Hu

Peiwei Zhang

PhD Graduates:

Joetta M. Khan

RUTGERS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH CLASS OF 2017

POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE

Arfa Ansari
Michael Briganti
Kerlyne Brun¹
Almeida Burgos¹
Catherine Connolly
Nonye M. Edoh¹
Yvonne M. Farnacio¹
Amerasinghage Anne Damithri Fonseka¹
Vanessa Freire¹
Emmanuel Gamarra¹
Josefina Gil-Leyva
Alexa Lauren Hendrickson
Mariam Kapanadze
Natalie Makow¹
Nneka Jane Nwaogwugwu
Anjana Pawa
Esha S. Pawar
Ragena Riley
Shaun N. Shahani

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Lisandra Dibbi Achaibar¹
Sayyeda Ahmed
Cora N. Alexander
Theresa Oluwabusayo Amoloja¹
Richard Arilotta
Ayesha W. Aslam¹
Oluwatosin Hannah Ayo-Okuwobi¹
Veronica G. Azer
Ronke Latifatu Babalola¹
Alexandria Bachert
Rita Laimute Baltus¹
Jaspreet Banga
Matthew Howard Broad

Michele Nicole Calvo¹
Milibeth R. Castro¹
Danielle Victoria Cestare
Ashley Chan
Aisha Chaudhry
Laxmi B. Chavali¹
Lessley Chiriboga
Caroline N. Ciecierski
Dorothy L. Clinton
Abdelmoeen Dandis
Karina Ann Demair¹
Mine Demirel
Nisha Rajesh Desai
Nilifa Desilva
Yunes Doleh
Jianyu E
Cassandra Ketsia Edwards¹
Laura Ann Eirich
Uchenna Chibundu Esomonu¹
Mohammad Fawad Bin Farooq¹
Cynthia L Ferrer-Cespedes
Sundeep Anuraag Gidugu
Morgan Alyse Glinka
Shweta Gohil¹
Tanvi Goyal
Veronica Catherine Guevara
Iris Herrera
Suseela Meenakshi Janakiraman
Tina John¹
Saloni Rajesh Joshi¹
Sandhya Jupalli
Boris Kholdarov
Lea Kimmelman¹
Katherine Mary Kovacs
Pavel Kramata¹
Artem Krutyansky

¹ Degree was awarded prior to commencement

RUTGERS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH CLASS OF 2017

Knapp Richard Kyle
Caryelle M. Lasher¹
Tracy Ann Listwan¹
Marwa Aly Mansour¹
Jacqueline S. Marotto
Amy M. Matcho
Dresden Gabrielle Maxwell
Jamila S. McLean¹
Camille C. McNally
Sheela A. Mehta¹
Suzanne R. Millward¹
Neil S. Mistry¹
Christa Moor¹
Brett Alison Nance
Bharat Ishwarlal Nandu
Venita Petra Nankoo¹
Joyce Chinonyerem Nwoko¹
Oluwatoniloba Adebola Okuwobi¹
Nicole Marie Omaggio
Maria Abey Palakudiyil
Veenat Parmar
Jay Vimal Patel¹
Kinjalkumar Mahendrabhai Patel¹
Komil Bhupendrabhai Patel¹
Megha Patel
Niyatiben Kamleshkumar Patel¹
Prashanta Kishorbhai Patel¹
Reena Patel
Rutu Dhulesia Patel¹
Nataly Patino¹
Candice Shaïla Patraju¹
Jacqueline Suzanne Polk
Madeline Morgan Pucciarello¹
Ralisha Rhonda Questelles
Sushama Ramiseti¹
Vasana Nadhika Ranasinghe¹

David W. Ray
Kiiera Shanique Robinson¹
Allison Lindsay Ruddock¹
Joke Mujidat Salako
Roshani Shah¹
Sabeha Shah
Rashmee Shenvi
Sarah Simpson
Valerie Marie Slawinski
Janelle Staniewicz
Julia L. Sugumar
Holly Ann Szukis
Alifiya Sabir Tahir
Ann Hunt Tufariello¹
Aayush Visaria
Brianna Lynn Wapples
Jessika Weiland¹
Alvin S. Yanza¹

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIostatISTICS

Deli Cao
Qiaohong Hu
Yuanyuan Qiu
Zhenglan Wan¹
Lulu Yang
Peiwei Zhang

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH OUTCOMES, POLICY, AND ECONOMICS

Tina Dharamdasani
Abimbola Halima Onigbanjo Williams¹
Kazumi Hasmukh Patel¹
Manish B. Patel¹
Miraj Yogesh Patel
Ankitaben Vijaykumar Shah

¹ Degree was awarded prior to commencement

RUTGERS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH CLASS OF 2017

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Rajita Bhavaraju, MPH '97

Mentor: Cristine Delnevo, PhD, MPH '93 &
Marian Passannante, PhD

Dissertation: **Factors Related to the Offer of HIV Testing and Known HIV Status in Persons with Tuberculosis**

Victor DeCandia I, MBA, MS

Mentor: Michael Gochfeld, MD

Dissertation: **Comparison of Expert Judgment vs. Veteran Self-Report of Exposure and Health Concerns of US Veterans of Conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan**

Isaias Noel Gendrano III, MPH '03

Mentor: George Rhoads, MD, MPH

Dissertation: **The Impact of Gastrectomy on Diabetes and Related Conditions, Coronary Heart Disease, Stroke, Cancer, and Survival: Follow-Up from the Honolulu Heart Program**

Joetta M. Khan, MPH

Mentor: Patrick Clifford, PhD

Dissertation: **Military Readiness: Relationships among Alcohol Use, Eating Habits, Exercise, and Body Mass Index**

Manthan Shah I, MPH '11

Mentor: Derek Shendell, DEnv, MPH

Dissertation: **Analysis of Lead in Sindoors and Related Religious Powders Purchased in New Jersey and India**

Jun Zou, MSc

Mentor: George Rhoads, MD, MPH

Dissertation: **Some Effects of Exposure Misclassification on Epidemiological Studies**

DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Lindsay Rechtman, MPH, MCHES

Mentor: Patrick Clifford, PhD

Dissertation: **Investigation of a Protective Behavioral Strategies Brief Alcohol Intervention Targeting Community College Students**

Tina Young, MS

Mentor: Weichung Shih, PhD

Dissertation: **A New Paradigm of Finding the Maximum Tolerated Dose in Phase I Cancer Clinical Trials with Application to IL-21**

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The listings of graduates in this program are based upon information provided to the University Office of Academic Affairs at the time of submission of the program for publication. These listings are unofficial. The official conferral of degrees/certificates occurs upon satisfactory completion of all academic requirements and the fulfillment of all financial and other obligations to the University.

ACADEMIC ATTIRE

Academic attire was first used at universities during the 12th and 13th centuries, originally to provide warmth. At Oxford and Cambridge in the 16th century, each college developed distinctive costumes for each degree awarded, and eventually issued extensive regulations governing the details of these costumes. Academic dress was imported from England to America in the 18th century and used at Columbia University (then King's College) and other colleges founded during the colonial period. In 1895, the Intercollegiate Code standardized the cut, style, materials and colors of academic attire for all colleges and universities in the United States, and in 1902 the International Bureau of Academic Costume was established to set and update standards for American academic dress, which most US institutions of higher education continue to follow.

Approved academic attire consists of a cap, gown, and hood. The gown is black for all baccalaureate and higher degrees. Gowns for bachelor's and master's degrees have no trimming; doctoral-degree gowns have black or discipline-specific color velvet trim down the front and three chevrons of the same trim on each sleeve. The hood, originally worn on the head for warmth, is currently worn around the neck, hanging down the back, and measuring three feet for bachelor's degrees, three and one-half feet for master's and four feet for doctoral degrees. In the United States, bachelor's hoods are usually omitted. The hood bears the color codes of the level of the degree, the academic field in which the degree was earned, and the institution that conferred the degree. Thus the color(s) of the silk lining of the hood are the official colors of the institution, and the border color represents the faculty or field of study.

Some of these border colors identifying academic disciplines are as follows:

Arts, Letters, Humanities: White	Library Science: Lemon
Business: Tan	Medicine: Green
Dentistry: Lilac	Nursing: Apricot
Education: Light blue	Philosophy: Dark blue
Engineering: Orange	Public Health: Salmon pink
Law: Purple	Science: Golden yellow

Universities and colleges register their official colors with the Intercollegiate Bureau of Academic Costume. The official colors of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey is scarlet, seen on the silk linings of the hoods of our graduates. Hoods are sometimes not worn until the degree is actually conferred, with a ceremonial act of hooding taking place at this point in time.

The approved cap is the mortarboard, a stiff board nine inches square worn with the points to the front and back. Soft-material tams may alternately be used for doctoral-degree holders. A silk cord with a tassel is attached to a button on the center of the cap; it is gold for doctoral degrees and otherwise black. Tradition calls for the tassel to be worn on the right of the cap before the degree is conferred, then moved to the left afterward.

The Rutgers School of Public Health seeks to improve health and prevent disease in diverse populations in New Jersey and around the world through educating students to become well-qualified and effective public health leaders, researchers, and practitioners; conducting research to advance public health science and policies; and providing service programs that promote population and individual health.

The School offers MPH, MS, PhD, and DrPH degrees, as well as many dual degrees and post-baccalaureate certificate programs. The School has a strong research program addressing several areas in public health, including clinical trial methodology, air pollution, cancer disparities, social epidemiology, maternal and child health, health economics, health care reform and insurance, and addictions including tobacco and alcohol. Students can put their public health education into practice through participation in the School's community service and practicum projects. Bridging the Gaps, an active community service program, places students in multiple public and private agencies around the state and provides summer experiences in agencies in Camden, New Brunswick, and Newark. The School also has a productive continuing education program addressing many issues in public health with a special emphasis on hazardous waste worker training.

Over 1,900 of our alumni serve in the field of public health in many diverse ways. We celebrate this evening with the members of the Class of 2017 as they go forward to take their place among the number of public health professionals who contribute daily to the safeguarding of the health of all people locally, nationally, and around the world.

With sincere appreciation and gratitude
to the
faculty, staff, students,
parents and families of our students,
alumni, alumnae, and friends
of the
Rutgers School of Public Health



