University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health Seventieth Convocation

Saturday, May 9, 2020
Program

PROCESSIONAL

OPENING
Convocation Marshal Ryan Minster
Associate professor, human genetics

WELCOME

JAMES L. CRAIG
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD
Presented by Lydia Tiguert
Student Government Association,
to John Shaffer
Assistant professor, human genetics

CONVOCATION ADDRESS
Bernard D. Goldstein
Dean emeritus, Graduate School of Public Health
Professor emeritus of environmental and occupational health

PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES
Martha A. Terry
Associate professor, behavioral and community health sciences

RECOGNITION OF DELTA OMEGA HONOR SOCIETY
OMICRON CHAPTER INDUCTEES

CLOSING
Ryan Minster

RECESSIONAL

DEPARTMENT CELEBRATIONS
James L. Craig
Excellence in Teaching Award

Established by University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health alumnus James L. Craig (EOH ’63), this award recognizes faculty who have excelled in the teaching and mentoring of students. Craig awardees are nominated annually by Pitt Public Health students and selected by a committee of Pitt Public Health students and past Craig awardees.

John R. Shaffer received his BS in biology from The Pennsylvania State University and his PhD in human genetics from the University of Pittsburgh. He then pursued postdoctoral studies in statistical genetics before joining the faculty of Pitt Public Health in 2011. He is currently an assistant professor in the departments of human genetics and oral biology and an affiliate faculty member in the Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics.

Shaffer teaches one of the core classes in HUGEN: Human Population Genetics, and in 2014 he was the recipient of a provost’s Innovation in Education Award to build educational software simulating human evolutionary forces and phenomena for this class.

In addition to classroom teaching, Shaffer has served as a research mentor to four post-doctoral trainees, ten graduate students, and nine undergraduate students; and has been active in Pitt’s Training and Experimentation in Computational Biology summer research program. His research is focused on understanding the genetic architecture of complex human phenotypes, with particular interests in craniofacial and dental genetics, oral health disparities, and recovery from brain injury. His research has been funded by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and the National Human Genome Research Institute. In recognition of his research accomplishments, Shaffer has been the recipient of a number of awards including the Herbet S. Rosenkranz Award for Public Health Research (Pitt Public Health), the William J. Gies Award for Biological Research (the International and American Associations for Dental Research), and the Giddon Award for Distinguished Research in the Behavioral Sciences (International Association for Dental Research).
Convocation
Speaker

Bernard Goldstein is a physician and toxicologist who is emeritus dean and emeritus professor of environmental and occupational health at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. Before coming to Pittsburgh he was founding director of the Rutgers University Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute and chair of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Environmental and Community Medicine. At Rutgers he was also initial director of its National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Center of Excellence.

Goldstein has published over 200 papers related to environmental health. He is an elected member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and of the National Academy of Medicine. He has served on or chaired committees related to environmental health for the National Academies of Science, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environmental Program, and the Paris-based Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment.

His experience includes appointment as assistant administrator for research and development of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1983–85, and election as president of the Society for Risk Analysis. International experience includes visiting professorships at Brunel University and the St. Thomas Medical School in England, the Universiti Putra Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur, the Harvard School of Public Health, and the University of Cologne, the last related to EU/U.S. differences in response to shale gas.

Goldstein is currently active on issues related to the interface between environmental science and public policy. This has led to his testifying twice in the past year to congressional committees looking at EPA issues and at global climate change, op eds in The Washington Post and Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, and various blogs and public presentations nationally and internationally.
Abbreviations

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS
CBPRP   Community-Based Participatory Research and Practice
EHRA    Environmental Health Risk Assessment
EPHPHE  Evaluation of Public Health Promotion and Health Education Programs
GLBHLT  Global Health
HSEPH   Health Care Systems Engineering
HE      Health Equity
HSLM    Health Systems Leadership and Management
LGBT    LGBT Individuals' Health and Wellness
PHGEN   Public Health Genetics

*  Certified in Public Health
°  Delta Omega Honor Society

DEPARTMENTS
BCHS    Behavioral and Community Health Sciences
BIOST   Biostatistics
EOH     Environmental and Occupational Health
EPIDEM  Epidemiology
HPM     Health Policy and Management
HUGEN   Human Genetics
IDM     Infectious Diseases and Microbiology
MULTI   Multidisciplinary Master of Public Health
Graduates of the Class of 2019–20

BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES

Doctor of Philosophy
Sara Baumann
*Cynthia L. Salter

Jonathan Marc Raviotta

Master of Public Health
Lindsay F. Bell
Amanda Kim Carpenter, GLBHLT
Jennifer Marie Enriquez
Adrianna T. Gradisek
Jessica Renee Hessler
*Hannah Jo Kupets
Lisa Guttentag Lederer
Janke Bjorn Mains-Mason
Zachary D. Michaels
Kaitlin Elizabeth Powers
John W. Ries
Daniel I. Rzewnicki
Kayla Ann Warren, HE

Julie Ann Brewer
Alison Paige Decker
Ashley Gallo
Caroline K. Harpel, EPHPHE
Emily Kuen Klawson
Michael Kinne Latady
Alysse Delphia Littleberry, EPHPHE
Hannah Lin Makarevich, GLBHLT
Cassandra Elizabeth Nedley
Carolyn Rose Prutting
Lauren Renee Risser, CBPRP
Nanina Oliverio Sexton, GLBHLT

BIOSTATISTICS

Doctor of Philosophy
Tianyu Ding
Md Tanbin Rahman
Zhe Sun

Huang Lin
*Tao Sun
Jun Zhang

Master of Science
*Kayleigh Marie Adamson
Kristina L. Boyd
Chandler Strickland Capps
Richard James Cuddy
Jennifer M. Fedor
Jinhong Li
Ruishen Lyu
Priyanka V. Setty
Mengqi Wang
Jie Yao

Kendra Jean Bobby
Kelly Cahill
Shangzhen Chen
Graham Lucas Cummin
Anni Guo
Elijah Zachary Lovelace
Jason M. Mao
Ruopu Song
Yunfei Xie
Jianhui Zhu

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Doctor of Public Health
Kristin L. Frawley
Doctor of Philosophy
Teresa Anguiano, EHRA
Shuo Cao
Chia-Hsin Liu
Amrita Sahu

Rahel L. Birru
Travis Bradley Lear
Antonella Marrocco
Cody Matthew Wolfe

Master of Public Health
Jessica Suzanne Albrecht, EHRA
Samantha Carpenter Totoni, CBPRP, EHRA

Mikayla Marie Kerr, EHRA

Master of Science
Devin A. Boyles, EHRA
Yi Lu

Tengziyi Ge

Epidemiology
Doctor of Philosophy
Shalkar Adambekov
°Chendi Cui
Guru Rajesh Jammy
Curtis Tilves, GLBHLT
Lingshu Xue

Tenley K. Brownwright
Kyle Evan Freese
Sharon Welburn Renner
Mary Elizabeth Winger
Lei Zhu

Master of Public Health
Guy Michael Agostinelli
Hiba Anwer
Kharlya Carpio
Gabrielle Corona, HE
Jennifer Elil
Brandon Matthew Herbert
Sarah Martin
Alexa Joyce Meinhardt
Sarah M. Morgan, GLBHLT
Kathleen Ann Shedlock
Julia Jean Yudkovicz

°Hannah Lee Allen
Ashlyn Marie Bulas
*°Margaret Jillian Carr, EPHPHE
Sarah Elizabeth DePerrior
Walter Mark Greenhalgh
Arshad Thaaqib Khalid
Madeline Mason
Sejal Vijay Mistry, HE
°Taylor Paglisotti
Hinnah Siddiqui

Master of Science
Michelle Jung Clifton
Michael Vincent Genuardi
Gretchen M. Swabe

Paris S. Ekeke
Allison Cathryn Koller

Health Policy and Management
Doctor of Philosophy
Mara Alyse Greene Hollander
Ilincia D. Metes

Tumader Khouja
Raymond G. Van Cleve

Master of Public Health
Morgan Isabel Benner, HSEPH
Jordan Kaye Bullock
Mary Kathleen Duncan
Jesse A. Helfer
Kaitlyn G. Saal-Ridpath

Kiran A. Borkar
Kexin Chen, HSEPH
Krista Grobelny Ebbert
Troy Danean Lyons
°Heather Elyse Tomko
Master of Science
Terri V. Newman
Alvaro San Juan Rodriguez

Master of Health Administration
Ilham A. Abdi, HSEPH
Kaleb Joseph Behanna
Elizabeth Jane Born
Erika Simone Garrison
Victoria Janna Cable Kulli
Sydney Elizabeth Pack
William Patrick Powell
Katherine Ryan Robertshaw
Katerina Shabalov
Maira Undavalli, HSEPH
Deborah Wokpetah

*Jennifer M. Andrews
Justin Benkovszky
Chandler Collins Caufield
Emily Joseph
*Terrence Michael Arañez Litam, HE
Ritambhara Pathak
Megan E. Preti, HSEPH
Johnanne Ross
Lydia Nada Tiguert, HSEPH
*Michael Anthony Whalen
Zack Strock Zambrano, HSEPH

HUMAN GENETICS
Doctor of Philosophy
Jason Christopher Carson
Kathyayini Parlikoti Gopalakrishna
Nandini Ramesh
Andrew Guelde Sinsheimer
Megan Laura Gliozzi
Bruce Chike Nmezi
Emily Marlene Russell

Master of Public Health
Victoria Anne Bacon
Sarah Elizabeth Brunker
Jodi Ellen Kutzner
Marilyn H. Ngo, GLBHLT
Natasha K. Robin Berman
Pooja Solanki
Lauren Winter
Stephanie Betts
Megan F. Hoenig
Claire Elizabeth McDonald
Prital Atul Patel
Charlotte Ernst Skinner
Jessica Claire Tiner

Master of Science in Human Genetics
Annie Infancia Arockiaraj
Anushe Munir
Thanhlong Gilbert Tran
Lingling Chen
Morgan Sedorovitz
Kelly Lynn Urbanek

Master of Science in Genetic Counseling
Alyssa Marie Azevedo
Stephanie Betts
Caroline Kathleen Bong
Christine Marie Drogan
Andrew C. Fazenbaker
Ashley E. Lahr
Sarah Annette McGee
Charlotte Ernst Skinner
Kaitlin M. Sullivan
Lauren Winter
Victoria Anne Bacon
Kelsey Margaret Bohnert, LGBT
Sarah Elizabeth Brunker
Alyson Eileen Evans
Megan F. Hoenig
Claire Elizabeth McDonald
Natasha K. Robin Berman
Pooja Solanki
Rosemarie Elizabeth Venier
INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND MICROBIOLOGY

Doctor of Philosophy

Henry Ma, GLBHLT

Jacob Patrick Richards

Master of Public Health

*Samira Gasanovna Amirova, PHGEN
Megan Elizabeth Arden, GLBHLT
Briana R. Edison
Rachel L. Jaffe
Megan Nicole Kerbag
Katherine Leigh Lyden
Marianna Ortiz
Elizabeth Marie Owens
Abigail McGartland Rubio
Jessica Elizabeth Salerno
Sean Gregory Saul
Georgie L. Scott
Quinn Solomon
Andrew Taylor Whaley

*Cheyenne Nicole Annarumo, GLBHLT
Laura Susan Dyttrt, GLBHLT
Lauren Ann Fogelman, GLBHLT
*Dzigbordi Kamasa-Quashie, GLBHLT
Brian C. Kimball
Monica Kathleen Nelson, GLBHLT
Inngide Elizabeth Osirus, GLBHLT
Omar Rahman
Saniya Sandeep Sabnis
Rajeev K. Salunke
Victoria Lynn Schmalstieg
*Kelsey Ellen Simon, GLBHLT
Sarah Briana Sullivan

Master of Science

Byron Wang Chuan
Gwenddolen Kettenburg
Emily L. Olsen, GLBHLT
Katrina M. Stephenson
Michael Brandon Yee

Victoria A. Gould
Zachary Taylor Koenig
Karsen Ellery Shoger
Subramanian Thothathri
*Jason Alexander Yeung

MULTIDISCIPLINARY

Master of Public Health

Yamira Kechi Dwana Bell
Marin Kheng, GLBHLT
Gi Ppeum Lee
Roland Massaad
Azadeh Rezaie
Sara M. Safdari-Sadaloo
Erica Lynn Stevens
Kavita S. Vinekar
Yang Yu

David Edward Gorski
Jeremy Saed Landeo Gutierrez
Karen Lin
*Sangki Oak, GLBHLT
Devin Emory Rogers
*Ariel Karyn Snell
*Emilie Transue
Simon Paulos Yohannes
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Rubio, Abigail (IDM), “In vitro susceptibility of multidrug-resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa following treatment-emergent resistance to ceftolozane-tazobactam”

Russell, Emily (HUGEN), “Discrepant effects of CREB2F on obesity and metabolic phenotypes, and signals of selection in Samoans”


Saal-Ridpath, Kaitlyn (HPM), “400 Miles or Less: The Case for Local Food Procurement Policies in U.S. Schools”

Sabinis, Saniya (IDM), “Infection Prevention Measures to Reduce External Ventricular Device-Related Surgical Meningitis and Ventriculitis”


Sahu, Amrita (EOH), “Klotho: A Paracrine Mediator of Skeletal Muscle Regeneration”


Salter, Cynthia (BCHS), “Perceptions and Experiences of Patient Birth Trauma Among Maternity Healthcare Professionals: An Exploratory Study”

Salunke, Rajeev (IDM), “PrEP Usage Demographics Among Participants who were Surveyed Using Convenience Sampling at Two LGBTQ Focused Events in Pittsburgh”

San Juan Rodriguez, Alvaro (HPM), “Impact of Generic Competition on Prices of Brand Self-administered Disease-Modifying Therapies for Multiple Sclerosis”

Saul, Sean (IDM), “The Relationship Between the Ordering of a Respiratory Viral Panel and the Presence of Acute Respiratory Illness and Influenza-like Illness Symptoms Reported in the Electronic Medical Record”

Schmalstieg, Victoria (IDM), “Clostridioides difficile Prevention in Health Care Settings and Future Improvement”

Scott, Georgie (IDM), “Evaluation of Pennsylvania’s Mosquito-Borne Disease Control Program and Futur Directions”

Sedorovitz, Morgan (HUGEN), “Transcriptional regulation of angiotensinogen
by oncogenic K-Ras"


Sexton, Nanina (BCHS), “Physical Education in Pennsylvania Public Schools: Stricter Policy To Reduce Child and Adult Overweight and Obesity”

Shabalov, Katherina (HPM), “Optimizing the Post-Operative Patient Transition from Anesthesia to the Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit: A Handout Improvement Initiative”

Shedlock, Kathleen (EPIDEM), “Environmental Justice Metrics Contextualize the Preterm Birth Disparity in Allegheny County”

Shoger, Karsen (IDM), “Tissue Specific Cish Expression Supports Alveolar Macrophage Homeostatic Function”

Siddiqui, Hinnah (EPIDEM), “Functional Outcomes and Mortality Rates for Ischemic Stroke Patients Presenting in Rural Hospitals or Urban Hospitals in Pennsylvania”


Sinsheimer, Andrew (HUGEN), “Understanding ACAD9 function and the physiologic consequences of its deficiency”

Skinner, Charlotte (HUGEN), “Evaluating proposed phenotypic predictors of recurrence risk in unaffected individuals with a family history of isolated cleft lip with or without cleft palate”

Snell, Ariel (MULTI), “Association Between a Child’s Caries Experience and the Mother’s Perception of Her Child’s Oral Health Status”

Solanki, Pooja (HUGEN), “Patient Experience in Medical Care with Cutis Laxa”

Solomon, Quinn (IDM), “An Epidemiological Analysis of MDRO Acquisition in Critically Ill Burn Patients in Western Pennsylvania”


Stephenson, Katrina (IDM), “Identification of Circulating Biomarkers of HIV Disease Progression”

Stevens, Erica (MULTI), “Can the effects of outdoor air pollution on asthma be mitigated?”

Sullivan, Kaitlin (HUGEN), “Addressing psychiatric disorders in genetic counseling”

Sullivan, Sarah (IDM), “Effect of Asbestos Fibers and the Association with Pneumonia Mortality”

Sun, Tao (BIOST), “New Statistical Methods for Complex Survival Data with High-Dimensional Covariates”

Sun, Zhe (BIOST), “Novel statistical methods in analyzing single cell sequencing data”

Swabe, Gretchen (EPIDEM), “HDL-C and Menopause in Women: The Contribution of Estradiol and Inflammation”
Thothathri, Subramanian (IDM), “Transfer of DC instruction to T cells via extracellular vesicles”

Tiguert, Lydia (HPM), “An evaluation of healthcare appointment scheduling: the effects on quality, access, and efficiency”


Tiner, Jessica (HUGEN), “Utility of CREBRF Genotype with BMI in Prediction of Type 2 Diabetes”

Tomko, Heather (HPM), “Cost-effectiveness analysis of prophylaxis duration following lung transplantation for CMV mismatch and non-mismatch recipients”

Totoni, Samantha (EOH), “Under the Radar: Lead Exposure via Hunted Meat”

Tran, Thanhlong (HUGEN), “Advances in understanding the regulation of acvr11 gene expression”

Transue, Emilie (MULTI), “Healthcare threat assessment: classifying attacks, developing a team, and managing threats”

Undavalli, Maira (HPM), “A Case Study: The Implementation of the Meds to Beds Program on the Gynecology/Oncology Unit at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital”

Urbanek, Kelly (HUGEN), “A CRISPR screen using BV2 cells identifies sialic acid synthesis genes as required for reovirus attachment and infection”

Van Cleve, Raymond (HPM), “Home and community based services: who is using them and can they prevent hospital admission?”

Venier, Rosemarie (HUGEN), “Evaluation of Barriers to Genetics Referrals in Pediatric Oncology”

Vinekar, Kavita (MULTI), “Early pregnancy services at crisis pregnancy centers and abortion facilities in the United States: a mystery caller study”

Wang, Mengqi (BIOST), “Compare the Effectiveness of SLKT and LTA by the Instrumental Variable Method”


Winger, Mary (EPIDEM), “The associations between muscle function, physical performance, and falls and fall injuries in older adults”

Winter, Lauren (HUGEN), “Pregnancy Body Mass Index and its Relationship with Maternal and Fetal Health Outcomes in Rural Appalachia”

Wokpetah, Deborah (HPM), “A Business Plan for Health Insurers: How to Tackle Fraud and Insurance Claims with Technology”

Wolfe, Cody (EOH), “The Role of APOE Isoform and TREM2 Deficiency in Alzheimer’s Disease Progression”

Xie, Yunfei (BIOST), “Assessing risk factors and predicting sepsis mortality”
using logistic and survival methods”

Xue, Lingshu (EPIDEM), “Long-term effects of diabetes pharmacotherapy and multiple medication use on clinical and economic outcomes from claims datasets”

Yao, Jie (BIOST), “Modelling stillbirths with natural cubic splines”


Yeung, Jason (IDM), “Zika Virus Infection Modulates Expression of Regulatory Complement Factors in SH-SY5Y Cells”

Yohannes, Simon (MULTI), “Association Between Psychiatric Symptoms and Sexual Risk Behaviors in Immigrants and Refugees from Africa Living in Sweden”

Yu, Yang (MULTI), “Associations among Problem-solving, Adherence to Diet and Physical Activity Goals, and Weight Loss among Individuals Participating in Weight Loss Study”

Yudkovicz, Julia (EPIDEM), “The Genetic Correlation Between Cardiometabolic Disease and Functional Status in Long-Lived Adults”

Zambrano, Zack (HPM), “A Case Study: Patient Satisfaction Intervention in Acute Care Settings and their Impact on HCAHPS Scores”

Zhang, Jun (BIOST), “Interpretable Analysis of Multivariate Functional Data”

Zhu, Jianhui (BIOST), “Statistical learning for the analysis of multimodal sleep in older men”

Zhu, Lei (EPIDEM), “Association between Long-term PM2.5 Exposure and Subclinical Atherosclerosis: Are midlife women a potential “at risk” population?”
Pitt Public Health congratulates all our graduates and honorees!

About the cover image: The laurel leaf has long been a symbol of success and an emblem of prosperity and fame. It is said to communicate the powers of peace and immortality.