



**Hebrew University-Hadassah
Braun School of Public Health & Community Medicine
International MPH Alumni Newsletter**

February 2012



GREETINGS FROM JERUSALEM!

I am writing this on board a flight to Nairobi, Kenya where I will be teaching a course on COPC, together with Dr. Osnat Keidar, at Kenyatta University (KU). The Braun School is providing capacity building support to KU's recently established School of Public Health. Osnat just received her PhD from our School and her research project focused on the development and evaluation of a school-water project in one of the largest slums in Nairobi. Osnat's successful project served as the basis for Kenya's recently launched national safe-water initiative. As part of the HU-KU partnership, Dr. Ronny Shtarkshall ran a workshop at KU earlier this year on cultural sensitivity in developing HIV interventions. While in Nairobi, we will host an informal get-together with all available Kenyan IMPH Alumni. I will be stopping in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the way home for a series of meetings and an Ethiopian IMPH Alumni reunion. I'll let you know how things went in the next newsletter.

We are delighted to announce that MASHAV has committed to fund 14 scholarships for IMPH students over the next five years! As you all know, it was with MASHAV support that the IMPH Program was established 40 years ago, and for 25 years MASHAV remained the main benefactor of the Program through scholarships to trainees from developing countries. Financial constraints forced MASHAV to curtail its international training activities, and funding for the IMPH declined dramatically in the 1990s. Notably, even after MASHAV financial support ceased, the IMPH Program continued to benefit from MASHAV's technical assistance. MASHAV's reengagement with the IMPH Program was reflected in their scholarship support this year for one IMPH student, and their recent decision to gradually increase their scholarship support in the coming years. We look forward to working together with all our partners in the coming years to ensure the continued growth and success of the International MPH Program, and maintain the high standard of public health education and training that has been the trademark of the program since its establishment four decades ago.

In parallel, our partnership with Kathmandu University and the Dhulikhel Hospital in Nepal continues to blossom. As follow-up to the COPC Workshop IMPH Graduate Vinita Sharma and I facilitated there in September, Dr. Ronit Calderon of our School and Dr. Lisa Rubin - Director of the MCH Department of the Ministry of Health (and who lectures in our School) ran a workshop in November on Community-Oriented Mother and Child Care. Another workshop is being planned for later this year on economic aspects of community health and development. This partnership was the catalyst that enabled the recent computerization of a network of rural health outposts operated throughout Nepal by Dhulikhel Hospital.

As is our tradition, our international training activities also include visits to the School by students, teachers, health professionals, IMPH Alumni, and other visitors from countries the world over. In this Newsletter we describe a recent visit by a delegation of Chinese health

officials, a study tour of the Israeli health system by students and staff of George Washington School of Public Health in Washington D.C., a visit by Madame Yoo (Ban) Soon-Taek – wife of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, and a visit by Dr. Vladimir Lazarevik – IMPH 2003 graduate from Macedonia.

With all this activity going on, our first and foremost interest and concern is for our International and Israeli students who are currently writing their 1st semester exams. We wish them much success in their exams and in the 2nd semester.

You will no doubt fondly remember the joyous Purim holiday which we will be celebrating shortly. So, we wish a Happy Birthday to the son of our Alumnus Sampson Ezikeanyi from Nigeria whose wife gave birth to a baby boy on Purim while Sampson was studying in Israel and they named him Modercai! And to all our IMPH Family we wish you a:



Warmest regards from Jerusalem,

Yehuda

Yehuda Neumark, (yehudan@ekmd.huji.ac.il)

Director, IMPH Program

VISITING FACULTY PROGRAM FOR CHINESE HEALTH OFFICIALS

In December 2011, the Braun School organized a 2-week Visiting Faculty Program on "Control of Communicable Diseases" for 25 senior public health officials from the Guangdong and Qinghai provinces of China. The VFP was held under the auspices of our WHO Center for Capacity Building in Public Health and MASHAV. Professor Elliot Berry and Dr. Hagai Levine (who recently joined the Braun School) arranged and hosted the event, with the efficient help of the Braun School Secretary - Mrs. Rachel Cohen, and a multidisciplinary slate of lecturers from our School and from the Ministry of Health. Site visits included the Israeli Center of Disease Control, the Lewinsky Clinic for migrant workers in Tel Aviv, the Ashkelon Health District Office and the Barzilai Medical Center in Ashkelon, the Faculty of Agriculture in Rehovot and the Central Public Health Laboratory in Jerusalem. The feedback was very positive and it is hoped that this initiative – the third of its kind – will continue.



The delegation at a reception with Prof. Elliot Berry, Dr. Hagai Levine, and MASHAV representatives in the front row

STUDY TOUR OF STUDENTS FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Initiated by our dear longtime friend and colleague Arthur Shorr, M.B.A. (Assistant Professorial Lecturer and Executive in Residence at the George Washington School of Public Health), in December a group of graduate-level public health students from GWU came to the Braun School on a two-week learning trip. The participants spent one week learning about the Israeli health system in all its aspects and another week in an all-encompassing tour of the country which included many sites rich in archaeological, cultural and religious history around the country. Arthur Shorr is convinced that this trip will ultimately have an influence on shaping the personal healthcare philosophy that every hospital executive and healthcare leader must develop.

VISIT TO THE BRAUN SCHOOL BY THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S WIFE, MADAME YOO (BAN) SOON-TAEK



L-to-R: Dr. Yehuda Neumark, IMPH Program Director; IMPH Student Dr. Oladipo Akinmade from Nigeria; IMPH Student Mr. Patrick Buruga from South Sudan; Madame Yoo (Ban) Soon-Taek; IMPH Student Dr. Grace Apiyo from Kenya, and Prof. Orly Manor, Director of the Braun School

VISIT OF AN IMPH GRADUATE: DR. VLADIMIR LAZAREVIK

Vladimir Lazarevik (v_lazarevik@yahoo.com), who graduated from our IMPH program in 2003, has had a spectacular career, rising to Director General of the Macedonian Ministry of Health and to Chairmanship of the WHO European Regional Committee. Vladimir holds a faculty position in the Department of Social Medicine in the Center for Public Health at Skopje Macedonian University Faculty of Medicine. While in Jerusalem for a WHO Conference on "Health 2020" Vladimir gave a brilliant talk to our current IMPH 2011-12 Class on post-MPH career development, global health organization, and on the WHO Conference on Preventing Non-communicable Diseases, that was held in Jerusalem 28-29 November 2011.

As Prof. Ted Tulchinsky commented, "the students loved him and it was super".

One of this year's IMPH students had some beautiful remarks:

"The New Public Health is a legacy which exists not by the evident rights of humanity but eminent practice of individual and collective responsibility. Generations of knowledge and practice present us with today's world".



Three generations of Public Health professionals: Prof. Ted Tulchinsky (former Deputy Minister of Health, Manitoba), 2003 IMPH Alumnus Dr. Valdimir Lazarevik (former Deputy Minister of Health, Macedonia) and the current IMPH Class.

Here is what Vladimir Lazarevik had to say about the experience:

It was a beautiful December day in Jerusalem. This was my second time to come back to the School where I graduated and earned my IMPH degree in 2003. It was also the 2nd time I talked to a new generation of IMPH students. Much has happened in the past ten years, both in my personal and professional life. I got married and have two beautiful kids. I went on to become Deputy Minister and to serve as a high officer of WHO for Europe, but the influences left by the year spent in Jerusalem, memories of my international friends, colleagues and professors remain strong and powerful.

In my view, one of the most important values that I developed during my studies in Jerusalem was professional self-confidence and strong commitment to work for the public health causes I believe in.

Since I returned in 2003, I joined the Faculty of Medicine, and started working with the first generation of postgraduate students in our newly formed Center for Public Health in Skopje, Macedonia. Beside the desire to share knowledge with students, I was very interested to change the political landscape of how health policies are developed, communicated and implemented. I started publishing opinion pieces on various health reform issues. It seemed people tended to like my views, and soon the leader of the main opposition party in Macedonia, now prime minister, approached me. He appreciated my publicly expressed views and asked me if I would be willing to develop the party manifesto for health system reforms.

In September 2006 I was appointed Deputy Minister of Health, where I stayed for the next two years. We initiated many new reforms, some of which we managed to complete, and some remained unfinished. The initial reform enthusiasm lasted for some time, but then I was faced with the reality of daily politics. I learned that I am not a politician. I became interested in international health policies and the work of WHO. In 2007 I was elected as a member of the Standing Committee of WHO for Europe, the governing body responsible for developing regional health policies. In 2009 I became its Chair, and in 2010 Executive President of the 60th Regional Committee of the WHO for Europe.

My work in WHO brought me back to Jerusalem. WHO and its member states are developing new policies for health for the Euro region. Now I am part of the team working on the development of the new set of health targets that the member states should strive to achieve by 2020. My Ph.D. topic is on "Health 2020". And this is how I returned to the School to give a talk to "the small class of great". This is where in fact my public health career started. It was so inspirational for me to share my experiences, and to discuss options and possibilities open to all of us on how to pursue a career in public health. There is a long way to go to make things happen in public health, but together we can make this world a better place to live in.

I am sure to be back in Jerusalem with more stories to tell, and always many more things to learn.

CONGRATULATIONS

Dolf Sutherland (Ghana, 2007/08, dolfsutherland@yahoo.co.uk) Some good news: I am now the National Chairman for the District Directors of the Health Services Group. My article on mine injuries in Ghana was published in the African Newsletter of the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health. Happy new year to all staff and students. May our great School continue to grow from strength to strength as the years go by.

Guillermo Troya (Ecuador, 1980/81, gtroya@yahoo.com) was appointed Country Representative for the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization in Suriname.

This is a link to a recent interview that Guillermo did for the George Washington University/School of International Affairs e-magazine: [Guillermo's interview](#)

"I am very proud of my MPH at Hadassah. The Community Oriented Primary Health Care (COPHC) approach has been the pillar for the delivery of my technical cooperation; I had the privilege to listen to lectures by Prof. Kark Sr. on more than one occasion. I have also had the privilege to have Prof. Abramson lecturing on Research Methods. As you know, both of them have produced publications that are world class and very much known and used world-wide. I was lucky to have Rosa and Jaime Gofin, and Professors Tulchinsky, Palti and Kark as my teachers and friends; Jeremy was also my MPH thesis advisor. How could I forget the Statistics lectures? I really enjoyed them. Last but not least, our dear Helen Pridan, who was more than our Coordinator; she was like a mother to each everyone of us; she was always concerned about my family, my wife and my newborn son, David who, by the way was born at Hadassah Hospital."

Joseph Nuertey (Ghana, 1996/97, jnuertey@yahoo.com) was appointed Regional Director of Health Services for the Volta Region of Ghana in July 2011.

Lawrence Mbuagbaw (Cameroon, 2008/09, lawrence.mbuagbaw@mail.huji.ac.il) has just started a Ph.D. course in Health Methodology at McMaster University, Canada.

Bhanu Pratap (India, 2006/07, drbhanupratap@gmail.com) I am going to Sri Lanka in January for an international diplomatic mission to work with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Sri Lanka delegation. I will be working as Programs Support Delegate supporting Red Cross health, disaster management, organization development, livelihoods, support services and other programmatic areas. The different dimensions of the role will be internally displaced populations, post-conflict recovery programs, and technical support to IFRC and SLRCS, and enhancing relationships with relevant stakeholders representing Red Cross at various forums, liase with relevant stakeholders, promoting humanitarian diplomacy...

Xiaofei Fu (China, 2008/09, xiaofei.fu@mail.huji.ac.il) My present position is Vice-Director of the Infectious Disease Department of Jiaxing Municipal CDC.

Jose Pietro Aparicio (Honduras, 1994/05, DrJPAM@aol.com) has been appointed President of the Latino American Caucus of the American Public Health Association in the USA.

Nayanjeet Chaudhury (India, 2005/06, nayanjeetc@gmail.com) has been appointed Research Director of the Population Services International (New Delhi).

OUR ALUMNI WRITE

Shen Xiaotian (China, 1999, shenxt@gmail.com) I am working at a Traditional Chinese Medicine school called AOMA in Texas which focuses on acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine. We are a regionally and nationally accredited graduate college and have just been approved for a doctoral degree program. As well as teaching at AOMA for many years I have also served as its Director of Clinical Education and currently as Medical Director and Chairman of the Faculty Senate. I have been a frequent speaker at national and international conferences on alternative medicine.

As I have often found, my education at the Braun School gave me a very solid foundation to carry out what I am doing now, especially the knowledge of statistics and research methodology as well as my education in health care systems, giving me the advantages and tools that I would otherwise not have been able to possess. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to study in Jerusalem and thankful to my teachers at the Braun School from the bottom of my heart. By the way, I also teach an introductory Public Health course at our school.

Dance Gudeva Nikovska (Macedonia, 2004, dgnikovska@gmail.com) Greetings from Skopje! I am so proud for being a part of this GREAT school 6 years ago! I wish we had more opportunities to share and exchange experiences, so we can all be doing *Tikkun Olam*! Wishing the current class success at exams, exciting travels around the most beautiful country in the world and lot of fun at the school, campus and around. To my dear professors, wishing you all the health and wealth this world can offer! I do hope to see some of you soon.

Solomon M. Nzioka (Kenya, 2008, nzioka_sm@yahoo.com) Kindly share with me the joy of the recent publication of a monograph on 'Climate Change, Variability and Human Health Protection Policy Options'. The book is co-authored with my thesis supervisors at Hebrew University - Prof. Jacobson and Dr. Moshe Hoshen. It has been a dream come true! The monograph is available at Amazon: [Climate-Change-Variability-Protection-Options](#)

Yehuda responds:

Solomon, Jake, Moshe, your monograph on the implications of climate change on malaria epidemics in East Africa is a great accomplishment and a concrete achievement of the goals of the IMPH program and of the partnership between the Braun School and the Pears Foundation of disseminating the knowledge gained through public health training. It also demonstrates the potential benefit to be gained from the MPH thesis project that is never meant to be merely an "academic exercise". Finally, your publication will no doubt serve to motivate other IMPH alumni to invest the time and effort together with their mentors to publish their thesis or master paper. Solomon, we wish you much continued success and look forward to hearing about many more milestones in your career.

Yu Chuanning (China, 2011, yu.chuanning@mail.huji.ac.il) When I returned to my job I found that the knowledge, skill, experience etc. acquired in Israel are so useful! You are the best teachers I have ever met. You are knowledgeable, patient, rigorous and careful and your professionalism is always encouraging. Toda raba!
So what is my progress? First, I will get a promotion next year but I am not satisfied. I am planning to apply for an Epi doctorate at the University of Fu Dan Shang Hai. Secondly, I intend to make an intervention proposal for food borne disease, supported by my director. The method of this proposal includes COPC theory, health behavior models, epidemiology, statistics, health policy etc., and I am trying to make it accessible, effective and scientific theory based. Thirdly, I have been invited to give a lecture on "household survey" to the trainers of all provincial CDCs of China in the training conference of National Food Borne Disease Surveillance Program in Nan Ning. This is my first time.

Malick Kone (Mali, 2009) I became "the Representative and Technical Director" of ICAP-NY in Mali. Based at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, ICAP is one of the world's largest implementation and technical assistance providers for HIV and related health programs and a global leader in HIV prevention, care, and treatment system strengthening. ICAP is implementing a 5-year CDC-funded project in Mali to strengthen HIV-related strategic information (SI) by providing technical and capacity-building to the Government of Mali and other U.S. government implementing partners for enhanced HIV surveillance and monitoring and evaluation activities. Key project activities will be implemented in collaboration with the International Center for Excellence in Research at the University of Bamako Medical School. The recruitment process has been very long. But my MPH degree from the Braun School of Public Health (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) weighed heavily in my favor. That is all for the moment in my corner of the world!

Sampson Ezikeanyi (Nigeria, 2009, sampson.ezikeanyi@mail.huji.ac.il) Shalom, Shalom! I am reaching to you from the highlands of Enugu in the south-east region of Nigeria. Before coming for the program, I was the head of Advocacy, Communication & Social Mobilization of the HIV/AIDS Division of the Federal Ministry of Health, Abuja. Shortly after my arrival from Israel I was promoted to a step higher because of the MPH as is written in Nigeria's Federal Government Scheme of service. Recognizing my competence from the Israeli program, I was then given a new portfolio to head and direct the Policy & Strategic Planning Unit of the same division. Now, I have been further appointed to the position of South East Regional Monitoring & Evaluation Technical Advisor for Population, Health and Nutrition; MEASURE Evaluation Project in Nigeria. MEASURE Evaluation is a USAID Funded project known for its leadership in strengthening host country institutions in Monitoring and Evaluation & Impact Evaluation. While I was in the program in Israel, I had a baby boy in Nigeria delivered on the day of Purim and he was named Modercai. One year after my arrival, I had a set of twins (boy & girl) bringing the number to 5!

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