



Braun School of Public Health
and Community Medicine
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Hadassah Medical Organization



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

July 2016



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A Note from Prof. Yehuda Neumark— IMPH Director

Dear IMPH Alumni,

So here we are again - me writing as director of the IMPH program.

Earlier this year, Fortune magazine published an article on the pros and cons of returning to your old job. It seems that until recently, companies were very hesitant to hire "Boomerang Employees", but the current thinking is that there are certain advantages in re-hiring former employees, and many companies now actively recruit them. The two main incentives for re-hiring former employees are talent shortages and familiarity with the job.

One study cited 5 benefits of returning to an old job:

1. IT CAN REALLY PAY OFF FINANCIALLY – OK, not relevant in this case!
2. YOUR BOSS WILL LOVE YOU FOR YOUR VIRTUALLY NONEXISTENT RAMP-UP TIME – True. It didn't take me very long to move back into my old office next door, and I immediately picked up where I left off 3.5 years ago. Whether or not my boss loves me, you'll have to ask her.

3. YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO GET – Wrong! That may be true when ordering a burger at McDonalds, but thankfully life is more unpredictable than a big mac, and full of surprises – some pleasant and some less pleasant. "*Life is an unpredictable journey, so dream big, smile often, love a lot, and give thanks for all your blessings.*" I would add, embrace the challenges, and surround yourself with motivated people who can take advantage of opportunities that come along.

4. YOU'LL BRING A FUN AND FRESH PERSPECTIVE TO YOUR OLD GIG – Let's not get carried away! The IMPH program is amazing and all, and we do have some fun during the year (e.g., Purim skit, trip to Eilat, Epidemiology classes and COPC!), but between us, how much fun can one bring to an administrative position in academia?!? As for the fresh perspective, I certainly believe that a fresh perspective is important in moving forward, but that needs to be balanced with "if it ain't broken, don't fix it!". At the moment nothing seems to be broken, so in the meantime I am keeping my ears and eyes open for new opportunities.



5. IT CAN ALMOST FEEL LIKE A FAMILY REUNION—WITH SOME AWESOME NEW ADDITIONS – This is true. Although I didn't physically leave the school and I maintained daily/near-daily contact with the members of the IMPH Team during my stint as school director, and was involved in some of the decisions related to the IMPH program, it is not the same as coming back to work directly and

continuously with the wonderful and dedicated IMPH Team members – Pamela, Edna, Ronit, Lior, Maureen, and Reut.

So, while I didn't necessarily plan on returning to this position (at least not so soon), I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to contribute to something I really believe in.

And that something, of course does not end with graduation. In many ways, it begins with graduation and your re-entry into the workforce and application of the skills and knowledge you acquired in the IMPH course.

By way of example of developing connection with our alumni and our alumni with us, two years ago, when 2002/2003 IMPH alumnus Dr. Vladimir Lazarevik of Macedonia (who founded the Healthgrouper research institute in Skopje) was awarded a research grant by the University of Fribourg in Switzerland to look at health workforce migration in the Balkan region, he invited us to partner with him. Ted Tulchinsky, Maureen Malowany and I have been engaged with Vladimir in this research project, together with 2012/2013 alumna Ardita Kongjonaj who is the Albanian investigator for this project, and we will be presenting findings from the study at the European Public Health conference in Vienna in November.

The conference is a great opportunity, by the way, for meeting, so please let us know if you are planning on attending and we can organize a mini-reunion.

Speaking of which, as you know from the previous newsletter, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi, Provost of the College of Health Sciences of Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria, hosted a wonderfully successful West Africa regional alumni reunion in February. The meeting was attended by twenty-two IMPH alumni from Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Senegal and Nigeria (including two senior alumni from 1973 and 1998), Ora, Maureen and me, together with invited non-alumni health-systems experts to explore the timely and pertinent theme of "Health Systems: Transitioning from Infectious Diseases to Non-Communicable Diseases".

As many of you know, we are planning an IMPH Alumni re-union for next year. We were hoping to have the event in February 2017, but this has been postponed. We are looking at a number of possibilities including possibly holding it in conjunction with the graduation ceremony of the 2016-2017 class in September 2017. We appreciate that you need to plan months in advance, and will update you as soon as we have further details. Stay tuned.

The 2nd semester has come to a close and we look forward to the graduation ceremony of the current IMPH class on September 14th. We eagerly look forward to welcoming back to her alma mater Mrs. Narmada Acharya (IMPH 1998) who will present this year's keynote address. You are all invited to attend and I am delighted that some of her former IMPH classmates are thinking of joining us.

The spacecraft Juno is expected to arrive at Jupiter in the coming days to "improve our understanding of the solar system's beginnings by revealing the origin and evolution of Jupiter." While we celebrate this amazing technological-scientific feat, it seems to me that our own planet is rapidly spin-

ning off its axis and I, for one, believe that in light of the prevailing insanity, much more effort needs to be invested in understanding how we move forward to a brighter future here on earth. Please join me in hope and prayer (at least hope, if prayer is not your thing) for the safety and wellbeing of all of our extended IMPH family, wherever we may be.

Good Cheer!

Yehuda



A Note from Dr. Maureen Malowany—IMPH Alumni Academic Coordinator

Dear Alumni,

We have just finished the last week of classes and our current students are studying for exams, working on their research papers and theses. It is that time of year when IMPH students and staff realise we are coming into the 'home stretch', the last few months before graduation. You all know how that feels - close to the end – but not quite there. The trip to the Golan is yet to come!

With regard to graduation on 14 September 2016, we are pleased to have Narmada Acharya (IMPH 1998) as our very special alumna to deliver the graduation Keynote Address. Narmada, originally from Nepal, is currently the Strategic Intervention Adviser, UNAIDS, based in Lusaka, Zambia. You will hear more about graduation in the next newsletter.

Dr. Grace Apiyo (IMPH 2013) has been with us for the last few months working on her PhD proposal (under the supervision of Prof. Ora Paltiel). Grace has also been very active as Group Mentor for one of the COPC groups this past term. It is such a pleasure to have our alumni return to the School.

This past month was particularly 'full'. The International Health Policy Conference brought 16 alumni to Jerusalem – from Albania, Brazil, India, Kenya, Macedonia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Peru, Turkey and Vietnam – whose graduation spanned almost twenty years—from 1998-2015. Many were able to stay for the event honouring Professor Ted Tulchinsky.

Please do keep us updated with your career and life changes – probably most importantly with your email address changes! We are thrilled many of you are active users of the IMPH alumni platform (www.hujiconnectimph.com) Please continue and, for those who are new to the platform, enjoy the alumni network!

Regards,
Maureen



Maureen and Grace

News from our Alumni

Health Ministry Targets 95% Coverage For Maternal and Child Health Week

By Global Africa News - June 26, 2016

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation [in Sierra Leone] and its partners are targeting 95% Coverage for the first phase of Maternal and Child Health Week.

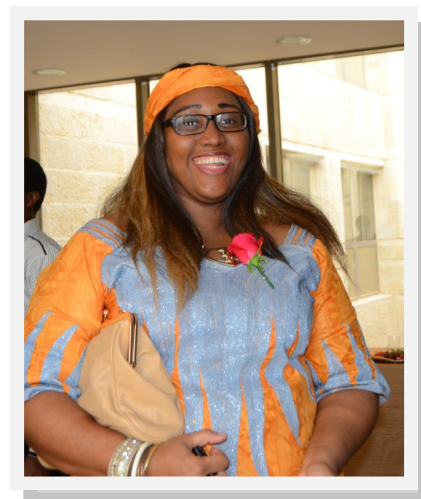
Speaking to journalists on recently at the Ministry's conference room, Deputy Programme Manager **Dr. Mariama Murray** [Sierra Leone, IMPH 2014/2015] said as part of the country's efforts to prevent vaccine preventable diseases, maintain polio eradication and achieve measles elimination, three rounds of nationwide supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) have been conducted.

She said the Ebola outbreak has affected service delivery of many programs; each round of the SIA was integrated with other health interventions. "The June MCH week will be conducted on June 23-27, 2016. During this round, vitamin

A capsules, deworming tablets, defaulter tracing and vaccination of children 0 to 23 months, and focused ANC services for pregnant women will be delivered," she said.

She went on to say that the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and partners are using this campaign as another platform to provide essential health services and to regain public confidence in the health system. According to her, their goal is for MCHW to increase the coverage for various life-saving interventions that impact on the welfare of women and children thereby reducing mortality and morbidity. And their main objective is to achieve at least 95% coverage for specific interventions. More than 1.5 million under-five children are being targeted for the campaign.

Dr. Murray disclosed that 11, 502 workers were recruited, independent monitors, national supervisors, nurses, among others. She appealed to the people of Sierra Leone "The health workers are well trained, please open your doors for them to give the service to your children and when you open the door you will be educated on several health related issues for the wellbeing of the child".



Congratulations to IMPH graduate Ms. Netanela Weiss-Faratci (2014) upon recent publication of her thesis in the distinguished *Annals of Epidemiology*. Her thesis, mentored by Dr. Ido Lurie, Prof. Yehuda Neumark and Dr. Maureen Malowany, focused on the association between perceived social support and mortality risk among MI patients in Israel.

[Perceived social support at different times after myocardial infarction and long-term mortality risk: a prospective cohort study.](#)

Weiss-Faratci N, Lurie I, Neumark Y, Malowany M, Cohen G, Benyamini Y, Goldbourt U, Gerber Y. *Ann Epidemiol.* 2016 Jun;26(6):424-8.

Congratulations to Dr. **Chobufo Ditah** from Cameroon, our IMPH Alumnus (2014/2015) upon receiving the Faculty of Medicine Award for an Excellent Thesis! His thesis, mentored by Prof. Jeremy Kark and Dr. Ronit Sinnreich, titled "Small and medium sized HDL particles are protectively associated with coronary calcification in a cross-sectional population-based sample" has been published in *Atherosclerosis* (Ditah C, Otvos J, Nassar H, Shaham D, Sinnreich R, Kark JD. Small and medium sized HDL particles are protectively associated with coronary calcification in a cross-sectional population-based sample. *Atherosclerosis*. 2016 Jun 11;251:124-131)

Chobufo writes:

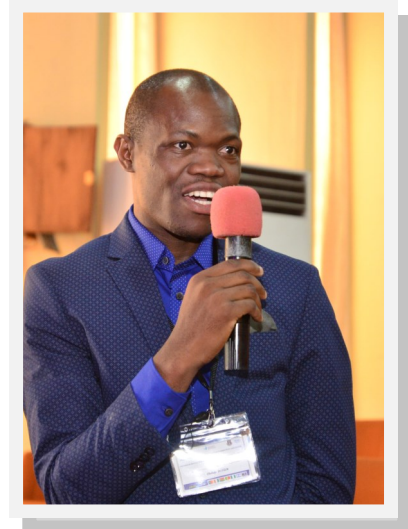
"It is an honor to receive this award for excellence in master's thesis from the prestigious Faculty of Medicine of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. I didn't make it thus far alone. My sincere gratitude goes to the entire IMPH Administrative, distinguished Faculty, Peers, Family and Friends.

Studying at a world-renowned institution remained a far-fetched dream until PEARS Foundation stepped in. It is obvious that without the financial support of PEARS Foundation, this dream would have remained elusive. PEARS, thank you so much for this life-changing opportunity.

Under the outstanding mentorship of Prof. Jeremy D. Kark and Dr. Sinnreich Ronit, with constant support from peers, family and friends, I worked tirelessly to make this project a standout and deserving of this award. Its recognition as a masterpiece is in line with its recent acceptance for publication in a renowned scientific platform, and marks the genesis of even greater accomplishments to come. You have inculcated in me the attitude and spirit needed to take on huge challenges, against the odds, renouncing the status quo and creating positive change. I can assure you that the skills and experience gleaned via this program will go a long way in impacting the lives of many around the world from a public health perspective. You have proven to me that we can always make a difference, if only we give it our all."

I dedicate this award to my Dad (Ditah Muchi Christopher), a champion of education, hard-work and excellence, who took pride in all my successes, but most importantly, supported me in times of difficulties and challenges. Though he passed on during my stay in Israel, I know he is proudly watching from the heavens with great satisfaction.

Thank you so much for all your support and I will forever remain grateful for this unique opportunity. I promise to keep the flag of IMPH, Braun's School of Public Health and Community Medicine, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem the Hadassah Medical Organization and Israel flying high. To the PEARS Foundation, I will never relent my efforts until I make you proud!"



Faculty News

Our School Director, Prof. Ora Paltiel, presented recently findings from an innovative research project about the effects of consuming vegetables grown with treated wastewater on non-voluntary exposure to the drug carbamazepine at the Environment and Health Fund Convention.

Read more at:

<http://cen.acs.org/articles/94/web/2016/04/Vegetables-grown-treated-wastewater-boost.html>

Scientific American Podcast <http://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/episode/traces-of-pharmaceuticals-dwell-in-wastewater-grown-veggies/>



The Braun School of Public Health Faculty members Prof. Jeremy Kark (who led the study with Dr. Gilad Twig) and Dr. Hagai Levine recently published their research on "Body-Mass Index in 2.3 Million Adolescents and Cardiovascular Death in Adulthood"

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1503840>



Congratulations to Dr. Raanan Raz, Braun School Faculty member, as his article was selected among "Papers of the Year" 2015 by the National Institute of Environmental Health Science (NIH)!

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/news/newsletter/2016/1/papers/2015-papers/index.htm>



Congratulations to Dr. Hagit Hochner, Braun School Faculty member, upon receiving the Faculty of Medicine Award for Excellence in (pre-clinical) Teaching!



Congratulations to Dr. Milka Dunchin, Braun School Faculty Emerita, upon receiving the Faculty of Medicine Award for her post-retirement activities!



Visits to the School

We were thrilled to welcome our Alumni arriving to the 6th International Jerusalem Conference on Health Policy, between 23-25 May, 2016.

Some of them managed to visit us at the school before the conference, and most attended to the tribute event honoring Prof. Ted Tulchinky.

Here is the list of Alumni attended the conference:

Olusegun Afolabi (Nigeria, 2004/2005); **Oladipo Akinmade**, (Nigeria, 2011/2012); **Vladimir Lazarevik** (Macedonia, 2001/2002); **Ardita Kongjonaj** (Albania, 2012/2013); **Linh Dinh** (Vietnam, 2014/2015); **Abimbola Kola-Jebutu** (Nigeria, 2007/2008); **Ajay Phatak** (India, 2007/2008); **Altin Malaj** (Albania, 2001/2002); **Raphael Mando** (Kenya, 2012/2013); **Dance Gudeva Nikovska** (Macedonia, 2003/2004); **Norma Victoria Noé Moccetti** (Peru, 1979/1980); **Emmanuel Omony** (Uganda, 2008/2009); **Rilwan Raji**, (Nigeria, 2012/2013); **Belgin Ünal** (Turkey, 1997/1998); **Javkhanbayar Dorjdagva** (Mongolia, 2006/2007), his wife **Enkhjargal Batbaatar** (Mongolia, 2007/2008) and their lovely daughter (IMPH student 2036)!

It was wonderful seeing you all!



Pictures from the Tribute Event for Prof. Ted Tulchinsky



Javkhlanbayar Dorjdagva (Mongolia, 2006/2007), his wife Enkhjargal Batbaatar (Mongolia, 2007/2008) and their beautiful daughter.

Prof. Ora Paltiel and her husband, Prof Mark Clarfield dedicating a Joni Mitchell song to Prof. Tulchinsky



Vladimir Lazarevik (Macedonia, 2001/2002) congratulating Prof. Tulchinsky on behalf of the IMPH Alumni



Prof. Tulchinsky
with
Prof. Martin
McKee



Dance Gudeva Ni-
kovska (Macedonia,
2003/2004); Dr.
Maureen Malow-
any; Prof. Martin
McKee and Ardita
Kongjonaj (Albania,
2012/2013)

Prof. Tulchinsky
with Alumni and
current IMPH
class



We cordially invite you to attend the
Graduation Ceremony of the
International Master of Public Health Program
wherein the degree of

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem
will be conferred

Keynote Speaker:

Narmada Acharya

Strategic Intervention Advisor,
UNAIDS, Zambia
IMPH Graduate 1997-98

Connecting Community and Academia: My Journey and Lessons Learned

Welcome Reception at 14:30
Ceremony 15:00

Botnar Auditorium
Faculty of Medicine, Ein Kerem Campus

A light meal will follow the ceremony

קבלת פנים: 14:30, טקס: 15:00
באולם בוטנר,
הפקולטה לרפואה, קמפוס עין כרם

ארוחה קלה לאחר הטקס

This invitation entitles you to park in the open lots on campus.

הזמנה זו מיועדת לציאתם מהקמפוס כליא תשלום
(החנייה כליא תשלום בחניונים הפתוחים בלבד)

R.S.V.P. Tel: 02-677-7115 Fax: 02-643-1086, email: IMPH@emkd.huji.ac.il



האוניברסיטה
העברית
בירושלים
THE HEBREW
UNIVERSITY
OF JERUSALEM

The Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun
School of Public Health
and Community Medicine
The Hebrew University-Hadassah
Faculty of Medicine

Invitation

GRADUATION CEREMONY

41st Class of the International
Master of Public Health Program

Wednesday,
September 14, 2016
15:00



Class of 2015-2016

Ajay Acharya (Nepal)
Anna Louise Schmitt (USA)
Asami Ueno (Japan)
Chérisse Désirée Janelle Beek (Suriname)
Christopher Raymond Junior (Papua New Guinea)
Claudette Yawa Amuzu (Sierra Leone)
Collins Asaah Tatang (Cameroon)
Evgeniya Vladimirovna Kim (Uzbekistan)
Gbenga Emmanuel Adebayo (Nigeria)
Ira Azela Leonora Isaacs-Henry
(Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)
Jane Akinyi Osindo (Kenya)
Josaia Tiko (Fiji)
Kanan Tushar Desai (India)
Marcqueline Chiona Zulu (Zambia)
Marthe S. Sørli (Norway)
Naham Amishav Shapiro (USA)
Nebiyu Mesfin Gedlu (Ethiopia)
Nechama Averick (USA)
Nobel Cubahiro (Burundi)
Tevfik Bayram (Turkey)
Wen Peng (China)

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Taken by Dave Brown, APE Inc UK