



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

Special 40th Anniversary Edition

May 2015



This issue features: Alumni in the Academy

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Dear Alumni,

Here we are in the midst of the second semester. The students are frantically working on COPC projects, and coursework. They have finalized their thesis and Master Paper proposal and are getting ready for the final push. We have spent the last two Sundays listening to their research proposals, feeling inspired by the breadth of their interests and the passion and commitment to their chosen topics. It's a perfect time to ponder the role of the IMPH in academia....

There are no words to describe the pride that we feel when our Alumni succeed in their career paths, whether in the field, in government or in academia. We are thrilled that **Nathan Reynolds, IMPH 2013-2014 won the faculty of Medicine award for an outstanding MPH thesis.** We are always happy to know about any honors and awards that have been bestowed on our alumni, and of course, would love to keep track of any scientific publications or achievements.

Academic rewards are never immediate. You always wonder, living through the rejections, the negative reviews, or the poor evaluations, whether the effort is really worthwhile. You do the research but it sometimes takes years until the paper is published. Then, how will it be received? Will it have any impact? In many ways being cited is more rewarding than being published, since it means that someone has noticed, the word has spread and the potential for making a difference is felt. This is when the writing stops being an exercise and becomes a contribution. Nowadays, many researchers reach out to authors to promote collaborations, to discuss research dilemmas, and to try to determine the optimal way to approach a scientific problem. This is extremely rewarding and is a way in which academic colleagues, often faceless and far away, become members of a "scientific community".

Academia is not only about research, however. It is also about teaching and mentoring. Teaching is like meiosis; each cell (teacher) has daughter cells (students) who in turn become the teachers. Recently, a student of mine was promoted to Associate Professor. She had been an outstanding student and had won, like Nathan, an award for an outstanding Master's thesis. Last year, *her* student won the same award! I looked on with such pride, like a grandmother whose daughter and grand-daughter had succeeded in this risky adventure called "science". I am sure that many of you have had rewarding experiences mentoring others, and I am happy that we are able to incorporate mentoring into our Alumni Program.

As always, I wish you all the very best in all your endeavors for the sake of science, for the health and welfare of your communities and the world, and salute our Alumni who have ventured into academia and tried to make a difference in that way. And we send our sincere concern and good wishes to our Nepali and Kenyan Alumni who have gone through this difficult period.

Ora Paltiel, MDCM, MSc, FRCPC

IMPH Director

Dear Alumni,

Life at the Braun School has been buzzing since February and the beginning of the second semester. You all know what that means- thesis and research paper presentations, proposals; elective courses (there goes the 'all students in every class' coziness of the first semester); the realisation that you are heading toward graduation and the end of the year – the year you thought would be so long!

A special thanks to alumni in universities and colleges who contributed to this newsletter. The School believes in capacity-building at every level of public health. The training you provide in the academy builds and strengthens the knowledge and practice of public health professionals. We need strong foundations!

In March, it was wonderful to have two alumni, **Vlado Lazarevik** (2003) and **Ardita Kongjonaj** (2013) with us for a workshop on health worker migration from the Balkan countries. Vlado heads a team under "Healthgrouper Summit" out of Macedonia which presently brings together researchers from Kosovo, Serbia, Albania and Macedonia. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with them in their important work.

The School is undergoing accreditation with the Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation (APHEA) as a member of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (EUPHA). The APHEA Review Team conducted their site visit to the School April 27-29. The team interviewed two alumni via Skype– **Dr. Anna Marzec-Bogusławska** (1999) and **Dr. Norbert Rakiro** (2003) and were so impressed by their work, advocacy and reflections on their time at the School. Thank you, Anna and Norbert!

Congratulations to **Reut Kramer**, our Alumni Communications Coordinator, who wowed the Review Team with her presentation on how the School builds and maintains very personal contact with you all. It is only right to acknowledge the work over the years of Shulamit Amir and, more recently, of Michael Botstein in this regard. Reut's efforts to take us into the 21st century of the social media world have inspired us all. APHEA plans to have OUR alumni communications program featured on their website as 'best practice'!!

Pears Seed Grant awards – please note that we have moved from a closed application date to an open invitation for applications through the year. **Dr. Luchuo Engelbert Bain** (2013), with the mentorship of **Dr. Eugene Kongnyuy** (2006), has started his project titled "Factors that influence the use of condoms among soldiers in the 3rd Combined Military Region, Cameroon".

We wish them every success.

West Africa Alumni Regional Workshop: We are back!! Information on dates (early 2016), theme, etc. to come very soon by email to our alumni in this region.

Again, many thanks to you all for keeping us up-to-date on your work, lives, projects, visions for a healthier world.

Regards,

Maureen Malowany, PhD., MHIthSc.

IMPH Alumni Academic Coordinator

Dear Alumni,

Spring time here in the School was truly a busy time. Every week is full of activities and action and so many things to do! Working on the newsletter for me is taking a step back from our day-to-day tasks, and looking at the bigger picture of our work: what our graduates take with them back home after graduation. Our work influence their lives, and then they, in their turn, influence the lives of the people around them, whether communities, patients, students, colleagues or others who benefit from their knowledge. This special edition of the newsletter is dedicated to our Alumni who chose an academic career as a way to make this world a better place by passing on their knowledge and experience, just as we do here in the School. I wish to take this opportunity to thank our Alumni who contributed to this newsletter.

Lately I had the pleasure of re-connecting with some long-lost Alumni, who were thrilled to be "found". Welcome back! Please let us know if you are in touch with other Alumni who are not receiving our newsletters and updates.

A few weeks ago, Ms. Edna Jospe Perez, the IMPH Administrative Coordinator, called me to her office. When I came in she handed me a huge box filled with old pictures of our graduated in their graduation ceremonies, trips, dorms, etc. This "treasure box" will be the theme for the next newsletter: "Our Archive". You are most welcome to share with us some of your "treasures": pictures, notes and your memories from your year here with us!

Warmest regards,

Reut Kramer

Alumni Communications Coordinator



Teaser...

Diamantina C. Cleghorn Spencer (Panama, 1982, diacleghorn@hotmail.com)

"I am a Professor, Department of Public Health Nursing Faculty, University of Panama. I work currently in two programs: the Bachelor in Nursing Science Program and in the Doctoral in Nursing with Emphasis' in International Health

In the first year of Nursing School we teach the Determinants of Health and disease at population level. One of the courses I teach taught in the school is "Public Health III", the last course before Graduation. In this course we integrate all the courses of National Health Policies, Nursing, Sciences, Human development, Mathematics, Nutrition, Sociology and others compulsory courses of nursing studies. In this course we strength the knowledge of the basic courses and integrating all this courses with Public Health. The Public Health Practice focuses on research of the development of a community. The results of the community are processed into a Primary Health program that emphasize the needs of the specific community .Using the Methodology of a Survey Methods, we summarize the finding using Descriptive statistics to identify the problems that may be related with the state of Health and disease of the community. From the findings the students create educational material in paper (long pages) in which they draw charts and graphs in order to present them to the community, the personal of the Health Center and the Leaders of the community. In this presentation, a discussion process is stimulated by the student until the people of the community and the Health personal decide how they intend to help to solve the problems identified in the survey. When decisions are made, the researcher has to manifest a level of accountability to solve the health problems in the community. In the last two weeks of the semester I accompany my students and we go to each house, or if is done in the University Campus we go to each faculty and present a Primary Health Care Program considering the findings of the research, the health problems founded in the population under study and recommendations. The main propose in this is to strengthen a level of accountability of each member of the family and /or of the faculties of the University of Panama so that the problem could be solved in a short or a long term for the benefit of the family and or the Academic community as a whole."

Sathian Yovapue (Thailand, 1973/1974, syovapue@yahoo.com)

"At present I am Deputy Dean, Faculty of Public Health at Bangkokkthonburi University, Bangkok, Thailand. I am teaching in 6 subjects for B.P.H. (Bachelor of Public Health), they are General Public Health, Physics for Living, Microbiology and Parasitology, Epidemiology, Infectious Diseases and Non-infectious Diseases.

In the past I was a Short-Term Professional on Global Leprosy Elimination at WHO SEARO, New Delhi. I provided technical support to Leprosy Elimination Country. I was also a Technical Officer at Leprosy Division, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health , Thailand, where I supervised and monitored the progress of Leprosy Elimination Programme in the whole country.

I got my B.Sc. (Sanitary Sci.), Sanitation and Environmental Health in University of Medical Sciences, Bangkok, Thailand and then studied Physiotherapy applied to Leprosy in the Christian Medical College, Vellore. After obtaining my MPH degree in the Hebrew University, I got a Certificate in Quantitative Methods in Health Practice Research and a Certificate in Planning for Health from Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University in 1981. "



Roya Schayani-Mühlschle

(Germany, 1991/1992

roya.muehlschlegel@googlemail.com)

"I have the privilege and joy of teaching social medicine to 5th medical students at Ruhr Universität Bochum already for nearly a decade. Social Medicine is the bridge between social security system, which is quite developed and historically grounded in Germany and Medicine on the other side. It is therefore also very closely related to Public Health. It is a compulsory course and in addition to the seminar there is a practical excursion to the social court with medically intersecting court cases. Meeting judges who are quite experienced with medical cases is quite an experience for many of the students as it is for me.

Apart from my regular work for the Sick and Pension Funds and our patients there, meeting young students and trying to instill some sense into a usually rather dry considered field brings me joy and some meaningful conversations."



Dance Gudeva Nikovska (Macedonia, 2003/2004, dgnikovska@gmail.com)

"My name is Dr. Dance Gudeva Nikovska and I am Medical Doctor and PhD in Public Health. I graduated from the University Ss Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Medicine and obtained additional training in Epidemiology, received a Master's in Public Health from the Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel.

I have been enrolled at Department of Social Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and responsible for teaching and practical training for undergraduate medical and dentistry students (health education and health behavior – methods and implications for practice, health indicators and social determinants of health). I am also teaching research methods and development of research protocol for students enrolled in Master of Public Health program, for which i have developed a teaching module structured to provide logical step-by-step preparation of students' Master Thesis/Master Paper preparation.

My research experience covers broad range of topics in the field of public health and health policy such as socioeconomic differences in health, health behavior and access to health care, analysis of good governance in public health institutions, community injuries survey, analysis, measurement and monitoring of the performance of health care institutions in Republic of Macedonia, cost-benefit analysis of prevention of the absenteeism from work, etc. I am the acting Manager of the Project Implementation Unit at Global Fund funded projects for HIV and tuberculosis control in Republic of Macedonia, implemented by Ministry of Health, and actively involved in various research projects for providing evidence based decision making."



Eduardo Villamor (Colombia, 1995/1996, villamor@umich.edu)

"I received his medical degree from the National University of Colombia, a Master of Public Health from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, and a doctorate in nutrition and epidemiology from Harvard. I was Assistant Professor of International Nutrition at the Harvard School of Public Health from 2005 until 2009, when I joined the University of Michigan. I have lived and conducted research in the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. I currently serve as director of the Fogarty/LIFESPAN training program Multilevel & Life-course Approaches to NCD Prevention in Latin America at the University of Michigan, and as co-director of the Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training (MHIRT). I am also Deputy Editor of the journal Public Health Nutrition.



My research focuses primarily on the study of child health and development with the use of epidemiologic methods. My research interests span a wide range of topics at the intersection of nutritional, perinatal, and infectious diseases epidemiology. They include studies of nutrition in child growth and development, early-life risk factors for chronic disease, and the interactions between nutrition and infection.

Epidemiology is a dynamic field. In my research and work, I use epidemiology to provide evidence on the determinants of health at the population level, which eventually may be used by policy makers and Public Health practitioners. Epidemiology is an indispensable tool in Public Health."

Phillip Bassey (Nigeria, 1998/1999, pembassey@yahoo.com)

"I am teaching both undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Public Health of the University of Calabar. I teach the MPH students Health Systems and Epidemiology; while I teach the Bachelors of Public Health (BPH) students the Principles of Public Health, Mental Health, Emergency Preparedness and Response / Disaster Management, as well as Planning and Implementation of Primary Health Care.

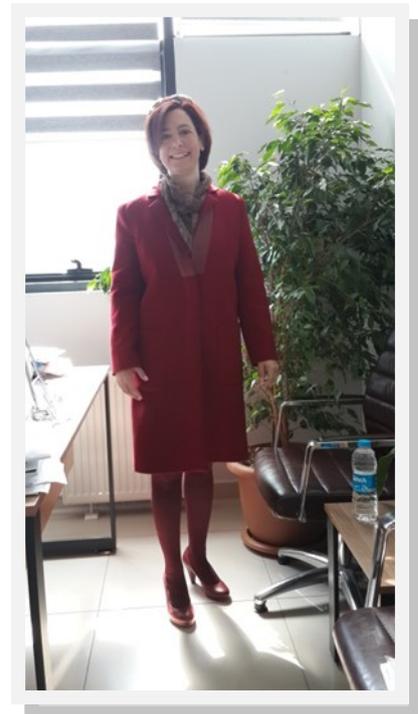
The teaching work also involves supervising the field projects of the BPH students and the research theses of the MPH students. Since I belong to the Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences in the College of Medical Sciences of the University of Calabar, I work in collaboration with colleagues in the Faculty to write research proposals for funding. We have currently developed a research proposal and we are looking for funding support to carry out a study to determine the prevalence of Malaria and Geohelminthes co-morbidity in Cross River State of Nigeria."

Pinar Ay (Turkey, 1999/2000, aypinar@hotmail.com)

"Greetings from Istanbul!

After getting my degree in the Braun School, I finished my public health residency program in Istanbul University in 2002 and started to work as a lecturer in Marmara University Department of Public Health. Currently I work as a senior lecturer in Marmara University, both teaching and doing research in the area of Public Health. When I look back, I can clearly see that my one year in the Braun School has enriched me and opened my way to academia. That one year did not only equip me with technical knowledge and skills in the field of Public Health, but also empowered me with the social network it had provided.

My main research interests are Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Qualitative Research Methods, Evidence Based Medicine, Women's Health, Child Health, Health Seeking Behavior and Community Mental Health. I am also the co-author of a book on Evidence Based Medicine in Turkish which was published in 2007. I am currently working on the second edition of the book and hope to publish it by the end of this year."



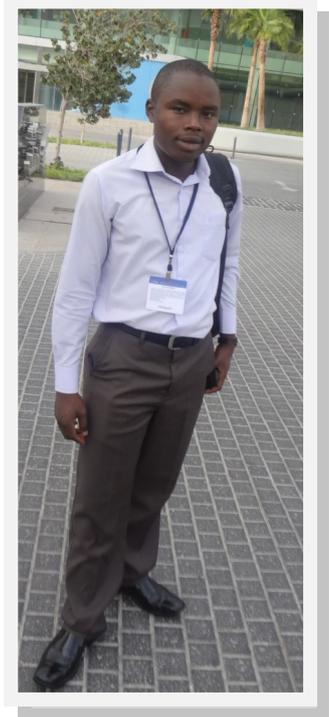
Jonathan Abel (Kenya, 2012/2013, jonathan.abel@mail.huji.ac.il)

"I graduated from the IMPH program in 2013 with a resolution: to do something relevant to Public Health training in Kenya. I have worked mainly in academia in the last two years. I began as a part-time teaching assistant at Kenyatta University- Nairobi, and then moved to Kisii University in September last year, where I am a full-time member of the faculty of health sciences. The latter is a young university with immense opportunities for partnership and growth. The new faculty has three departments and a number of undergraduate programs including a bachelor's degree program in Public Health. Some master's and doctoral degrees are in the final stages of development while one has kicked off.

In 2014, we conducted a study to assess determinants of education outcomes among school going pupils in rural and urban parts of Kenya. Several factors including nutrition, sanitation and access to safe water have been associated with low educational outcomes among school going children in Kenyan primary schools. This was a collaborative assignment with individuals from the Ministries of Health and Education and the host agency, "Uwezo", a community led initiative working in East Africa. I was among the consultants involved in development and pretesting of health components of the study. A nationwide survey was conducted late last year and we are finalizing the analyses before making the results available to the public in June.

A fortnight ago, I presented part of my MPH master's thesis at the 16th World Conference on Tobacco or Health held in Abu Dhabi from 16th – 21st March, 2015. The conference whose theme was "Tobacco and Non-Communicable Diseases" highlighted the fact that tobacco use is the most alarming risk factor for diseases causing millions of deaths every year and contributes to the enormous burden of NCDs all over the world. I have considered working with some organizations and individuals at different levels of tobacco control in Kenya; I am currently in touch with key persons and organizations to see what can be done to make future generations free from tobacco use.

This is just the beginning and I expect much more involvement in teaching and research in Public Health."



Georgina Tungol-Paredes (Philippines,
1987/1988, gtpmd2003@yahoo.com)

"When I came back to my institution right after getting my MPH in 1988, I was hired at the Philippine Heart Center (PHC) Preventive Cardiology. I got the opportunity to apply my lessons in epidemiology, survey methods and public health when our PHC team organized the Cardiovascular Disease Survey in Quezon City, our country's capital. I was also tasked to write papers out of the survey results.



The lessons from Professors Abramson's (with the current school Director Yehuda, as his assistant!!), Jeremy Kark's and Peritz's (to name a few) classes were definitely made use of not just by myself but the so many beneficiaries of the National CVD prevention and control program that was designed thereafter. Lessons from the CHAD program of Professor Sidney Kark and the Kiryat Hayovel experience came in handy for these tasks. I always remember my adviser, Dr. Jaime Gofin's critique and advice in COPC and my thesis.

As for my academic responsibilities at the UERMMMC and during my chairmanship of the Department of Preventive & Community Medicine, I introduced the Community Oriented Primary Care program of the respectable Professors Sidney & Emily Kark to our Community Medicine students. That still remains today and in fact, I am currently writing a plan for a COPC program. The COPC cycle and steps are emphasized as the approach for our newly adopted community's health program development.

Lessons learned from our Human Resource Management class, came in handy as well during my stint as head and later on a director of research and dean of the College of Medicine.

Above all, my whole experience and journey in Jerusalem during that school year allowed me to grow not just academically but as an individual. It gave me a new and expanded perspective because of the varied culture and friendships cultivated during that year. I have fond memories of school staff members (Professor Helen Pridan, the Karks, Dianne, Ora Magen...) who invited us to their abode during our lonely hours, and friends/classmates from no less than 10 countries around the world!!

For all of these, I am forever grateful to my Alma Mater and the good people from Hadassah! I am so proud that the achievements I have reached are by-products of the education I received from the Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine."

Norma Victoria Noé Moccetti (Peru, 1979/1980, nvnoemoccetti@gmail.com)

"This is my Golden Anniversary Year, since it is already 50 years since my Class graduated from the Veterinary School at San Marcos University in 1965. There will be a simple ceremony on Tuesday morning July 7th, as part of the Veterinary Week."



Norma is the second from the left, with her colleagues from the 1964 Graduating Class.

Congratulations, Norma!



Condolences

We were sorry to hear that our Dr. **Kwame Adogboba** (Ghana, 1988/1989) had passed away two years ago. Dr Adogboba was the Managing Director of Health Partners Ghana (HPG) and part of the Board of Directors of Health Partners International. He was also a senior public health practitioner with more than 20 years experience in the planning, organization and management of district, regional and national health services in Ghana.



Congratulations!

Barnabas Natamba (Uganda, 2005/2006, nkbarna@gmail.com) and his wife Dina welcomed their second son, Ariel Natamba, on 24th March 2015. In joyful memories of the exciting times Barnabas spent in the Israel holy city of Jerusalem and their strong belief in prayer, Barnabas and Dina named their new son: Ariel. On May 8th 2015, Barnabas passed his defense of the PhD degree in the Division of Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University, Ithaca New York. Beginning 1st September 2015, Barnabas and family will be moving to Boston where Dr. Natamba is one among the 2015-16 cohort of Yerby Postdoctoral Research Fellows at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (HSPH). Dr. Natamba will be hosted by Prof. Michelle Williams, Chair of the Department of Epidemiology at HSPH and keynote speaker at the 2013 IMPH Alumni Reunion & Conference in Jerusalem. Barnabas & Michelle met for the first time in Jerusalem, Israel



Hale Arik (Turkey, 2007/2008, halearik@gmail.com), gave birth to her baby girl Yagmur (rain in Turkish), on March 11th, 2015.

Wishing you joy and happiness with your new babies!



A Visit to the School

We had the privilege of enjoying the company of two of our Alumni from the 2012/2013 Cohort, at the traditional student's barbecue party on Israel 67th Anniversary, that was delayed this year due to the weather: **Nse Merhav** (USA, 2012/2013, nsemerhav@gmail.com) and Dr. **Viktor Rolik** (Ukraine, 2012/2013, vrolikv@gmail.com).

