

MPHS PROGRAM NEWS BULLETIN

Master of Population Health Sciences



MPHS Leadership

Dr. Graham Colditz, Program Director

Drs. Adetunji Toriola and Yikyung Park, Deputy Directors

Dr. Allison King, Associate Director for Medical Students

www.mphs.wustl.edu

Residents, Fellows, Attendings and Clinical Doctorates: Earn Your MPHS Degree

The Master of Population Health Sciences program's uniquely thorough curriculum and clinically-relevant courses are designed to ensure that our students substantially advance their research methods competency and boost their research productivity through applied coursework. MPHS students graduate with papers ready for publishing, grants written, approved study protocols, and much more. Residents, fellows, attendings, and clinical doctorates can use current research projects while learning new research skills in the MPHS program. No thesis is required, and part-time study is available to assist with clinical duties. Our assignments are tailored to a clinical audience, and many programs work with the MPHS program to offer protected time.

"The MPHS promises a one-year high-yield program that teaches enrollees concrete skills for physicians interested in public health. Having graduated from the program, I am well-aware that the degree has provided me with a firm foundation for a career as a clinician scientist focused on health equity." - Adam Lewkowski, MD, MPHS, Obstetrics & Gynecology Fellow

MPHS Course Alert: New Epidemiology Course Name

Please be aware that *Applied Epidemiology* has been restructured and is now *Grant Writing: Applying Clinical and Population Health Methods*. The course is still offered during the spring semester and will continue to be taught by Siobhan Sutcliffe, PhD. Physicians, fellows, and residents in the MPHS program are required to take this course, but it is optional for medical students.



Politi Named to Leadership Role in International Society

The MPHS program congratulates Mary Politi, PhD, associate professor of surgery, on her new position as the Vice President-Elect of the Society for Medical Decision Making. Dr. Politi teaches the spring MPHS elective course, *Principles of Shared Decision Making and Health Literacy in the Clinical Setting*.



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Publication Spotlights

John Chi, MD, and Abby Rosenberg, MPHS alumni from 2018, published in JAMA Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery with MPHS professor, Mary Politi, PhD, analyzing the importance of shared decision making for patients considering nasal reconstruction following Mohs surgery.

Citation: Chi JJ, Rosenberg A, Hahn S, Piccirillo JF, Politi MC, Kallogjeri D, Kukuljan S. Patient Concerns About Nasal Reconstruction After Mohs Surgery and Implications for Shared Decision Making. *JAMA Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*. Published online September 27, 2018. doi:10.1001/jamaoto.2018.2368



Nicholas Karlow, a 2019 MD/MPHS student, published in Academic Emergency Medicine. His publication found that ketamine is noninferior to morphine for the control of acute pain, indicating that ketamine can be considered as an alternative to opioids for emergency department short-term pain control. This systematic review and meta-analysis was begun using skills learned in the MPHS course, *Systematic Reviews and Meta Analysis*, taught by Graham Colditz, MD, DrPH, MPHS program director.

Citation: Karlow N, Schlaepfer CH, Stoll CRT, Doering M, Carpenter CR, Colditz GA, Motov S, Miller J, & Schwarz ES. A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Ketamine as an Alternative to Opioids for Acute Pain in the Emergency Department. *Acad Emerg Med*. 2018 Jul 17. doi: 10.1111/ace.13502. [Epub ahead of print] Review.



MPHS alumni, Katherine Santosa, MD, published a viewpoint in JAMA Facial Plastic Surgery along with MPHS professor Mary Politi, PhD, surgery faculty Alison Synder-Warwick, MD, and medical student, Alexandra Keane. The publication is a nice example of collaboration across departments and programs at Washington University School of Medicine.

Citation: Santosa KB, Keane AM, Politi MC, & Synder-Warwick AK. Facial Animation Surgery for Long-standing Facial Palsy: Opportunities for Shared Decision Making. *JAMA Facial Plast Surg*. Published online August 30, 2018. doi:10.1001/jamafacial.2018.0930.



Funding Announcements



Bettina Drake, PhD, MPH, associate professor of surgery, has received a three-year grant from the Department of Defense for \$525,000 to study prostate cancer samples to improve patient diagnosis and long-term cancer care. Dr. Drake leads the Washington University team of the Prostate Cancer Biorepository Network with high-quality and well-annotated urine, blood, and tissue specimens as part of a Multi-Institutional Department of Defense collaboration. For this project, she will work with colleagues from Johns Hopkins University, New York University, the University of Washington and the Institute of Cancer Research. Dr. Drake teaches the required MPHS course, *Intermediate Clinical Epidemiology*.



Erika Waters, PhD, MPH, associate professor of surgery, has received a three-year, nine-month R01 grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. The \$2,584,000 project, *Child asthma exacerbation: Role of caregiver risk beliefs*, aims to lay the groundwork for improving interventions for caregivers of children with asthma. Through a mixed-methods research design, Dr. Waters and colleagues will gain in-depth understanding of the psychological and social factors that shape the decision making process that caregivers use to care for their asthmatic children. This project will provide evidence-based behavioral strategies to improve the lives of 6.2 million children who are affected by asthma. Dr. Waters teaches the required MPHS course, *Ethics in Population and Clinical Health Research*, and a spring elective course, *Comparative Effectiveness Research*.

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FACULTY RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Bettina Drake, PhD, MPH, & Aimee James, PhD, MPH



Bettina Drake, PhD, MPH, associate professor of surgery, has been named associate director of cancer health equity for Siteman Cancer Center. In this newly formed position, Dr. Drake will oversee Siteman’s community outreach and engagement and will work to promote cancer disparities research that impacts Siteman patients and the larger community. She will also support clinical and community-based outreach, and provide leadership to strengthen partnerships with external healthcare organizations. Dr. Drake will work with clinicians and researchers to address regional health disparities through innovative research, and will be responsible for sharing the results with Siteman leaders.

Dr. Drake will collaborate with Lee Ratner, MD, PhD, a professor of medicine at the School of Medicine and a Siteman research member, to integrate health disparities education throughout unique training opportunities on Siteman’s campus. Dr. Drake teaches the MPHS required course, *Intermediate Clinical Epidemiology*.



Aimee James, PhD, MPH, associate professor of surgery, was appointed as the new Prevention and Control Research Program co-leader for Siteman Cancer Center. In her new role as program co-leader, Dr. James will join current program co-leader, Laura Bierut, MD, in providing scientific leadership that facilitates and supports transdisciplinary and translational prevention and control science. Dr. James teaches the fall MPHS elective, *Applied Qualitative Methods for Health Research*.

Reminders for MPHS Students & Alumni



MPHS leadership would like to remind current and past MPHS students and alumni to share when you have accepted

publications related to MPHS coursework, as well as any grants funded. For tracking and future program funding purposes, please send this information to the MPHS program coordinator, Blanka Hodzic, at bhodzic@wustl.edu.

Attending a Conference?

You can help us recruit external students by distributing MPHS brochures and mentioning the program during your discussions. We will provide the brochures ahead of time.



To make arrangements, please email Blanka Hodzic at bhodzic@wustl.edu.

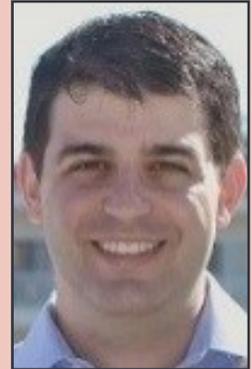
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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Physician spotlight: Adam Lewkowski, MD, 2018 MPHS graduate

"The MPHS [program] is a win-win opportunity - you can use protected time to take classes that will teach you tangible research skills, but because each elective course will result in at least one publication, you can still demonstrate productivity. I learned how to conduct cost-effectiveness analyses, pragmatic trials, systematic reviews and meta-analysis and refined how I conduct cohort studies and RCTs. Because of the training I received during the degree, I am now serving as a research mentor to colleagues interested in these types of research."



MD/MPHS: Cynthia Wang, 2019 MD/MPHS graduate

"The MPHS program attracted me because I wanted to get formalized training in statistics and research methodology in order to gain the skills to be an independent researcher in my future career. I would highly recommend doing the MPHS alongside a research year, as formalized training in research methodology is not incredibly common in physicians. Even though I still have much to learn, I already feel like my knowledge of research methodology and statistics probably exceeds many residents, simply because most residents have not gotten any formalized research training at all."



Interested in the MPHS program?

The MPHS degree program accelerates clinical research expertise and gives physicians, residents, fellows and medical students the foundation to excel in leading, designing, conducting and moving research to applications in clinical settings. The curriculum emphasizes the role of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics in clinical effectiveness and outcomes research. Population health sciences training brings together passion for patient care and uses research to improve health outcomes for patient populations.

The MPHS program gives you the opportunity to learn at a top-ranked medical institution, Washington University School of Medicine, known for patient care and population health excellence, in classes customized for clinicians and medical students. **Applications for fall 2019 are being accepted.**

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Questions?

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