

# Master of Population Health Sciences

## News Bulletin



### 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](http://www.mphs.wustl.edu)

### Alumni Spotlight:

## Catching up with our first graduate: Oluwadamilola Fayanju, MD, MA, MPHS

Oluwadamilola “Lola” Fayanju, MD, MA, MPHS, was the first person to enroll in the Masters in Population Health Sciences (MPHS) degree program in 2010. As she was completing her third year of a general surgery residency at WashU and preparing to enter her “lab years,” her desire was to conduct health services research in the areas of breast cancer outcomes and disparities. However, Fayanju explained, “at that time, there weren’t many local options for residents who wanted to study population health.”



Dr. Fayanju (left) and Julie Margenthaler, MD, studying barriers to breast cancer screening.

Luckily, the goals of WUSM leadership at the time happened to align with her own: “Dr. Tim Eberlein had a strong vision for starting a program specifically for surgical trainees, and I give a lot of credit to him, Dr. Graham Colditz, and Dr. Kate Wolin (now of Coeus Health and Northwestern University) for helping me craft a personalized curriculum that fit my work and goals. It was a great opportunity to get a tailored education with experts in their field right here at Wash U.”

The MPHS program is now in its ninth year and has trained nearly one hundred clinicians in clinical outcomes and population health research. MPHS alumni come from across the med school campus—from surgery to psychology, from medical students to residents, fellows, and attending physicians—and this diversity of perspectives and experience enriches the training that MPHS students receive in collaborative research.



Now an assistant professor of surgery and of population health sciences at Duke University School of Medicine and Director of the Breast Clinic at the Durham VA Medical Center, Fayanju exemplifies the goals of the MPHS program to train leaders in clinical and academic research. She was recently named Associate Director for Disparities and Value in Healthcare at the Forge, Duke University’s center for health data sciences. “At the Forge, my charge is to lend a voice to people on campus and in the community who work on disparities and value-based health care,” she explained. “MPHS coursework equipped me with the content expertise and methodological training to be able to do this work.”

## Congratulations to Our Grads!

The ten MPHS students who completed the program in 2019 were celebrated in a ceremony held on May 16. The event was a joint recognition ceremony with the Applied Health Behavior Research and Master of Science in Clinical Investigation degrees. Congratulations to all grads! Here are some highlights from the event:



Left to right: Dr. Margaret Olsen wins the first annual coursemaster of the year award; during the ceremony; Abigail Zamarano, MD, MPHS, receives her certificate; Dr. Graham Colditz with grad Melanie Subramanian, MD, MPHS at the reception after the ceremony; MPHS faculty and new grads. (Note: as part of the joint MD/MPHS degree, many of our grads opted to receive the MPHS degree at their MD graduation ceremony.)

## Publication Spotlights

Every year our alumni publish countless impactful journal articles.  
Here are just a few highlights from recent grads:

Abby Rosenberg published “Skin Cancer Precursor Immunotherapy for Squamous Cell Carcinoma Prevention” in *JCI Insight*. It was featured in *The Record* on March 25, 2019. **Rosenberg, A.R., Tabacchi, M., Ngo, K.H., Wallendorf, M., Rosman, I.S., Cornelius, L.A., Demehri, S. (March 2019). Skin cancer precursor immunotherapy for squamous cell carcinoma prevention. *JCI Insight*.**

Cynthia Wang published “Association of leukemia cutis with survival in acute myeloid leukemia” in *JAMA Dermatology*. **Wang, C. X., Pusic, I., & Anadkat, M. J. (2019). Association of leukemia cutis with survival in acute myeloid leukemia. *JAMA Dermatology*. doi:10.1001/jamadermatol.2019.0052**

Tara Semenkovich, Pamela Samson, Jessica Hudson, and Melanie Subramanian published “Induction radiation therapy for esophageal cancer: Does dose affect outcomes?” in *Annals of Thoracic Surgery*. **Semenkovich, T. R., Samson, P. P., Hudson, J. L., Subramanian, M., Meyers, B. F., Kozower, B. D., . . . Puri, V. (2019). Induction radiation therapy for esophageal cancer: Does dose affect outcomes? *Annals of Thoracic Surgery*. 107 (3), 903-911. doi:10.1016/j.athoracsur.2018.09.064**

## NEW MPHS FACULTY

**Fei Wan, PhD & Jean Hunleth, PhD, MPH**

Fei Wan, PhD, joined the Division of Public Health Sciences as an Assistant Professor in May. His PhD is in biostatistics from the University of Pennsylvania, and he has master's degrees in mathematics and applied statistics. In addition to teaching in the MPHS program, he works with the biostatistics shared resource to collaborate on projects in the Siteman Cancer Center. Dr. Wan comes to us from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Department of Biostatistics, where he has served as Assistant Professor since 2016. In the MPHS program, he teaches Introductory Biostatistics for Clinical Research.



Jean Hunleth, PhD, MPH, has been a faculty member in the Division of Public Health Sciences since 2017. Prior to that, she was a postdoctoral research associate with our Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities. She received her PhD in medical anthropology and her MPH in disease prevention from Northwestern University. In her research, Dr. Hunleth seeks to understand the delivery of treatment to people suffering from infectious and chronic diseases and how families strategize diagnosis, care, and treatment within settings of adversity. Her work has placed special emphasis on the stories and perspectives of people typically left out of health research, particularly children. With the MPHS program, she co-teaches Ethics in Population and Clinical Health Research with Erika Waters, PhD, MPH in the Spring semesters.



Nicole Ackermann, MPH, started in the Division of Public Health Sciences as an intern in 2014 while in Saint Louis University's Masters in Public Health program, focusing on Epidemiology. After graduation, she continued in the division as a Statistical Data Analyst. She works with Vetta Thompson on assessing community engagement in research, Erika Waters on communicating disease risks, and Su-Hsin Chang on the bariatric surgery database and outcomes. She also serves as a teaching assistant for Introductory Biostatistics for Clinical Research and Intermediate Biostatistics for Clinical Research.



Sarah Humble, MS, earned her master's in Biostatistics from Washington University in St. Louis in 2013. She started in the division as a student worker in 2013 before joining full time as a Statistical Data Analyst. She serves as a TA for Introduction to Biostatistics and works with Graham Colditz on breast cancer risk prediction models and the mobile mammography database, Erin Linnenbringer on structural inequality and breast cancer risk, Muyibat Adelani on racial and geographical disparities and readmission rates after orthopedic surgery, and Aimee James on medication adherence and financial burden in low income/low insurance populations.

Ackermann and Humble co-teach Introduction to SAS and co-organize the Community Research Fellows Training (CRFT) program

## MPHS 2018/19 Alumni: Where Are They Now?

Sixteen MD/MPHS alumni finished their medical degrees in 2018 and 2019 and have matched into fantastic residency programs. Here's an update on where they ended up:

**Kshitij Desai, MD, MPHS '19**, now a resident in vascular surgery at the University of Rochester.

**Anjlie Gupta, MD, MPHS '19**, is now a resident in ophthalmology at Boston University.

**Jessica Holtum, MD, MPHS '18**, is a resident in obstetrics and gynecology at Univ. of Minnesota Med School.

**Seth Howdeshell MD, MPHS '19**, is a resident in psychiatry at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

**Nicholas Karlow MD, MPHS '19**, is an emergency medicine resident at WashU.

**Ryan Kronen, MD, MPHS '18**, joins Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center as an internal medicine resident.

**Jodi Lapidus, MD, MPHS '19**, is a resident at University of California San Francisco in plastic surgery.

**Angela Lin, MD, MPHS '18**, is a resident in psychiatry at WashU.

**Deepak Lingam, MD, MPHS '19**, joins the surgery residency program at San Joaquin General Hospital.

**Abby Rosenberg, MD, MPHS '19**, is a resident at WashU in the dermatology department.

**Michael Roubakha, MD, MPHS '18**, is at the UCLA Medical center as a resident in diagnostic radiology.

**Amar Shah, MD, MPHS '19**, is a resident in surgery with University of Washington.

**Robert Lucas Thomas, MD, MPHS '19**, is a resident in anesthesiology at University of Washington.

**Sirish Veligati, MD, MPHS '19**, has joined University of Colorado School of Medicine as a psychiatry resident.

**Cynthia Wang, MD, MPHS '19**, is a dermatology resident at Wash U.

**Lulu Yu, MD, MPHS '18**, began residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Wash U.



**Congrats to everyone!!!**

### 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 2020 are now being accepted.**

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#### Questions?

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