PM Insider

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues,

As we enter the second half of the academic year, we are excited to share accomplishments from the Public Health/Preventive Medicine Residency (PH/PMR) Program's trainees and faculty members. Our first-year residents tackled projects in emergency preparedness, outbreak response and surveillance. Our second-year residents have continued to play a vital role in our agency’s work to address health equity, improve behavioral health services and strengthen our data systems to improve care quality. I invite you to read more about their contributions in the following pages.

We took several approaches to enhancing resident and faculty development during the fall semester. To optimize the program's clinical experiences, we met with our sexual health clinical preceptors to review resident learning goals, clinical milestones and critical topics in physician wellness. Dr. Charlene Ngamwajasat from the Primary Care Information Project helped us create and pilot a new health informatics rotation. This spring, our residents will have the opportunity to complete a pediatric environmental health rotation with the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

I would also like to congratulate our faculty and program leadership on their recent accomplishments. Our first fellows are now officially program directors and several faculty and program leaders received Distinguished Service Awards for Professional Excellence and Managerial Leadership. We invite you to read more about these exciting developments in our Alumni Spotlight and Faculty Updates sections.

Anita Geevarughese, M.D., MPH
**NEWS AND EVENTS**

**American Public Health Association (APHA) National Meeting**

In November, first-year resident Emma Ruderman attended the national meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA) in San Diego, California. This year’s theme was "Health Equity Now." Emma attended sessions on health equity and vulnerable populations; policies and programs to prevent gun violence; and what public health professionals need to know about racism. Through this, she gained a deeper understanding of the barriers to achieving health equity, the current research being done to advance change, and tools for public health professionals working at a systems level. Next year’s APHA national meeting, “Creating the Healthiest Nation: For science. For action. For health,” will be held in Philadelphia. For more information, visit [apha.org](http://apha.org).

**Residency Advisory Council**

The Residency Advisory Council (RAC) allows residents to receive feedback on their projects and for the residency leadership to receive suggestions for the program. The RAC met on December 7, 2018, to discuss general residency activities and review the residents’ recent achievements. We had a lively discussion on several topics, including the structure, future and function of our RAC meetings; best practices in recruitment strategies; and what it means to serve as a faculty member for the program. RAC members attended a networking luncheon where they shared their experiences and unique backgrounds with the residents.

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**COLLABORATION AND SCHOLARLY WORK**

On November 27, 2018, PH/PMR faculty member Dr. Bill Jordan taught an Introduction to Public Health course to first-year medical students at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Jordan received assistance in facilitating small group sessions from Program Director, Anita Geevarughese; Fellow in Public Health Practice, Tina Singh; and graduates from the PH/PMR program Liz Chuang, Teddy Nagel and Laura Korin. Using dialogue and debate, the facilitators walked students through an exercise in creating and analyzing policy options related to the opioid epidemic.

Second-year resident Sarah Johnson attended the Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care conference in Orlando, Florida. The four-day conference focused on “Where Improvement Science Meets the Passion of Health Care.” Sarah presented the work she completed with the Primary Care Information Project on “Data-Driven Technical Assistance to Promote Behavioral Health Integration.”
Dr. Rebecca Florsheim joined the PH/PMR program after completing her internal medicine residency and working as a hospitalist for several years. She is currently pursuing her Master of Public Health (MPH) degree at Johns Hopkins University with a dual certificate in public health informatics and epidemiology. Within the Health Department’s Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response, Rebecca evaluated compliance with evacuation practices among the 55 New York City (NYC) hospitals who participated in the April 2018 Citywide Surge Exercise. In November, she completed an occupational health rotation at Mount Sinai. This spring, Rebecca will work on projects with the Health Department’s Cancer Prevention and Control Program, Division of Environmental Health and Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention, Care and Treatment.

Dr. Scherly Leon entered the PH/PMR program after training and practicing as a nephrologist at the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center. This past fall, she enrolled in courses in biostatistics and epidemiology at the City University of New York (CUNY). This spring, Scherly plans to work within the Health Department’s Division of Disease Control to explore Group A Strep infections in dialysis patients. She is also a member of the agency’s Institutional Review Board. Scherly is currently on maternity leave with her newborn daughter. We look forward to her return in March 2019.

Dr. Emma Ruderman came to the PH/PMR program after completing training in internal medicine at Jacobi Medical Center. This past fall, she enrolled in biostatistics, epidemiology and environmental health courses at CUNY. She rotated in the Health Department’s Riverside Sexual Health Clinic, where she learned more about sexual health care for transgender individuals and men who have sex with men (MSM). Over the summer, Emma worked with the Division of Mental Hygiene to create and implement a data abstraction tool to better understand a cluster of suicidality that was identified through public health surveillance. She contributed to an abstract that will be submitted for consideration at the 2019 Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) conference. Emma also participated in the Health Department’s response to a measles outbreak, which gave her insight into outbreak investigation principles.
**SECOND-YEAR RESIDENT UPDATES**

**Dr. Sarah Johnson** is actively involved in several projects both within and outside of the Health Department. In partnership with Dr. Jonathan Tobin, the CEO of Clinical Directors Network, Sarah is using natural language processing and text analytics to assess changes in self-reported depressive symptoms and cancer screening rates. She continues to promote integrated behavior health models in primary care through her work with the Health Department’s Mental Health Service Corps. Sarah also works with CUNY’s Center for Innovation in Mental Health to promote treatment and screening for postpartum depression in NYC pediatric practices. One of her largest projects focuses on improving mortality estimates for reportable conditions using clinical algorithms. She plans to produce two manuscripts from this work: one based on the methods of the project and one on a sensitivity analysis.

**Dr. Sheri Kardooni** is working in the Office of the Commissioner on an initiative exploring patient dumping—the discriminatory practice of failing to provide the standard of care to a patient—in NYC hospital emergency departments (EDs). She is working closely with Dr. James Hadler, using New York State ED discharge data to examine factors such as payer status, age, race, gender, discharge diagnosis and hospital type (i.e., private or public). They hope to find patterns that shed light on how patient care decisions are made.

Sheri is also working with the Bureau of Healthcare Systems Readiness to develop crisis standards of care for NYC. The standards will guide hospital and provider approaches to patient care and resource allocation during disasters. Sheri will educate key stakeholders and obtain their buy-in, in addition to creating a timeline for drafting and adopting the standards.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Sheri Kardooni on her recent acceptance into the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Epidemiology Intelligence Service (EIS) Fellowship program. Sheri will begin her fellowship in July and will join a long list of Health Department physicians who have advanced their public health careers through this prestigious training program.
FELLOW IN PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

TINA SINGH, M.D., MPH

Dr. Tina Singh is continuing the work of last year’s fellow by addressing the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) requirements for Preventive Medicine Residency programs. She has also taken an active role in providing structure, content and direction to the weekly seminars for residents and rotating students. Building upon her experience in graduate medical program admissions, Tina participated in the recruitment of the incoming residency class by interviewing candidates and serving on the selection committee. Tina continues to mentor students and trainees through the Elective in Public Health program and recently facilitated a small group session at Einstein College of Medicine under the leadership of Dr. Bill Jordan.

Tina is actively engaged in work with the Policy, Planning and Strategic Data Use (PPSDU) team. She lends her clinical and public health knowledge to multiple ongoing initiatives, including the “Million Dollar Development” project. This project explores how the Health Department can facilitate partnerships between managed care organizations and community-based organizations to reduce high health care costs.

WELCOME OUR NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR!

Please join us in welcoming Ranita Campbell, our new Residency Program Coordinator! Ranita joined us in December from the Health Department’s Bureau of Child Care where she worked as a Public Health Sanitarian. She will manage the Elective in Public Health program, ensuring compliance with ACGME requirements and streamlining our administrative processes.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

We would like to extend a warm congratulations to Dr. Olabisi Badmus and Dr. Vic Costales, two alumni who now work as Program Directors of Preventive Medicine programs in South Carolina and Connecticut, respectively. Dr. Badmus and Dr. Costales are graduates of our Fellowship program. Below, Dr. Badmus shares some insights about her fellowship experience and how it has informed her work as a program director.

Please tell us about your background and what inspired you to apply to the fellowship.

I completed my preventive medicine residency at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. During residency I was able to gain experience at the county health department level and the national level with my work at the CDC. I had a strong interest in medical education and gaining more public health practice, which seemed to be a perfect fit with the fellowship opportunity.

Please share your favorite fellowship project or experience.

My favorite experience during the fellowship was, frankly, everything. I thoroughly enjoyed my involvement in curriculum development, program administration and miscellaneous activities that I was able to participate in within the Health Department. During my time in the fellowship there were simultaneous measles and mumps outbreaks. I was glad to get the hands-on experience of outbreak response and control activities.

Please tell us about your current role as a program director.

My responsibilities include ensuring compliance with ACGME accreditation requirements; procurement and maintenance of adequate funding; resident education and curriculum development; program evaluation; and resident evaluation and resident recruitment, among other things. I also have clinical responsibilities working with our hospital’s occupational medicine clinic and various research interests and collaborations throughout different departments. One of the most exciting things about my role is that no day is ever the same throughout the week.

What unique aspects of your fellowship experience now inform your work as a program director?

My experiences in program administration during the fellowship involved applicant reviews, candidate interviews, overseeing the medical student elective, curriculum development, and committee development according to ACGME requirements. All of these activities set a strong foundation for my current role. The experience of balancing these responsibilities with other activities and obligations provided a realistic view of how a program director must navigate running a program.

As a former preventive medicine resident, fellow and now program director, you inhabit a unique space in which the worlds of preventive medicine, education and public health practice intersect. Given your experiences and perspective, what words of wisdom do you have for our current residents?

Take advantage of every opportunity you can to learn something new and grow your skill set. Networking is key in the field of preventive medicine given that your search for opportunities after training will be a bit different compared to a search for exclusively clinical roles. Ask lots of questions and capitalize on learning from those who are involved in an area that fits your interest. However, it is also important to be open to things outside of the interests you have at the beginning of your training.
**FACULTY UPDATES**

Please join us in congratulating program and faculty leadership who received Distinguished Service Awards for Professional Excellence and Managerial Leadership in 2018!

- **Dr. Thomas Cherneskie | Professional Excellence Award**
  Dr. Cherneskie is a graduate of the PH/PMR program and serves as preceptor to residents in sexual health clinics and through the Health Department's MD-On Call program.

- **Dr. Katherine Kaye | Professional Excellence Award**
  Dr. Kaye sits on the Graduate Medical Education Committee and Residency Advisory Committee. She previously served as the PH/PMR Program Director.

- **Dr. Felicia Dworkin | Managerial Leadership Award**
  Dr. Dworkin helps to organize and supervise residents in Health Department chest centers and gives lectures about tuberculosis for PH/PMR program residents.

- **Calaine Hemans-Henry | Managerial Leadership Award**
  Ms. Hemans-Henry played an instrumental role in the transition of the residency program under the Bureau of Public Health Training and Information Dissemination and continues to oversee and support the program in achieving its goals.

**JOIN OUR TEAM!**

We are currently recruiting for our Fellow in Public Health Practice position. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. If you have questions, please contact healthrp@health.nyc.gov. For more information, visit nyc.gov/health and search for residency.

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

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