



**Community Health Sciences Division**  
**Bernard J. Turnock, MD, MPH**

Community Health Sciences Division (CHS) continues to increase its impact on the school's public health education and training programs.

The MPH degree program continues to thrive within CHS. An expanded curriculum for students concentrating in Maternal and Child Health is now in place. Two new certificate programs - one focusing on Basic Community Public Health Practice and one focusing on Advanced Community Public Health Practice - will be up and running with the spring 2008 semester. All courses in these two certificate programs will be available in an online format, allowing us to reach learners beyond the Chicago metropolitan area.

We revised our curriculum for the PhD degree, upgrading the requirements for advanced research methods and analytical course work and adding a new doctoral seminar series. Our PhD students, now numbering over 40, have been active contributors to this redesign effort. The new curriculum begins with the fall 2008 semester. An annual review and assessment of doctoral student progress is now in place through the efforts of our Graduate Studies Committee. Through the Illinois Public Health Research Fellows Program, CHS now has four post doctoral students initiating research into key areas of community public health practice.

In addition, CHS contributes extensively to the success the of the school-wide DrPH degree program. Our faculty teach the three new leadership and integrative seminar courses that were developed for the new DrPH degree program and serve as advisors for many of the DrPH students.

### Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Division Rosemary Sokas, MD, MOH, FACP



Environmental health issues have moved to the forefront of research activity in the division, with exciting projects funded through a variety of agencies. These include developmental awards, such as National Science Foundation work targeting environmental justice and a National Institute of Environmental

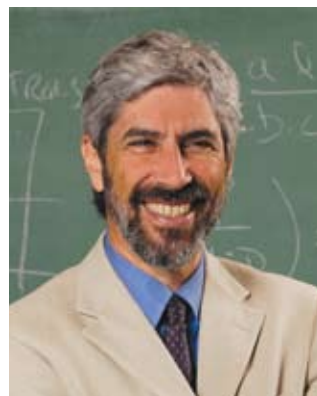
Health Sciences pilot award to assess organic contaminants in placental tissue. Large-scale epidemiologic studies explore the human health impacts of partially treated waste water in recreational settings and assess environmental contaminants from housing demolition. Both projects have sent students into the field as part of coordinated research teams, enriching the learning experience. Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Division (EOHS) also provides the environmental exposure assessment expertise for both the Chicago component of the enormous and long-awaited Children's Environmental Health Study and for the Chicago component of the Hispanic Community Health Study. Finally, the Environmental Health Certificate Program is up and running.

Occupational health remains a powerhouse. The Illinois Education and Research Center not only provides regional leadership in all aspects of training, but also provides national leadership to the association of 17 National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health funded Centers throughout the U.S., keeping UIC in the center of occupational health training nationally. Meanwhile, the collaborative work with the Great Lakes Centers for Occupational and Environmental Health engages research, outreach and education internationally. EOHS faculty members are developing an injury focus, utilizing statewide trauma registry and worker compensation databases, as well as new courses in injury epidemiology and safety. Faculty members continue to advance the field of exposure reconstruction, shepherding large numbers of students through workplace field projects and through exploration of particulate behavior.

Participatory outreach in partnership with public health agencies, home care agencies, unions and community organizations continues both for service and for community based participatory research projects that also engage students. However, the closure of the Occupational Medicine program at Stroger Hospital was a serious blow to vulnerable working and community populations throughout Cook County, and the long-term outcomes remain worrisome. Students, faculty and staff worked hard to educate decision makers at all levels of government about the importance of this service and are currently engaged in serious reflection about the impact on trainees, as well as on patients.

EOHS students not only founded the UIC Student Industrial Hygiene Award last year, they walked off with the Student Local Section of the Year Award for 2006-2007 at the national American Industrial Hygiene Association meetings in Philadelphia.

### Epidemiology and Biostatistics Division Leslie T. Stayner, PhD



The past few years have been an exciting time of rapid expansion of our Division. Accompanying the addition of 15 talented new faculty members, there has been a dramatic increase in academic and research opportunities for our students. Eighteen new courses have been added to our curriculum. Specialized tracks have been

created in Maternal and Childhood Epidemiology and in Cancer Epidemiology, and we are planning on adding additional tracks for Infectious and Occupational/Environmental Epidemiology. While the quantity of our course offerings has increased, the quality of our instruction remains outstanding. Members of our faculty have won the school's prestigious Golden Apple Award for the past three years (Dr. Ron Hershow, Dr. Sylvia Furner, and Dr. Deborah Rosenburg), and Dr. Don Hedeker was the recipient of the University's Excellence in Teaching Award for 2005.

We have also witnessed, during my tenure at UIC SPH, a dramatic increase in research activities. We continue to be the most heavily funded Division in the SPH. Last year alone our faculty published over 100 papers in peer reviewed journals. There has been a dramatic increase in our international research activities. Particularly noteworthy was a study by Dr. Robert Bailey published this year in the Lancet, which reported a 50% decrease in HIV infection in circumcised men in a randomized trial in Kenya. Our faculty also continues to conduct important research on the local level, such as research by Dr. Kamal Elderawai, who, working with Dr. Victoria Persky, reported findings last year on the effects of migration on asthma incidence in Chicago children of Hispanic origin. There has also been a dramatic increase in our research in cancer, including research on brain cancer (Dr. Faith Davis), breast cancer (Dr. Garth Rauscher), and prostate cancer (Dr. Vince Freeman). Finally, our Biostatistics faculty has continued to publish cutting edge research on methods in Biostatistics. Of particular significance (no pun intended) is a book by Dr. Donald Hedeker and Dr. Robert Gibbons on Longitudinal Data Analysis that was published last year.

Unfortunately it is impossible for me to describe all of the very exciting new developments in our Division, but I hope this has at least given you a taste of the excitement we feel about where we are going.

### Health Policy and Administration Division Jack Zwanziger, PhD



It continues to be a time of change and growth for Health Policy and Administration. We welcomed four new faculty, substantially revised our Comprehensive MPH program, started a number of new research projects, enrolled our first students in the MS in Clinical Research program, and graduated our first class

from the Masters in Healthcare Administration program.

We completed a two year review of our comprehensive program, after an analysis of such programs at other schools of public health and with input from an advisory committee based in the public health community in Chicago and Illinois.

The new, more focused curriculum emphasizes the processes of public policy making, teaches them advocacy and policy analysis skills, and prepares them to be managers in the public sector.

We have also seen an increase in new research projects. Dr. Tony Lo Sasso is beginning a project on the determinants and the impacts of the closing of mental health hospitals. Dr. Lorens Helmchen is studying pay-for-performance programs in healthcare settings. Dr. Ken Conrad is studying elder abuse and the policy options for addressing it. Dr. Beth Calhoun is a leader in a major nationwide effort to investigate how "navigators" can lead to increased participation in follow-up after initial health screening for cancer.

This year we enrolled six experienced healthcare clinicians in the new M.S. in Clinical Research program. Each clinician will be assigned a mentor, will take classes and participate in seminars on the latest techniques in clinical research, and will then design and implement a research project. A "Workshops and Seminars Committee" was also established, not only to facilitate the education of the initial trainees, but also to foster the development of a clinical and translational research community at UIC. The Translational Research Seminar Series includes monthly presentations on a broad range of topics, featuring speakers with expertise across the basic, clinical, and public health sciences. Approximately 210 individuals attended the series this year. Participants represented the College of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, College of Dentistry, College of Applied Health Sciences, College of Medicine, and School of Public Health, as well as several outside institutions.

In May of 2007, we graduated our first class of Masters in Healthcare Administration students. Of those, five were awarded fellowships. We were able to recruit highly experienced adjunct faculty - including the CEO of UIH, Director of Research at JCAHO, a VP at Advocate Illinois Masonic, two CFO's at Chicago hospitals, a former healthcare consultant turned healthcare attorney, and the Director of Marketing for Sinai Health Systems. The applicant pool for this new year has been larger and stronger. Our list of preceptors has grown; we will have almost two dozen students placed in two-year preceptorships with top healthcare administrators in the area. Although the program is accredited through the Council on Education in Public Health, this coming year we will also begin to seek accreditation through the Council on the Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education. ■