Fall 2021 Newsletter

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Chair's Note

Fall 2021 marks our second fall semester under the cloud and constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic. The events of the past year and a half have been difficult on several fronts and have thrown into stark relief racial disparities and other injustices that have persisted in our country for too long. During this time, I am thankful for the many positive impacts -- from local to global -- that are being made by members of the Department of Population Health Sciences. Despite unrivaled challenges, PHS members have grown in number; been productive academically and in their research (publishing papers, winning awards, leading new research); returned to teaching in person; served on committees and taskforces (including those to address racism, climate change and other public health crises); and provided expertise to the COVID response. In this issue of the PHS newsletter, you will find just a sampling of some of our contributions and achievements.

David Kindig Receives IAPHS J. Michael McGinnis Leadership Excellence Award
Emeritus Professor of Population Health Sciences Dr. David Kindig earned the 2021 J. Michael McGinnis Leadership Excellence Award from the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science.

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**Welcome Dr. Jessica Cao**

Population Health Sciences welcomed new Assistant Professor Dr. Jessica Cao in Fall of 2020.

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**Tiffany Green Honored with Labelle Lectureship**

Assistant Professor of Population Health Sciences and Obstetrics & Gynecology, Tiffany Green, was awarded McMaster University's 2020 Labelle Lectureship by the Center for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CEPHA). Dr. Green's lecture,"Saving Black Women and
Babies: Leveraging Data and Community Engagement to Achieve Health Equity", took place virtually on November 11th, 2020.

Kristen Malecki appointed as Center for Urban Population Health (CUPH) Director

Population Health Sciences Associate Professor Dr. Kristen Malecki was appointed as CUPH's new director, effective July 1, 2021. The Center for Urban Population Health (CUPH) is a multi-institutional collaboration between the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Advocate Aurora Research Institute.
Jonathan Patz Elected to the National Academy of Medicine

Dr. Patz, Professor of Population Health Sciences and Director of the Global Health Institute, known for his work examining the effects of global environmental change on the health of populations, was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in late 2020.

Final wave of Past Antibody COVID-19 Community Survey results

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Survey of the Health of Wisconsin launched the Past Antibody COVID-19 Community Survey (PACCS) in June of 2020. The most recent third and final wave of the survey
from June 2021 shows more than 11% of participants had a positive COVID antibody test, which is nearly double the December 2020 results of 6.8%.

Sheri Johnson in the US DHHS Healthy People Initiative

Associate Professor of Population Health Sciences and Director of the Population Health Institute, Sheri Johnson, is part of the US Department of Health and Human Services' team who are selecting the leading indicators for Healthy People 2030.

Mari Palta on Medical Decision Making Journal Board

Professor Emeritus, Mari Palta, has joined the editorial board of the SAGE Journal, Medical Decision Making.
Leonelo Bautista Awarded Decree of Honor

Associate Professor, Leonelo Bautista, has been recognized with a "Decree of Honor" by the city of Bucaramanga, Colombia, for his participation in their Epidemiology Advisory Committee, which advises the city on issues related to the control and management of the COVID-19 epidemic in the city.

Ajay Sethi reflects on over 300 interviews from the past year and half of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Ajay Sethi was recently featured in the University of Wisconsin news article, “300 interviews: Ajay Sethi’s pandemic pivot”, where he reflects on the past year and a half of providing COVID-19 expertise to the Madison community, Wisconsin, and beyond.
Congratulations to all 2020-2021 Population Health Sciences Award Winners

The following individuals won major faculty awards in the 2020-2021 academic year:

- Ajay Sethi, Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award
- Jonathan Patz, WARF Named Professorship- Tony J. McMichael Professor of Planetary Health
- Kristen Malecki, HI Romnes Faculty Fellowship
- Javier Nieto, WMAA Basic Sciences Emeritus Faculty Award

Recent Publications:

- Burns ME, Cook ST, Brown L, Tyska S, Westergaard RP. Increasing Medicaid enrollment among formerly incarcerated adults. Health Serv


