New MPH in Biostatistics Starts in Fall  
**Biostatistics + Public Health = Rewarding Career**

After more than two years of hard work and planning, the Wayne State University School of Medicine is accepting applications for its new Master of Public Health in Biostatistics for fall, 2014. The MPH in Biostatistics will provide students with a broad knowledge and understanding of statistical methods used in public health studies and investigations, skills and knowledge in core public health principles including coursework in epidemiology, environmental health and the social basis of health care. In addition, students will receive hands-on training during the Practicum. “Students graduating from our program will not only have a strong academic biostatistical training, they will also have real experience applying these skills in an actual research setting,” said James Janisse, an assistant professor and the department lead for the new concentration.

Biostatisticians work as part of interdisciplinary teams to design studies and make sense of the resulting data. Faculty biostatistician and math lover Robert Podolsky is helping to develop the program and will also direct the student research project. He explains the program’s broad appeal:

“It’s not just about math. It’s about trying to solve puzzles, biological or health related puzzles, and finding rules to solve the puzzles. It could be that you want to understand how a disease develops and we have collected data over time. You need a biostatistician to make sense of the data to use it and make sure that you have results to go do more science. Statistics is not the final answer. It’s an important step in the process.”

Best of all, biostatistics is a high growth profession, and biostatisticians are in high demand. Graduates of mathematics, engineering, computer science, physics, and biology and others interested in using math to make an impact on public health should consider this new program.

For more information, call 313-577-1051 or visit our website [www.med.wayne.edu/fam/mph](http://www.med.wayne.edu/fam/mph).

---

**New Detroit Initiatives Elective**

The MPH Program will be offering the elective Detroit Initiatives for fall, 2014. Students will use case studies to understand public health trends and apply their public health knowledge to find creative solutions to public health issues. Then students will delve deeper when they visit the three main types of public health settings: government, non-profit or community based, and health systems. Course instructor Dana Rice (DrPH 2010, MS 2004) explains, “I have always been intrigued and excited about being in a field that requires working with individuals across many disciplines and in governmental, public, and private sectors. Public Health is a field built on the foundation of service to others and in turn is very rewarding- both personally and professionally.” This course offers a valuable opportunity to see public health in action and how public health theory is applied in the real world!
Student Corner - MPH Student Organization

Fall has been a busy semester for the PHSO as we have been actively involved in promoting the health and well-being of students and the greater community. During our first major event of the fall, we partnered with Campus Health to provide flu-shots for public health and School of Medicine students. The flu can be serious even for young adults, and we hoped to help keep students healthy during the school year.

We were also able to be involved in a few community events including Noel Night. As Midtown filled with festivities and people, we provided nutrition information, body fat analysis, and BMI calculations.

PHSO members also volunteered at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Program at Henry Ford Hospital Main, where members gave out materials, and reusable grocery bags to attendees.

For the winter semester, PHSO is hosting several exciting Public Health Week events. **WSU President M. Roy Wilson, (MD, MS)** will kick off public health week with a special keynote address “Health Disparities, Why Should We Care?” on Monday, April 7, at 12:00 in the Student Center Hillberry rooms. More public health week information is available on our website at [www.med.wayne.edu/fam/mph](http://www.med.wayne.edu/fam/mph).

We look forward to continuing to help our public health students come together to improve our community’s health in the upcoming year.

**Bragging Rights**

**Sridevi Mohan (MPH 2009)** is a public health epidemiologist for the Madison and Dane County Health Department in Wisconsin. She is also completing her doctorate at the University of Wisconsin’s Department of Population Health Sciences.

**Tanina Foster (GCPHP 2011)** earned a PhD in Education, Evaluation and Research. She continues her work as the Behavioral and Field Research Core Manager at the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

**Dayo Osunlana (MPH 2012)** coordinates research studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada.


**Student Publications**


**Student Presentations**


We hope you enjoyed this issue of Public Health Matters. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact the editor, Elissa Firestone at MPHprogram@med.wayne.edu.