Bulletin, Fall 2011

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The MPHS degree program’s second academic year is off to an exciting start. With new teaching faculty, courses and a new concentration, the MPHS is growing to meet the population-based research training needs of clinicians and clinical doctorates. While the core curriculum emphasizes the role of epidemiology and biostatistics in clinical effectiveness and outcomes research, the concentration tracks allow students to hone their expertise using applied coursework. Our new concentration, Psychiatric and Behavioral Health Sciences, is featured below, and the other concentrations (Clinical Epidemiology, Health Services and Quantitative Methods) are described on page 4. The unique use of applied coursework is already paying off for MPHS students beyond the program curriculum — for example, one student’s systematic review and meta-analysis was recently published in a top academic journal. Finally, the application deadline for the 2012-2013 academic year is December 15, 2011. Scholarship information, the admissions application, course syllabi, and more, can be found online at www.mphs.wustl.edu.

New MPHS Concentration

Psychiatric and Behavioral Health Sciences

The Psychiatric and Behavioral Health Sciences concentration provides clinician-researchers with strong conceptual and methodological skills required for the design, advanced analysis and interpretation of epidemiological and treatment-effective studies. One of the few programs in the U.S. to offer this cutting-edge training, the concentration is designed not just for those directly in the field of psychiatry. Given the comorbidities of psychiatric disease, clinicians in many specialties will benefit from studying a clinical approach to psychiatric and addiction health research. New MPHS instructors for the concentration include Anne Glowinski, MD, MPE, and Michael Lynskey, PhD, from the Department of Psychiatry.

Concentration Course Requirements — Seven core MPHS courses, plus the following electives:
M19-561 Epidemiology of Psychiatric Disorders Across the Lifespan (3 credits) · M19-562 Addiction and Addictive Behaviors (3 credits) · Nine additional credits from courses approved by the program director
MPHS STUDENT PROFILES

Shane LaRue, MD
Clinical Fellow, Division of Cardiology
Department of Medicine
Washington University School of Medicine

Why did you enroll in the MPHS program?
I enrolled to enhance my preparation for a career as an academic heart failure and transplant cardiologist. One of my primary goals is to develop a greater understanding of clinical research methodology as well as the biostatistics and epidemiology involved. These skills will enhance my ability to interpret and apply clinical studies, improving the care of my patients. This knowledge will also further my capacity to design and perform methodologically-sound clinical investigations and ultimately influence the care of patients beyond my immediate practice.

What area of study in the MPHS program has proven beneficial so far?
Working closely with Dr. Colditz in the Randomized Controlled Trials class has been invaluable. His ability to supplement instruction in developing a Randomized Controlled Trial with first-hand, real-world experience to highlight an important nuance or component is remarkable. Another very beneficial aspect of the program is that classes frequently cover similar topics from a different perspective, which hastens comprehension of the material.

What is your future research focus?
I plan to focus on outcomes and comparative effectiveness research in heart failure, mechanical circulatory support and heart transplant. I am specifically interested in evaluating pre-transplant predictors of post-transplant outcomes, as well as factors that influence transplant rejection and the development of transplant vasculopathy. Additionally, I am concerned with improving the treatment of decompensated heart failure, cardiogenic shock, right ventricular failure, and decision making regarding timing of ventricular assist devices implantation.

Leisha Elmore
Medical Student
Washington University School of Medicine

What are your professional goals, and how will an MPHS degree help you achieve them?
After medical school, I will pursue a general surgery residency program with an ultimate goal of practicing surgical oncology. I plan to work in academic medicine and conduct clinical research focused on cancer epidemiology, outcomes research and research addressing health disparities. The MPHS will equip me with the skill set necessary to develop a research plan, obtain funding and conduct clinical research studies and data analysis.

What area of study in the MPHS program has proven beneficial so far?
There is a breadth of research opportunities available through the university. However, I find that the classroom-based approach provides an important foundation for successful research. While working with a research mentor provides excellent practical knowledge, applied coursework teaches you the nuances of designing, conducting and analyzing data from a research project that will not be obtained in the typical mentor-mentee research partnership. The skills I have learned related to statistical analysis and the related software are crucial.

Other thoughts about your experience in the program?
As a medical student, I feel like there is an unofficial curriculum of sorts completely separate from the coursework. Through the program, I have the opportunity to interact with several of the clinicians enrolled in the program. I have received invaluable career advice and mentoring, which has contributed immensely to my personal development.
FOCUS ON FACULTY

Richard Griffey, MD, MPH
Associate Chief of the Division of Emergency Medicine

Teaches M19-526
“Patient Safety, Quality Management and Quality Improvement”
Spring 2012 • Wednesdays 8 a.m. to noon
No prerequisites • Open to all WU clinicians

For nearly 10 years, Dr. Griffey has led departmental quality, peer review, error-based learning programs and has directed departmental information systems. His operational, research and teaching interests include quality and patient safety and the impact of information systems on these areas, implementation science and organizational performance, and evidence-based imaging and radiation safety. Dr. Griffey is a member of the American College of Emergency Physicians Quality and Performance Committee and Quality and Patient Safety Sections where he is involved with national measure development and evaluation for Emergency Medicine. He also sits on the National Quality Forum Imaging Efficiency Steering Committee. Dr. Griffey is a reviewer for major emergency medicine academic journals and on the editorial board of Academic Emergency Medicine. As a member of the Barnes-Jewish Hospital Quality and Safety committee and the Washington University School of Medicine Physician Patient Safety Workgroup, Dr. Griffey is involved in curriculum development, debriefing training, error reporting, sharing of best practices and cross-institutional communication in patient safety.

Congratulation Scholarship Recipients

For the 2011-2012 academic year, seven MPHS students received scholarships from the BJC HealthCare IPH Scholarship Fund:

- Michael Lane, MD — Instructor in Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine
- Jennifer Leinicke, MD — Clinical Research Fellow, Department of Surgery
- Kristen Sanfilippo, MD — Clinical Fellow, Medical Oncology, Department of Medicine
- Jaime Cavallo, MD — Clinical Research Fellow, Department of Surgery
- Chad Washington, MD — Clinical Fellow, Department of Neurosurgery
- Shane LaRue, MD — Clinical Fellow, Cardiology, Department of Medicine
- Lola Fayantu, MD — Clinical Research Fellow, Department of Surgery

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Questions?
Need to request brochures?
Joyce Linn, program coordinator
email: mphs@wustl.edu
phone: (314) 362-5501
**MPHS Program News Bulletin**

**Master of Population Health Sciences**

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**A Guide to the MPHS Concentration Tracks**

MPHS students take these seven core courses, plus five electives in a chosen concentration track.

- Introduction to SAS
- Ethical and Legal Issues in Clinical Research
- Biostatistics I and II
- Introduction to Epidemiology
- Intermediate Epidemiology
- Applied Epidemiology

### Concentration Description

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<th>Clinical Epidemiology</th>
<th>Required Courses</th>
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| Focuses on rigorous clinical research study designs, the role of epidemiology in disease prevention, and clinical health outcomes including analysis of prevention and screening programs, evaluation of treatment and disease management programs, and the application of prediction rules. | - Randomized Controlled Trials  
- Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis  
- Plus three additional electives |

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<th>Health Services</th>
<th>Required Courses</th>
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| Provides advanced methods training to evaluate and identify the most appropriate and effective approaches to clinical care, including prevention, early detection, and disease management. Research interests include cost-effectiveness analysis, decision analysis, health services research and quality improvement. | - Comparative Effectiveness Research  
- Patient Safety, Quality Management and Improvement  
- Decision Analysis and Economic Analysis  
- Plus two additional electives |

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<tr>
<th>Quantitative Methods</th>
<th>Required Courses</th>
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<td>Provides advanced methods and analytical skills for clinical and public health practice and research. Analysis of health services data, addition of biomarkers from plasma and DNA, and integration of these markers with other lifestyle risk factors to identify populations and targets for preventive services and programs is a priority.</td>
<td>- Students may customize this concentrative with five electives with approval from the program director</td>
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<th>Psychiatric and Behavioral Health Sciences</th>
<th>Required Courses</th>
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| Provides students with strong conceptual and methodological skills required for the design, advanced analysis and interpretation of epidemiological and treatment-effectiveness studies. Emphasizes a clinical approach to psychiatric and addiction health research. | - Epidemiology of Psychiatric Behaviors Across the Lifespan  
- Addiction and Addictive Behaviors  
- Plus three additional electives |