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6-2014

Research Digest - June 2014

Division of Public Health Sciences, Department of Surgery, Washington University School of
Medicine in St. Louis

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Recommended Citation

Division of Public Health Sciences, Department of Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine in
St. Louis, "Research Digest - June 2014" (2014). *Newsletters from the Division of Public Health Sciences*.
Paper 4 Division of Public Health Sciences, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.
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Research Digest

June 2014

From the Division of Public Health Sciences, Department of Surgery
Graham A. Colditz, MD, DrPH, *Chief*

Study shows people understand diseases are caused by both genes and behavior, but knowledge gaps exist



| **Health Literacy Research** |
Erika Waters, PhD, MPH, et al.
Published in *Genetics in Medicine*
[PubMed](#) | [Waters Profile](#)

Review finds evidence that vitamin D is associated with better prognosis for breast, colorectal cancer patients



| **Cancer Survivorship Research** |
Adetunji Toriola, MD, PhD, et al.
In *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*
[PubMed](#) | [Toriola Profile](#)

Breast cancer research and prevention efforts must continue to expand to include early life



| **Cancer Prevention Research** |
Graham Colditz, MD, DrPH, et al.
Published in *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment*
[PubMed](#) | [Colditz Profile](#)

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Division News Briefs

- The [Master of Population Health Sciences \(MPHS\) degree program](#) announces a **new Biostatistics for Clinical Research three-course series** that will begin in August 2014. The courses, open to clinicians and clinical doctorates as well as MPHS students, are: Introduction to SAS for Clinical Research, Introductory Biostatistics for Clinical Research, and Intermediate Biostatistics for Clinical Research. These courses give students the opportunity to learn statistical concepts as applied to clinical and population-based data sets. The classes are taught by faculty in division, including [Melody Goodman, PhD](#), and [Yan Yan, MD, PhD](#). Read more about these classes and all of the fall 2014 courses [here](#).
- The division welcomes **new faculty member Yikyung Park, ScD**, associate professor of surgery. Dr. Park earned a doctor of science degree from the Harvard School of Public Health. She subsequently joined the Nutritional Epidemiology Branch of the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, as a NIH-AARP fellow before becoming a staff scientist in 2007. She served as co-principal investigator for the NIH-AARP Diet and Health Study, a prospective cohort study with over half a million men and women participants. Dr. Park's work focuses on the role of diet, obesity, physical activity, and other lifestyle factors in cancer development and survival. She also conducts research on measurement errors in dietary



ABOUT US

This newsletter provides a select summary of research news from the Division of Public Health Sciences.

We are a team of researchers and clinicians dedicated to preventing disease, improving health outcomes, and promoting quality and access to health care.

The Division of Public Health Sciences is part of the [Department of Surgery](#).

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[Cancer News in Context Blog](#)

assessment methods and its impact on estimation of diet and cancer relation in epidemiologic studies.

- [Cassandra Arroyo Johnson, PhD](#), will serve as **chair of the Healthy Eating and Active Living Partnership** (HEAL Partnership), part of the City of St. Louis Health Department's obesity plan. The plan, called [St. Louis: The City Where Healthy Living Matters](#), aims for a 5% reduction in the city's obesity rate by 2018. Dr. Johnson will lead the HEAL Partnership in fostering ongoing collaboration among groups working to reduce obesity, coordinating resources, implementing new strategies, and evaluating success. "It's not enough to just tell people to eat healthy and exercise. The city and the partnership recognize that the choices we make are determined by the choices we have. The HEAL Partnership efforts aim to improve the choices the residents of St. Louis have in five key areas: Places to Exercise & Play; Places for Healthy Food & Drinks; Healthy Messages & Social Support; Health Care & Worksite Wellness; and Healthy Schools. This is a very exciting and powerful initiative for me to be involved in," says Dr. Johnson.

[Learn more about our research](#) | [Master of Population Health Sciences degree program for clinicians](#)

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