

Public Health Rounds

Fall 2014

How Cultural Norms and Practices Impact Ebola Outbreak

Sammi Gassel, MS - Health Communication '15

It is almost impossible to think of the current public health landscape without thinking of Ebola. The deadly virus has infected 14,098 individuals and taken the lives of 5,160 (as of November 12, 2014), and has spread from numerous regions of West Africa to countries across the globe. When the epidemic began, its severity was not on the minds of many Americans. Now that it has reached U.S. soil, the public has become nothing short of obsessed with the disease.

The outbreak has sparked media frenzy, causing people from around the world to panic about the disease. Americans are among those who are highly concerned, despite the fact that only four Americans have contracted Ebola, only two of which contracted it on U.S. soil.

There are many reasons why Ebola has spread rampantly across West Africa, including limited medical resources and facilities, a shortage of healthcare workers, and unsanitary conditions that make it easier for Ebola to spread. Even when help is available to these regions, there is still a barrier that is difficult to overcome: cultural norms and practices.

One of the practices that pose a high risk of contagion is handling the bodies of the deceased. Ebola is contracted through physical contact with an infected person's bodily fluids and such physical contact is a traditional funeral custom of many West

Africans. In preparation for burial, the bodies of loved ones are often washed, touched, and kissed. With bleeding, vomiting and diarrhea as some of the main Ebola symptoms, those in charge of funeral preparation can be easily exposed to these and other bodily fluids. Nancy Allen, MPH'05, Instructor in the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, explains, "How we honor our dead and the rituals attached to that process are incredibly strong cultural norms that are difficult to break."

Another significant barrier in battling Ebola is resistance to Western medicine. In several infected regions, the population believes that Ebola is a curse and that Western medicine will be ineffective. This has led to a severe distrust of medical personnel. It is often believed that doctors are planning on harvesting the organs of those dying from Ebola or are purposely killing patients that they treat. Additionally, many West Africans are frightened by the look of the hazmat suits worn by healthcare workers. These protective garments may be effective in combating transmission, but they also create panic and fear in communities.

Stigmatization of Ebola patients is also complicating treatment efforts. Since many communities believe that Ebola is a curse and that individuals' must have done something to deserve the disease. There have been comparisons between Ebola and HIV, leading many to think that Ebola is retribution for sexual promiscuity. The shame of being seen as sexually promiscuous has led many patients to not seek help, which has led to even more contagion and deaths.

During an outbreak like Ebola, the World Health Organization (WHO) currently has policies in place to incorporate local and traditional practices into their response plans. In Sierra Leone, a region where Ebola is rapidly spreading, Red Cross workers have collaborated with traditional healers to educate people

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PHPD Programs Dean's Message

It is as if we are on a two- or three-year cycle, a public health crisis overtakes the news and, this one, our conscientiousness. Ebola virus disease, named for the Ebola River in the Democratic Republic of Congo, is epidemic in West Africa and several cases (and many more possible cases) are being identified around the globe, including here in the US. The disease is a severe, often fatal illness in humans. At present, there is no known cure, although two vaccines are undergoing human safety testing. Public health is innately multidisciplinary, with natural science and social science approaches central to its delivery. A scourge like Ebola makes this abundantly clear. To wit:

Natural science, of course:

- *Microbiology:* The virus family the genus *Ebolavirus*, with 5 species of the currently identified. Identification of the species responsible for the current outbreak in West Africa (*Zaire ebolavirus*) is important for tracking this epidemic and those that invariably follow.
- *Veterinary Medicine:* Fruit bats of the *Pteropodidae* family are natural Ebola virus hosts. Ebola is introduced into the human population through close contact with the bodily fluids of infected animals such in the rainforest.
- *Epidemiology:* The virus is spread via human to human contact via direct contact bodily fluids of infected people, and with surfaces and materials (e.g. bedding, clothing) contaminated with these fluids.
- *Clinical Medicine:* Differential diagnosis in field settings is challenging, as symptoms are similar to malaria, typhoid fever and meningitis. Rehydration with oral or intravenous fluids and treatment of specific symptoms is key. With no proven treatment yet available, a range of potential treatments including blood products, immune therapies and drug therapies are currently being evaluated.
- *Occupational Health:* Health-care workers have frequently been infected while treating patients with suspected or confirmed EVD. This has occurred through close contact with patients when infection control precautions are not strictly practiced.
- *Ecology:* Ecologists are puzzling the possible explanations as to how the virus traveled from its home in the Congo all the way to West Africa. Insights here may help stem future epidemics.

Social science, importantly:

- *Economics and political science:* Outbreaks of new diseases such as Ebola in sub-Saharan Africa run parallel to the spread of industrialization, urbanization, unprecedented militarization (funded by western countries), deforestation and the destruction of eco-systems that have forced communities to expand their search for food into territories that traditionally were not used for that purpose. Domestically, the *politics of Ebola* lays bare serious gaps in emergency preparedness, with attendant political jockeying for advantage at local, state, and federal levels coming as it did in the the months leading to the mid-term elections.
- *Sociology:* Societal factors are worthy of attention. Some have suggested the slow international response to Ebola reflects attitudes about African “otherness”. Can one ignore the geopolitical context by which western medical intervention, when it does arrive, is met with suspicion and distrust?
- *Anthropology:* Cultural practices are formidable forces and require thoughtful consideration. Burial ceremonies in which mourners have direct contact with the body of the deceased person can also play a role in the transmission of Ebola. (*See article on p. 1*)
- *Behavioral Sciences:* Efforts at prevention clearly rely on understanding human behavior and the levers by which it can change.
- *Communication:* Missteps, sidesteps, two-steps: it's been rocky domestically—with notable failures in key arenas: the president's unfortunate prognostication, the CDC's early failures at preparedness. The formulation and dissemination of messages is crucial to the global and local response.

Jeff Griffiths, MD, MPH&TM, Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, points out that the World Bank's pledge of \$400 million to address the Ebola epidemic reflects the bank president's training in public health and medicine.

We need and will continue to need a cadre of public health professionals who come from many disciplines to work to address our public health challenges—both when we're in crisis mode and day-to-day as the infrastructure to address chronic and acute threats to population health.

Good wishes and good health!

Dean, Public Health and Professional Degree Programs

Public Health and Fashion Design: Open Style Lab

Sammi Gassel, MS - Health Communication '15

Public health and fashion design may appear to be in two completely different worlds. Yet at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), the two worlds have come together in a project called Open Style Lab.

The Open Style Lab was created by Tufts MPH'11 alum, Alice Tin and Grace Teo, PhD, MIT alum, as a forum for creating clothes that are accessible for people with various disabilities and/or physical impairments. Throughout the past summer, teams of engineers, fashion designers and occupational therapy (OT) students worked with eight clients to create garments that would suit each individual's needs. While the engineers constructed the physical aspects of the clothing, the OT students brought in personal experiences working with clients and the designers added the aesthetic elements.

Tin explains, "For many of us, getting dressed is second nature and intuitive...but when the body goes through a drastic change, it is not always quite so simple." One client was in a wheelchair and had a limited range of motion. It was such a difficult and intricate process to put on a jacket that he often braved the cold weather without any protection. This put him at risk for getting pneumonia, something for which he was already high-risk. It also caused him pain and discomfort in rain or snow, as he had heightened sensitivity to impact due to sensory issues. Another



Open Style Lab Fellows (l-r) Linda Donoghue and Sophia Chesrow demo the protective sleeve they created for caretakers of children with autism.

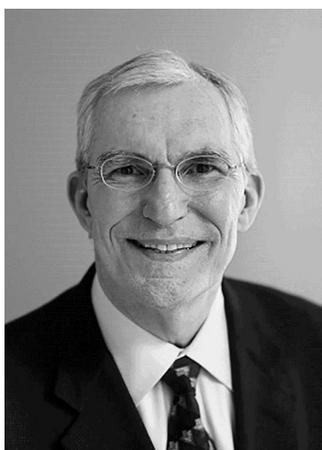
client was an accomplished musician whose early onset arthritis made it difficult for her not only to play her instruments, but to perform daily tasks. She had trouble finding clothes that were both fashionable and easy to put on. If an article of clothing had a side or back zipper, small buttons, or required too much pulling over the head and shoulders, it would be too difficult for her to wear.

Whether their clients were in wheelchairs, had prosthetic limbs, or had sensory conditions that made them especially sensitive to specific types of weather, the teams worked diligently and compassionately to arrive at stylish solutions. They redesigned jackets to be closed on the side, added lap flaps to raincoats to protect wheelchair riders' laps, and replaced zippers with magnets. ' "

Open Style Lab will continue next summer, and the founders hope that the lab can eventually be replicated in other cities. They also aspire to create clothing that can be put into production and sold.

"Fashion is a form of social capital," says Tin. "The [clothing] helped our clients gain independence and confidence."

Visit www.openstylelab.org to learn more and to meet the teams. If you are interested in becoming involved with the program, e-mail hello@openstylelab.org.



Paul Beninger, MD, MBA

New Combined MBA Program Director

Paul Beninger, MD, MBA, Lecturer for the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine and Director of the MS – Development and Regulation of Medicines and Devices Program, has been appointed the new Director of the Combined MBA Program, which includes the MD/MBA and MS-Biomedical Sciences/MBA Tracks. He will be replacing Joe Jabre, MD, who recently stepped down from the position after serving as director for 4 years.

Dr. Beninger is the Therapeutic Area Head, Global Pharmacovigilance and Epidemiology for Genzyme

Sanofi and was previously Director of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Center for Devices and Radiological Health's Medical Device Division.

Dr. Beninger noted that he's very excited to be part of the Combined MBA Program. He went on to add, "It's a great opportunity for me to bring my government and industry experience to an outstanding dual degree program that is of increasing importance in the healthcare setting."

To learn more about the Combined MBA Program go to go.tufts.edu/mdmba.

Faculty Notes

Odilia I. Bermudez, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor of Public Health & Community Medicine (PH&CM), participated in the International Micronutrient Forum 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in June, where she gave a presentation on “Using HCES Food Acquisition Data to Better Understand Dietary Patterns: A Nigerian Example.”

Douglas Brugge, PhD, MS, Professor of PH&CM, presented his findings from “The Externalized Costs of Uranium Mining in the United States” and “Uranium - Past and Future Challenges” in September at the 7th International Conference on Uranium Mining and Hydrology in Freiberg, Germany. Two Tufts University undergraduate students, Aparna Dasaraju, B.A. '16, Peace and Justice Studies and Community Health major and Brianna Dayer B.A. '15, Spanish and Community Health major, assisted with the paper and presentation.

Daniel Carr, MD, Professor of PH&CM, successfully organized a satellite symposium “Faces in the Crowd: Variability and Diversity in Acute Pain Control” with participants from North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa as Chair of the Special Interest Group on Acute Pain for the International Association for the Study of Pain.

Virginia Rall Chomitz, PhD, Assistant Professor PH&CM, was awarded a Cambridge Food Heroes Award, which honors “Cambridge individuals and organizations with a lasting and significant commitment to the fair, healthy, and sustainable food culture in the city.” Dr. Chomitz was presented the award by the Mayor of Cambridge in recognition of her work in the Cambridge community, and in particular around her work with the 5-2-1 program which focuses on healthy eating and physical activity with children.

Carol Curtiss, MSN, RN-BC, Adjunct Instructor of PH&CM, received the American Society for Pain Management Nursing's (ASPMN) President's Award at their national meeting in San Diego, California in September. The award is presented “in recognition for steadfast dedication to ASPMN”.

Jeffrey K. Griffiths, MD, MPH&TM, Professor of PH&CM, gave a presentation on “Prevention of Stunting” at the launch of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Development Innovation Lab, where Senator Hillary Clinton and Administrator of USAID, Rajiv Shah were the headline speakers.

Lisa Gualtieri, PhD, ScM, Assistant Professor of PH&CM, presented on “Patient Empowerment: The Impact of Digital Health and Mobile Technology on Patient Engagement” at the Healthcare Business Women Association (HBA) and on “Signals in the System: Cutting through the Noise with Patient Insights” at the Quintiles Executive Vision Forum.

Paul Hattis, MD, JD, MPH, Associate Professor of PH&CM, will moderate a session on November 17th at the American Public Health Associations (APHA) annual meeting titled “Too Young to Die: Teen Black Homicide and White Suicide.”

Barry S. Levy, MD, MPH, Adjunct Professor of PH&CM, recently completed editing the book “Climate Change and Public Health” which will be published by Oxford University Press early next year.

Alice Lichtenstein, DSc, Gershoff Professor of Nutrition Science & Policy, Friedman School, presented “Food Intake Patterns Assessed Using Front-of-Pack Labeling Program Criteria Are Associated With Better Diet Quality and Lower Cardiometabolic Risk Factors” at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics’ Food and Nutrition Conference.

Aviva Must, PhD, Morton A. Madoff Professor and Chair of PH&CM, and a team of faculty at Tufts University School of Medicine have been awarded a grant from the Obama Singh Initiative of the US-India Foundation to work with colleagues at Christian Medical College in Vellore, India as they develop their clinical bioethics curriculum. The grant will fund faculty exchanges in both directions. Dr. Must will present a paper at APHA with Dr. Mohan Thanikachalam and other Tufts and Chennai collaborators entitled, “Prevalence of Hypertension in Urban, Semi-Urban, and Rural Communities in a South Asian Population,” based on data collected as part of the PURSE-HIS project.

Flavia C. Peréa, PhD, MEd, Assistant Professor of PH&CM, will present at the upcoming APHA annual meeting “Engaging Urban Minority Youth to Address Health Inequities: Using Animation for Community Health Education and Health Promotion as part of STEM/Science Enrichment” and “Successful Approaches to Train Youth for a Career in Public Health.”

Pamela Katz Ressler, MS '11, RN, HN-BC, Adjunct Lecturer of PH&CM, moderated the featured main stage panel “Communicating the Experience of Illness in the Digital Age”, at this year’s Medicine X Conference at Stanford University and recently accepted an invitation to serve on the Consumer Health Council of the Massachusetts Health Quality Partners (MHQP), a coalition working to improve the quality and transparency of health care in Massachusetts.

Margie Skeer, ScD, MPH, MSW, Assistant Professor of PH&CM, recently authored an article entitled “A Systematic Review of Risk and Protective Factors Associated with Non-Medical use of Prescription Drugs Among Youth in the United States: A Social Ecologic Perspective” that was published in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*.

Welcome New Faculty: Signe Flieger, Ph.D.



Signe Flieger, Ph.D.

Sammi Gassel, MS - Health Communication '15

The Tufts Department of Public Health and Community Medicine is thrilled to welcome new faculty member, Dr. Signe Peterson Flieger. Dr. Flieger received a PhD in Social Policy and Management at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, which fueled her interest in health care organizations and innovations in health care delivery system and payment reform.

As part of her dissertation research, Dr. Flieger evaluated a patient-centered medical home pilot program that aimed to improve quality and reduce costs by implementing team-based care, enhancing care coordination, and re-orienting toward population health management in primary care. She studied nine primary care practices to understand how they transformed, and assessed if becoming a medical home impacted utilization, cost, and quality measures relative to non-medical home sites. She found that each practice varied in the level of change enacted and the features of the medical home model implemented, and overall demonstrated no statistically significant impact on utilization, costs, and quality. According to Flieger, “More attention needs to be paid when we talk about medical homes and health care organizations to identifying the nuts and bolts that practices can implement and what actually makes a difference.”

Currently, Dr. Flieger is part of the initiative “Leadership Saves

Lives,” led by colleagues at the Global Health Leadership Institute at Yale and the Medicines Company. Working on the qualitative side, she is visiting hospitals across the country to observe how leadership and organizational culture impact mortality rates associated with heart attacks. Dr. Flieger says that one of the most interesting parts of the project is that there is a research arm as well as an intervention arm. Over the course of two years, each hospital is working to create its own goals, so there is variation among hospitals as to where each will direct their focus.

Dr. Flieger is also part of a team that is conducting Vermont’s self-evaluation for their State Innovation Model (SIM) project. The SIM project is a grant through the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation, and the evaluation will focus on how health care organizations in Vermont are transforming with respect to changes in payment models, as well as the role of the state in driving system change.

This semester, Dr. Flieger taught “Methods of Inquiry in Public Health”. The course is an overview of research methods, offering glimpses of qualitative design, program evaluation, translational research, community-based research, dissemination and more. In the spring, she will be teaching “Public Health and Health Care: Politics, Policies, & Programs.” Dr. Flieger looks forward to balancing an active research portfolio with training students. She also hopes to help contribute to a dialogue within the field of health services research on what works in organizational transformation, and how health care organizations can be most effective at delivering high quality patient-centered care.

The Department of Public Health and Community Medicine is happy to have Dr. Flieger as a member and is looking forward to productive and fruitful collaborations.

How Cultural Norms and Practices Impact Ebola Outbreak

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about risk factors and prevention methods. According to Allen, “Social norms greatly impact who people trust and listen to,” a concept which has proven true in cases prior to the current Ebola outbreak. For example, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program developed standards for considering cultural norms when treating minority or underserved patients, which has given HIV patients from marginalized communities more targeted, appropriate care (Health Resources and Services Administration).

Social norms greatly impact who people trust and listen to during a time of crisis and what people’s perception of the crisis is in the first place. Therefore, as the battle continues against Ebola, cultural norms and practices need to be part of the process.

Health Communication Program: 20 Years and Going Strong



Left to right, Timothy Edgar, PhD (Emerson Director), Ami Schmitz, MA'98, Nicole Holland, DMD, MS '12, Paul Rosenthal, MA '07, Susan Gallagher, MPH (Tufts Director)

Jessica Hollis, MS - Health Communication Candidate

This year marks twenty years of collaboration between Tufts University School of Medicine and Emerson College's graduate Health Communication programs. On September 19th and 20th the schools' hosted 181 Health Communication alumni, current students and faculty for a 20th Anniversary Reunion Celebration. "Twenty years is a long time in a field so new" said Aviva Must, Ph.D., Tufts Dean of Public Health and Professional Degree Programs, "the Tufts-Emerson partnership continues to define and meet the training needs for the burgeoning field of health communication."

The weekend kicked off with a cocktail reception in the Alumni Lounge at the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. Guests enjoyed the stunning views of Boston from the 15th floor while reconnecting and reminiscing with former classmates and professors.

"My favorite part of the Anniversary Celebration was meeting alumni," said Leah Ettman, current Tufts Health Communication student. "As I prepare to start my career, it was helpful to connect with alumni and learn about the work they're doing in the field. I feel so lucky to have met many of the alumni and get their insights and advice."

On Saturday, reunion participants had the opportunity to brush up on timely health communication issues by attending several presentations and workshops led by current faculty. Susan Koch-Weser, ScM, ScD, Assistant Professor of Public Health & Community Medicine (PHCM) and Amy Lischko, DSc, MSPH, Associate Professor of PHCM both of Tufts presented the "Implications of Obamacare for Health Communicators" session which focused on insurance outreach and enrollment,

health information, shared decision-making, and public health promotion. A panel on Health Literacy was moderated by Sabrina Kurtz-Rossi, M.Ed., Assistant Professor of PHCM (Tufts). It featured expert participants and alumna Kristin Ereksen (Emerson, 2013), Ellen Langhans (Emerson, 2011), and Claire Berman (Tufts, 2012). Lisa Gualtieri, PhD, Assistant Professor of PHCM (Tufts) moderated a panel on Social Media, and attendees benefited from hearing alumni Ben Grover (Emerson, 2007), Bridgette Collado Hausman (Emerson, 2009), and Lauren Becker (Emerson, 2008) share tips and best practices for working in the digital space.

An awards ceremony luncheon took place at The Ritz-Carlton on Saturday where James Hyde, Professor Emeritus of Public Health Community Medicine and Dr. Scott Ratzan, Founding Directors respectively of the Tufts and Emerson Health Communication programs, reflected on how the programs and field of health communication have evolved over the past twenty years.

Jim Hyde, in his remarks, reflected on all of those who contributed so much to the establishment of the Tufts Health Communication program twenty years ago and the very promising prospects for the future of the program given the accomplishments of its graduates over the years.

In addition, three outstanding alumni received awards for their contributions to the program and to the field. Paul Rosenthal (Emerson, 2007), received the Distinguished Service Award for the many students he has mentored and hired over the last ten years. Nicole Holland, DMD (Tufts 2012), was recognized for her work in dental health communication and received the Emerging Leader Award. Ami Schmitz (Emerson, 1998), Senior Medical Producer for NBC News, received the Distinguished Career Award and also delivered the luncheon's keynote presentation.

"The 20th Anniversary Celebration was a reminder of how each and every one of us are helping to evolve the field of health communication," said Dr. Lisa Gualtieri. "I left inspired by the conversations I had with alumni and current students. Our program really equips students with the tools and skills they need to do remarkable things."

To learn more about the Tufts Health Communication Program go to <http://go.tufts.edu/healthcommunication>.

Alumni Notes

MPH:

Since graduating, **Cristi Carman, MPH '12** has been a Health Policy Analyst at the Center for Health Information and Analysis and was recently promoted to Quality Reporting Manager. In July, she and her husband celebrated the birth of their son, Elliot.

Seema Dixit, MS/MPH '03 is now the Team Lead - Health Disparities and Access to Care at the Rhode Island Department of Health.

Laura Dunn, MPH '14 moved to Abilene, Texas with her fiancé to take on the role of Senior Safety Officer at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Meghan (Hamrock) Charpentier, MS/MPH '13 relocated to the Greater Charlotte, North Carolina area in January 2014 and in August 2014 got married to Joel Charpentier in Ireland.

Neal Jawadekar, MPH '14 started off his career as a Big Data Engineer at Predilytics, a healthcare analytics company located in Burlington, MA.

Meghan Johnson, MS/MPH '13 started a new position as the Healthy Schools Program Marketing and Communications Manager at the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

Larkin Kimmerer, MS/MPH '12 married David Podsiedlik in August, 2014 outside of Syracuse, New York with many fellow Jumbos in attendance. Larkin is the Community Nutrition Programs Manager at Foodlink in Rochester, NY.

Garret Kirk, MPH '09 recently accepted a new position at Harvard Medical School as Program Manager for Outside Activities in the Office for Academic and Research Integrity.

Congratulations to **Josiemer Mattei, Ph.D., MS/MPH '04** and her husband, Raul Gomila, who welcomed baby Evelyn in May 2014, and joins big sister Madeline. Josiemer is Assistant Professor of Nutrition at Harvard School of Public Health. In August, she received a NIH-National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute K01 Mentored Career Development Award to Promote Faculty Diversity.

Jennifer Nix, JD/MPH '03 became the Director of Development at the Women's Law Project, a non-profit feminist legal organization advocating on issues around reproductive rights, violence against women and gender equity. Jennifer was an intern at WLP while completing the JD/MPH at Tufts and Northeastern School of Law.

Shelly Rollet, MS/MPH '13 and **Elaine Siew, MS/MPH '13** had a paper related to their Applied Learning Experience project accepted for publication. "Prevalence of Malnutrition in Children Under 5 and School-Age Children in Milot Valley, Haiti" in the Journal of Public Health.

Alison Turnbull, DVM/MPH '06 completed her PhD in epidemiology and took a position as Instructor in the Department Epidemiology's Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Johns Hopkins this spring. Feel free to contact her if you're in Baltimore!

Congratulations to **Nkemdiri (Iruka) Wheatley BA/MPH '05** and her husband who welcomed healthy twin boys in May 2014, in London, UK, where they currently reside.

MS -Health Communication (HCOM):

Heather Angstrom, MS-HCOM '10 was promoted to Project Manager of Communications at ChildObesity180, which is based at the Tufts *Friedman* School of Nutrition and Policy.

Congratulations to **Sara Rattigan, MS-HCOM '09** on the birth of her son, Berwyn Thomas Harper. Her birth story is shared at <http://bostonbirthstory.blogspot.com>.

Ellyson Stout, MS-HCOM '07 got married to Matthew Henderson in June of 2014 and are planning a larger celebration with friends and family in August of 2015.

Jennifer Towers, MS-HCOM '13 was appointed Instructor of Public Health and Community Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine as of July, 2014.

Heather White, MS-HCOM '14 has taken on a new role as Coalition and Communication Coordinator at Revere CARES, a community health coalition of Massachusetts General Hospital. They use CBPR and coalition-based practices to increase the health and wellness of Revere.

MD/MBA:

Shirley Huang, MD/MBA '04 in July 2014 was appointed Medical Director of TRU Community Care, a hospice and palliative care non-profit organization in Colorado as of July 2014.

Rahul Sharma, MD/MBA '01 was named Executive Vice Chief of the Division of Emergency Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical Center, and Medical Director of Strategic Initiatives

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Public Health Rounds

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Alumni Notes

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and Making Care Better Program for New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Destry Sulkes, MD/MBA '00 is taking a sabbatical from his health data start up in NYC and is currently living in Southern California with his family. His son is playing football for the Venice beach high school team.

Amit Sura, MD/MBA '08 started his first year as a Pediatric Radiology Attending at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles, CA.. His wife, Esha Gupta finished her fellowship in Breast Imaging and is an attending at Olive View Medical Center. Recently some of the members of the MD/MBA class of '08 returned to Boston (**Maristella Evangelista, MD/MBA '08, Yung-Shee "Jessica" Hsu, MD/MBA '08, Ziad Sergie MD,/MBA '08, and Jonathan**

Flug, MD/MBA '08) to visit the campus and tour Boston, marking 10 years since they started the program.

MBS:

Justin Rice, MBS/MPH '09 graduated from Albany Medical College in May 2013 and matched to Internal Medicine/ Pediatrics Combined Residency at the University of Southern California. He recently had an abstract accepted and presented a poster on *Disseminated Cryptococcosis* at the American College of Physicians Regional Conference in Orange, CA.



Public Health & Professional
Degree Programs

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