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| *synergies*

Winter 2016-17

A photograph of a middle-aged man with short, graying hair, smiling warmly. He is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and a dark watch on his left wrist. He is standing outdoors with green foliage and a building in the background.

**A new
era
begins**

Ensuring lifelong health and well-being for every person, every family, every community

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Dean F. Javier Nieto takes the helm.



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For the greater good

NEW DEAN BRINGS EXPERTISE, HEART AND GENUINE DESIRE TO IMPROVE HEALTH

By Kathryn Stroppel



Javier Nieto, a leading epidemiologist and population health expert, became the new CPHHS dean on Oct. 31, 2016.

The hotel ballroom is full, the round disks of tables spaced just-so to allow movement and mingling despite the roar of 450 voices. In its midst, Javier Nieto is the calm in the storm. Still not even on the payroll on this September morning — his first day was October 31 — he warmly meets college friends, working to make his voice heard above the din.

He waits patiently by the stage, on which are perched four white, modern leather chairs and a single podium, bathed in spotlights, ready to welcome the crowd of health care heavy hitters — his new peers — to the third annual *Portland Business Journal* Healthcare of the Future event.

The crowd jostles for seats, and plates and coffee are passed as the *Journal's* publisher tries to capture the attention of guests. Caterers, still scrambling to get breakfast on every table, drop a plate. Without missing a beat, Javier leaves his post to retrieve it then heads to the stage to make his debut as the new dean of Oregon's first accredited college of public health and human sciences.

Such is the life of a servant leader.

"I work for you," he tells faculty during the fall all-college meeting a day later.

And he means it.

"My recent experience as department chair at the University of Wisconsin-Madison reinforced my appreciation about the qualities of a true leader, which is not the same as a 'boss.' The way I see it, the dean works for the college faculty, staff and students. The dean's job is to be a facilitator, to help create an environment where researchers, teachers and learners thrive. In our college that means helping researchers on their pursuit of scientific discoveries to improve population health and well-being and fostering a collegial and respectful environment where our teachers have the resources to guarantee student success."

He also believes that it is critically important to leverage the connections of the dean's office to bring other disciplines to work together. "It is very clear to me that practically all of the academic disciplines at the university do work related to public health.

Servant leadership was coined by Robert K. Greenleaf in the essay "The Servant as Leader." Instead of concentrating power at the top, the servant leader puts the needs of others first and helps them perform their best.

"Give me one sector of the economy or society that does not influence the health of people. Politics, economics, law, environmental sciences,

Continues ►

agriculture and engineering — they all impact health. What’s important to me is bringing faculty and programs across the entire campus and beyond to work with us on our research and educational programs.

“In fact, one of the first things I’ll be doing is knocking on doors across the university and connecting with state and local health departments, businesses, health care providers and community organizations to discuss our shared goal of improving population health.”

But Javier warns against academic institutions’ tendency to see themselves as the ultimate experts in what needs to be done to improve health. For him, “We at the university have the scientific and research expertise, and that is important, but community organizations are the ones on the ground, doing the work that is needed to keep communities healthy.”

The college is uniquely positioned to assist communities in this effort, he says, in part because of its breadth of scientific expertise, including not only the traditional public health disciplines, but also human sciences expertise in nutrition, kinesiology and human development and family sciences.

The Oregon State University Center for Health Innovation and OSU Extension Service also enhance the college’s ability to engage communities. Health Extension faculty embody the university’s mission to be a university for the people, and that mission was a significant draw for Javier, who sees it extending far beyond Oregon’s borders.

“There is an urgent need for public health and human sciences expertise all over the world. Our program and research expertise can be translated into activities beyond our state and nation. I’m very excited to help grow our Center for Global Health and to give our students opportunities for international experience.”

Thinking globally comes naturally to Javier. Born in Ponferrada, a small town in northwestern Spain, he grew up in Valencia, on Spain’s eastern coast, as the middle child in a family of seven. Two of his siblings would go on to become pediatricians like their father. For Javier, who came of age in the late ’60s/early ’70s in a political environment of unrest, those formative years sparked an interest in social justice and politics.



Javier represented the college as a gold sponsor of the *Journal’s* Healthcare of the Future event, taking on the role from Tammy Bray, who officially stepped down as dean in October. “I appreciate Tammy’s leadership and the legacy she is leaving,” he says. “She created a great foundation for our future, and I look forward to building on her success.”

“Public health is very much a political science,” he says. “This idea is far from new, with deep historical roots going back to Rudolf Virchow, the great German pathologist who more than 150 years ago wrote, ‘Medicine is a social science, and politics is nothing else but medicine on a large scale.’”

Javier’s career in public health, however, wouldn’t begin until after his medical training. Following medical school and a residency in family and community medicine in Spain, he set out to earn his master of public health degree in Cuba. “This was a really transformative experience for me,” he says. “It reinforced my interest in public health and the impact it can have on communities. It convinced me that with the right public health and primary health care approaches you can do a lot to preserve the health of the population, even if resources are limited.

“I gravitated to public health not because I didn’t like clinical practice, but because I find it incredibly important and satisfying to know that my work may have a broader impact on the health of the population as a whole, and even more so that we are training students who will be the next generation of public health and human sciences professionals.”

Still, his conscience nags. Poverty. Lack of access to education and health care. Food insecurity. Human suffering. “The injustice and knowing there are so many people — even in the wealthiest country in the world — who lack the basic resources they need to lead healthy lives. The fact that there are resources that if properly used could alleviate many of these conditions. It certainly motivates me to work even harder.”

And here he is: Oregon. An opportunity to make a difference in a new way. The latest stop on his life journey.

“I was very drawn to the vision of the college — by the energy and the quality of its people,” he says. “This position is exciting, and I feel good about the opportunity and potential that this college has. It’s in a good position to make a meaningful impact for Oregon and as a model for those who might follow. I’m enthusiastic about working to help fulfill our mission of lifelong health and well-being for every person, every family and every community. And to work toward ensuring our students’ success and to connect and engage with alumni and friends.

“I think the best is yet to come.” ■

Renaissance Man

What he’s reading

He is currently reading “The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace” by Jeff Hobbs. He loves fiction, particularly mysteries, and two of his favorite authors are Paul Auster and Ian McEwan. Two books that impacted him in recent years are “Cutting for Stone” by Abraham Verghese and “A Fine Balance” by Rohinton Mistry.

How he stays healthy

A longtime runner, he ran a marathon two years ago. He bikes to work as frequently as he can.

What’s on his playlist

“Almost everything.” Most of the time he listens to classical music or opera; Puccini’s “Turandot” and Mahler’s symphonies are among his favorites. He also enjoys rock and pop music, including The Beatles, Regina Spektor and Wilco.

Favorite movie

Billy Wilder’s 1960 classic “The Apartment,” which won an Oscar for best picture. “The movie is two hours and five minutes long. Two hours and two minutes are about human misery, but in the last three, everything turns around. It’s about the resilience and triumph of the human spirit.”

Hobbies

Music, reading, running and cooking. “Spaniards love their cooking tradition. You could say I cook the best paella in Corvallis.”

What’s on his TV

In addition to soccer and the news, he’s recently started watching TV shows, including “Breaking Bad;” “Borgen,” a drama about a woman elected prime minister of Denmark; and the British series “Happy Valley.”

Family

He and his wife, Marion, have three children. Diego is interested in cultural anthropology and attends Lewis & Clark College in Portland. His fraternal twin, Miguel, studies architecture at the University of California, Berkeley. Daughter Lucia is passionate about soccer and just started her first year at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

His happy place

Asturias, in northern Spain

Little known facts

- He met Fidel Castro — twice — while studying in Cuba.
- He sang with the Madison Symphony Choir while in Wisconsin and plays viola.
- He’s an amateur photographer with an Instagram account.

Timeline

↑ **2016** Dean, College of Public Health and Human Sciences, Oregon State University

2002-2016 Professor and Chair of the Department of Population Health Sciences, School of Medicine and Public Health; inaugural Helfaer Professor of Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Madison

1991-2009 The Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health (associate professor and director of the general epidemiology program until 2002; adjunct professor 2002–2009)

1991 PhD, Epidemiology, The Johns Hopkins University

1988 MHS, Epidemiology, The Johns Hopkins University

1985 MPH, Institute for Health Development of Havana, Cuba

1984 Diploma in Biostatistics, University of Barcelona, Spain

1979-1983 Residency in Family and Community Medicine, General Hospital of Segovia, Spain

1978 MD, School of Medicine, University of Valencia, Spain

High spirited alum distills passion for purpose

By Kathryn Stroppel

A distiller as unique as her spirits, Caitlin Prueitt was the Willamette Valley's first woman distillery owner and one of only five in the nation when she launched Vivacity Fine Spirits in December 2011.

Fifteen years earlier, she might not have believed it. After high school, "I went to community college for a year because that's what you're supposed to do," she says. "Then I was bartending in California and there were older bartenders who were 40 at the time. I told myself I didn't want to be tending bar at 40, and that was one of my motivations for looking into college. And sure enough, after graduating I was that bartender up until a few years ago."



A non-traditional student at Oregon State — she was 30 when she graduated from the College of Home Economics in 2000 — Caitlin originally was interested in studying nutrition so she could use that knowledge to create diets for chronically or terminally ill people in order to alleviate their symptoms. But after discovering food science and fermentation, the rest, as they say, is history.

She completed an internship at a brewery in Germany, worked at wineries in California and spent five years at Oregon State as a hops research chemist before deciding to take the plunge and look into what it would take to open a distillery. She and her husband, Chris Neumann, took classes in California and Michigan, networked, looked into logistics and financing, talked with local artists about designing their iconic labels and filled out a mountain of paperwork. They then began crafting vodka in 2010 in a 2,400 square-foot facility in Lewisburg, on the edge of Corvallis.

They maximize everything — even their sense of humor. With all equipment on wheels or pallet jacks, the couple moves things around their pint-size distillery like a real-life game of mahjong. Then there's the floor-to-ceiling brass still from Kentucky called Jules Verne. And Mork and Mindy and Heckle and Jeckle fermentation and proofing tanks. And little T. S. Eliot, the tiny still. And, of course, the sayings on each bottle, such as "If you can't be good, be careful" and the fitting phrase "Nothing ventured, nothing gained."

But don't let the whimsical nature of this little distillery fool you — these are serious spirits. In addition to being sippable — "With a well-crafted spirit, you should be able to sip," Chris says — they are sourced responsibly and true to Oregon's pioneering spirit.

Unofficial motto

"A good martini goes a long way to ease the day."

For instance, Native Gin bursts with the best flavors of the state. And it was a gamble, Caitlin says. They already offered a gin, but wanted to try something new and more botanical. The result was a hit: Native Gin is a bestseller.

The Turkish Coffee Liqueur, too, is unique, incorporating local coffee and exotic spices. They were looking for a cold-weather spirit and planned to use hazelnuts in the product before Caitlin tasted a Bend distillery's hazelnut espresso vodka.

"Caitlin was loath to appear we were copying someone else," Chris says. "Because if you make something someone else is already doing well, why bother?"

Read the full article online at synergies.oregonstate.edu.

PHHS alum a rising star in Portland health care industry

When public health advocate, number cruncher, strategist and Beaver Believer Chad Melvin, BS '05, was a student at Oregon State, he didn't imagine he would one day sit on the 4th floor of Kaiser Permanente's downtown Portland office building helping grow its business.

A Southern Oregon native who joined Kaiser Permanente in 2007, he's worked in marketing and market strategy, steadily increasing his capacity and role. As senior director of market strategy and sales operations, he currently leads 35 people who perform market analysis, sales operations, product development, business development, market research, and strategy and proposal development.

Health care is becoming increasingly integrated, he says, with a focus on keeping the population healthy and not simply treating disease — a hallmark of the CPHHS.

"I think the public health program at Oregon State can serve as a center of excellence for the state in that regard, and I am proud to be part of an organization, like Kaiser Permanente, that puts so much value on prevention."

Read more about Chad and his role online at synergies.oregonstate.edu.



Cindy with her son, Lincoln; husband, Jeremy; and dog, Kobe.

Student lives her American Dream

As a little girl, Cindy Quintanilla, 31, made the decision that she would be the first in her family to pursue a college education. "I promised myself that I would break the barriers and make my mom and dad's sacrifices worth it," she says.

Both of Cindy's parents are from Mexico — her mom grew up in Juarez and her father in Ciudad de Chihuahua. When they married and had Cindy and her six siblings, their hope was to provide their children with opportunities to live the American Dream. This included being able to pursue the educational and work endeavors of their choosing.

Cindy's family trusted and supported her decision to attend college, but she didn't have anyone to provide insight and guidance, so she relied on her own determination and support from education professionals. Cindy is now finishing her last term, studying Health Management and Policy, and has come a long way in her journey despite challenges along the way, including welcoming her first child. Throughout it all, Cindy has persevered and stayed committed to finishing her education.

Read more about Cindy and her unique college journey online at synergies.oregonstate.edu.



All shook up

It weighs more than 3 tons, costs more than \$167,000 and is perched in the Women's Building basement like an intergalactic metal spider straight out of science fiction. But instead of terrorizing the planet, the Six Degree-of-Freedom (6-DOF) motion platform will provide Assistant Professor Jay Kim with vital information to improve the health and well-being of professional heavy equipment vehicle operators.

Previous studies have shown a 60 percent to 70 percent prevalence of work-related musculoskeletal disorders among these professionals, and the leading risk factor is whole body vibration (WBV). Off-road heavy equipment vehicle operators are at the greatest risk for neck and low back injuries because drivers are exposed to what researchers call multiple-axial WBV exposure.

"There is a critical need to determine the exact injury mechanisms related to WBV exposure," Jay says. "Without a clear understanding of how these mechanisms cause the development of work-related musculoskeletal disorders and how they may be mitigated, these workers will continue to suffer injury."



Not so healthy

In March, an OSU and University of Mississippi study revealed some disturbing news — only 2.7 percent of the U.S. adult population achieves all four areas defined as a healthy lifestyle. The grim news was broadcast by more than 150 media outlets across America and internationally, sending a loud and clear message that Americans are at risk for cardiovascular disease and many other health problems.

Senior author and CPHHS Associate Professor Ellen Smit says that from the perspective of public health, the findings were not encouraging. "This is pretty low, to have so few people maintaining what we would consider a healthy lifestyle," she says. "This is sort of mind boggling. There's clearly a lot of room for improvement."

The four areas of a healthy lifestyle examined were good diet, moderate exercise, recommended body fat percentage and abstaining from smoking. The encouraging news is that 71 percent of the 4,745 people who participated in the study do not smoke. On the flip side, only 38 percent ate a healthy diet, 10 percent had a normal body fat percentage and 46 percent were sufficiently active.

FY 2016 Research Update

Faculty in the College of Public Health and Human Sciences received **\$18,889,667 IN AWARDS, GRANTS AND CONTRACTS** during FY '16. Our signature research areas, both current and emerging, span the expertise and disciplines of the faculty in our college and include:

Optimal health through nutrition and physical activity

Predictors and consequences of chronic diseases and the promotion of healthy behaviors

Healthy developmental processes and transitions across the lifespan

Health systems reform and health policy

Impact of environmental and occupational hazards on human health

Alum honors wife and supports CPHHS students with scholarship

Sheng Chung Fang, '44, '48, says he wasn't particularly ambitious, but instead rather lucky.

"It seems I was in the right place at the right time," he says. "Corvallis is a nice area, good for raising a family, and I was lucky to marry my wife, Cynthia, and to live in such a beautiful environment."

Fang was born in 1914 in China, the youngest of 12 siblings, to a father who ran a freight forwarding business and who was known to be a compassionate man. In fact, he would go out on New Year's Eve with a bag of money to help the poor and those unable to pay the debt collectors.

It would seem he has something in common with his father, who died when Fang was just a baby — a generous spirit and a heart for paying it forward.

In 1999, Fang established the Cynthia W. M. Li Fang Memorial Scholarship to support students in the CPHHS. He also established the Dr. Sheng Chung Fang Endowed Fellowship in the College of Agricultural Sciences, and in Summer 2016 created the Dr. Sheng Chung Fang Chemistry Fellowship for graduate students in the College of Science. An additional gift to the CPHHS scholarship and other scholarships in his name means this man from humble beginnings has given more than \$1 million to his beloved Oregon State University.

Fang and Cynthia met at Oregon State and married in 1948. The couple and their daughter, Anna, spent their lives in Corvallis, where Fang worked in OSU's Department of Agricultural Chemistry before retiring in the early '80s.

Fang came to the United States in 1941 and attended the University of California at Berkeley, but later moved to Oregon State



to study agriculture. He stayed at OSU after receiving his PhD to become a researcher in the Department of Agricultural Chemistry, studying the effect of pesticides on plants and animals.

Cynthia, meanwhile, earned a degree in Home Economics, now in the CPHHS, and took care of the home. She came from a multi-generational family in Hong Kong, and at that time it was unusual for a daughter to be sent to a university in the United States. Nevertheless, she arrived in 1948 on the Queen Elizabeth ocean liner, which took nearly three weeks to reach America.

"After I retired, we entertained and played mahjong with large groups of our friends, many of them were working at OSU, and traveled to Hong Kong, China and Taiwan. We also had groups of Chinese students over to the house, supported the local OSU Chinese Students Association and were members of the Oregon Chinese Association."

He says he supports the college because education is important. "Education is something that cannot be taken away from you once the degree is earned. It is my pleasure to support the college, and I do it in memory of Cynthia.

"I also like to support the local community that I have been living in since 1948, and academic scholarships are one of the best ways to help students achieve academic excellence. The students can go out in the world and utilize their CPHHS degrees to better the world."

OUR NEWEST FACULTY ALREADY ARE MAKING WAVES.

Movers and shakers

Assistant Professor Perry Hystad

is one of 17 winners of the National Institutes of Health's 2014 Early Independence Award — the first researcher at Oregon State to receive an Early Independence Award since they began in 2011. His most recent research used a Canadian population case-control study to investigate the spatial epidemiology of lung cancer in relationship to air pollution and the social context of neighborhoods, which represents the largest such study to date. He also has conducted a number of health studies on a diverse range of social and environmental factors associated with place, including radon, greenness, walkability, community belonging and neighborhood deprivation.

Associate Professor Jeff Luck

is chair of the Public Health Advisory Board, which is the advisory body to the Oregon Health Authority. He also helped create the Oregon Public Health Policy Institute, which involves multiple faculty, students, and state and local health departments. Jeff's work is one important way we make a statewide contribution to public health policy, and the institute is an excellent example of how we share our expertise with professionals in the field and develop the public health workforce.

Assistant Professor Carolyn Mendez-Luck's

dual position in Human Development and Family Sciences and Health Management and Policy illustrates integration and interdisciplinary work. Her research focuses on older Latinos and is community-based, and she works with students in multiple graduate programs, demonstrating her interdisciplinary work and "low walls" (i.e., no silos) of collaboration for students and faculty. Carolyn has received an NIH Young Career Development Award.

Assistant Professor Bridget Hatfield

works to identify ways in which teacher-child interactions support young children's developing stress response systems and emotion regulation skills. She has received dissertation fellowships and an APA Early Research Award, and she serves as co-investigator on two grants funded by the Institute for Education Sciences. She was awarded Professor of the Term by the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Life in 2016 and the Panhellenic Executive Council in 2015, and offers free workshops for early care and education teachers in the community.

Assistant Professor Michelle Odden

is a co-recipient of the 2015 UCSF Pepper Center Genius Award recognizing her innovative research on cardiovascular disease prevention in older adults, which includes \$10,000 in research funds. She also has received an NIH Young Career Development Award.



Associate Professor Siew Sun Wong

holds Oregon State's largest grant for The WAVE ~ Ripples for Change: Obesity Prevention in Active Youth program. The goal is to develop and test an obesity prevention and healthy lifestyle program for active teenagers. The \$4.7 million grant uses a combination of real-world activities, as well as virtual environments.



Assistant Professor Kari-Lyn Sakuma's

NIH/FDA funded research on new and emerging tobacco products is of wide interest and cultural relevance. She focuses primarily on health disparities and populations that are disproportionately affected by tobacco and tobacco advertising.

Assistant Professor David Dallas

received a National Institutes of Health K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Career Award and researches how to improve the health of premature infants. This population has been shown to have greatly reduced health outcomes — including early mortality, developmental disorders, a high risk of infection and more — in comparison with term-delivered, breast milk-fed infants.



Associate Professor Molly Kile

works to understand how exposure to chemicals in our environment influences maternal and child health. Specifically, she addresses how chemical exposure, such as arsenic, in utero may alter epigenetic mechanisms that could contribute to chronic diseases later in life. She is passionate about international environmental health studies and has received an NIH Young Career Development Award.

Assistant Professor Sam Logan

brought the University of Delaware-based Go Baby Go program with him to Oregon State, already impacting more than 100 children with disabilities and their families. Sam leads workshops across the country, as well as students in the Children's Adaptive Resources for Social Mobility club. As part of this group, Sam works with students to modify battery powered toy cars so children birth to age 3 have the opportunity for movement and engaging with peers.

40.

BUILDING A NEW COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES WITH THE RIGHT FACULTY TO SUPPORT STUDENTS BEGAN IN 2009 — FIVE YEARS BEFORE ACCREDITATION. HERE THEY ARE.

COHORT 2009-10



Viktor Bovbjerg
Associate Professor in Epidemiology
PhD in Epidemiology, University of Washington
Research Expertise: Prevention and control of chronic diseases, translation of interventions into practice



Susan Carozza
Associate Professor in Epidemiology
PhD in Epidemiology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Research Expertise: Application of GI Science in epidemiology to determine spatial relationships between disease incidence and environmental hazards

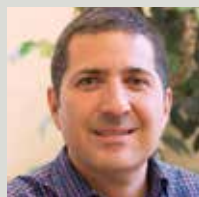


Ellen Smit
Associate Professor in Epidemiology
PhD in Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins University
Research Expertise: Linking nutrition, HIV and chronic disease: an epidemiological perspective

COHORT 2010-11



Adam Branscum
Associate Professor in Biostatistics
PhD in Statistics, UC Davis
Research Expertise: Bayesian nonparametric and semi-parametric modeling and data analysis



Andy Houseman
Associate Professor in Biostatistics
ScD in Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health
Research Expertise: High-dimensional latent variable models and their application to molecular-epidemiology, bioinformatics and environmental exposure assessment



Laurel Kincl
Assistant Professor in Environmental and Occupational Health
PhD in Occupational Safety and Ergonomics, University of Cincinnati
Research Expertise: Occupational exposure assessment for chemicals and electromagnetic fields, measurements of musculoskeletal motion and injury risk, interventions for reducing young worker injuries



John Molitor
Associate Professor in Biostatistics
PhD in Statistics, University of Missouri
Research Expertise: Environmental modeling of multi-pollutant profiles

COHORT 2011-12



Jeff Bethel
Assistant Professor in Epidemiology
PhD in Epidemiology, UC Davis
Research Expertise: Disaster preparedness among Latino migrant and seasonal farm workers; knowledge, attitudes and practices of heat-related illness among farm workers



Norman Hord
Associate Professor in Nutrition
PhD in Nutrition, Purdue University; MPH, Johns Hopkins
Research Expertise: Modeling early events in colon carcinogenesis, role of dietary factors and adipokines; regulation of dietary nitrate and nitrite: balancing essential physiological roles with potential health risks



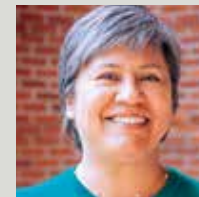
Molly Kile
Associate Professor in Environmental and Occupational Health
ScD in Environmental Health, Harvard School of Public Health
Research Expertise: Environmental, molecular epidemiology and global health, understanding how exposure to chemicals in our environment influences maternal and child health



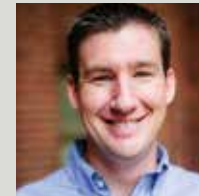
Jeff Luck
Associate Professor in Health Management and Policy
PhD in Public Policy, RAND Graduate School of Policy Studies, Santa Monica, CA
Research Expertise: Performance of health care delivery systems and public health agencies, population health data for management and policy analysis, measuring and improving the quality of care, and implementation of new management practices and information systems in health care organizations



Megan MacDonald
Assistant Professor in Kinesiology
PhD in Kinesiology, University of Michigan
Research Expertise: Relationship of motor skills/physical activity patterns in the early social communication skills of children with autism spectrum disorders and/or Down Syndrome



Carolyn Mendez-Luck
Assistant Professor in Health Management and Policy
PhD in Public Health, UCLA
Research Expertise: Community-based participatory research methods, family caregiving of Latino elders and aging-related health disparities in this population



Marc Norcross
Assistant Professor in Kinesiology
PhD in Human Movement Sciences, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Research Expertise: Association between lower extremity energy absorption and biomechanical factors related to anterior cruciate ligament injury



Michelle Odden
Assistant Professor in Epidemiology
PhD in Epidemiology, UC Berkeley
Research Expertise: Epidemiological methods and prevention of chronic disease and disability in elderly adults



Siew Sun Wong
Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Nutrition
PhD in Nutrition and Epidemiology, Utah State University
Research Expertise: Obesity prevention, youth calcium and bone health, innovative nutrition education especially among low-income families



Jangho Yoon
Assistant Professor in Health Management and Policy
PhD in Health Policy and Administration, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Research Expertise: Health policy, health economics, mental health, social capital, underserved populations and health information exchange

COHORT 2013-14



John Geldhof
Assistant Professor in Human Development and Family Sciences
PhD in Psychology, University of Kansas
Research Expertise: Adolescent and positive youth development; development of self-regulation over the lifespan



Bridget Hatfield
Assistant Professor in Human Development and Family Sciences
PhD in HDFFS, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Research Expertise: Children's adaptations of the stress response system following a teacher-child relationship intervention; using cortisol and a-amylase levels in preschool children as indicators of classroom quality



Perry Hystad
Assistant Professor in Environmental and Occupational Health
PhD in Epidemiology, School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia
Research Expertise: Using spatial exposure assessment to determine chronic health effects associated with exposure to air pollution, including cardiovascular, respiratory diseases and cancer

Continues ▶



Sunil Khanna

Professor in Global Health

PhD in Cultural Anthropology, Syracuse University; PhD in Biological Anthropology and Human Genetics, University of Delhi

Research Expertise: Using diverse field techniques including nutritional anthropometry to study complex interrelations of biology, culture, gender, ethnicity and health in South Asia and the United States



Robert Stawski

Associate Professor in Biostatistics and Human Development and Family Sciences

PhD in Experiential Psychology, Syracuse University

Research Expertise: Understanding stress processes and psychological and biological pathways on cognition, health and well-being

COHORT 2014-15



Harold Bae

Assistant Professor in Biostatistics

PhD in Biostatistics, Boston University

Research Expertise: Statistical genetics and Bayesian statistics aimed at developing advanced modeling to understand the genetic basis of complex polygenic traits



Veronica Irvin

Assistant Professor in Health Promotion and Health Behavior

PhD in Public Health, University of California, San Diego and San Diego State University

Research Expertise: Comparative effectiveness analyses related to mammography screening, effects of clinical trial registration on primary outcome reporting, tobacco control



Sam Logan

Assistant Professor in Kinesiology

PhD in Motor Behavior, Auburn University

Research Expertise: Health and well-being of normally developing children and children diagnosed with mobility impairments with focus on the role of independent mobility in the development of language, cognition and motor behaviors



Sean Newsom

Assistant Professor in Kinesiology

PhD in Kinesiology, University of Michigan

Research Expertise: Dose response of low intensity, high frequency physical activity interventions on markers of metabolic syndrome; the translation of research to prevention efforts and chronic disease management



Kari-Lyn Sakuma

Assistant Professor in Health Promotion and Health Behavior

PhD in Preventive Medicine, USC

Research Expertise: Development of interventions across multiple domains from substance use and obesity prevention to family relations; the etiology and prevention of tobacco use among adolescents and young adults



John Schuna Jr

Assistant Professor in Kinesiology

PhD in Human Development-Wellness, North Dakota State University

Research Expertise: Objective physical activity and sedentary behavior assessment; physical activity and sedentary behavior epidemiology

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David Dallas

Assistant Professor in Nutrition

PhD in Nutritional Biology, University of California, Davis

Research Expertise: Identification of milk components that control infant digestion, immune response and microbial make-up



Kelly Davis

Assistant Professor in Human Development and Family Sciences

PhD in Human Development and Family Studies, Pennsylvania State University

Research Expertise: Work-family interfaces across the lifespan, parenting, family dynamics, occupational health, work stress, work-family policy and practices



Jonathan Garcia

Assistant Professor in Global Health

PhD in Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University

Research Expertise: Medical interventions for HIV prevention; understanding the contextualized social experience to devise new public health approaches to reach the most vulnerable populations and communities



Jessica Gorman

Assistant Professor in Health Promotion and Health Behavior

PhD in Public Health, University of California

Research Expertise: Reproductive concerns and health among young cancer survivors, health communication of risk factors, health-related medical information and needs of young cancer patients



Stephanie Grutzmacher

Assistant Professor in Nutrition

PhD in Family Sciences, University of Maryland

Research Expertise: Food security, nutrition literacy and the development and evaluation of family, school and community-based nutrition education programs for low-income populations



Jeong Ho "Jay" Kim

Assistant Professor in Environmental and Occupational Health

PhD in Industrial and Systems Engineering, University of Washington

Research Expertise: Occupational ergonomics and biomechanics; examining the ergonomics of keyboards and the effects of whole body vibrations on musculoskeletal injuries in truck drivers



Tao Li

Assistant Professor in Health Management and Policy

PhD in Health Services Research and Administration, University of Nebraska Medical Center; MD, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China

Research Expertise: Health disparities among low-income individuals, patient-centered medical homes, health care financing and quality



Cynthia Mojica

Assistant Professor in Health Promotion and Health Behavior

PhD in Health Services, Fielding School of Public Health, UCLA

Research Expertise: Outreach and interventions for health promotion and prevention among under-represented populations



Matt Robinson

Assistant Professor in Kinesiology

PhD in Human Bioenergetics, Colorado State University

Research Expertise: Understanding mitochondrial protein turnover and respiration during pathophysiology of Type 2 Diabetes and related metabolic disorders



David Rothwell

Assistant Professor in Human Development and Family Sciences

PhD in Social Welfare, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Research Expertise: Poverty, asset/wealth inequality and matched savings programs, family stress, comparative social welfare policy



Yumie Takata

Assistant Professor in Nutrition

PhD in Nutritional Sciences, University of Washington

Research Expertise: Etiological roles of nutritional factors in cancer and chronic disease



Emily Tomayko

Assistant Professor in Nutrition

PhD in Nutritional Sciences, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Research Expertise: Health disparities, community-based early childhood obesity prevention involving the family

Getting to know . . .



Andy Chuinard

BS '08, MPH '15
MPH Internship
Coordinator

“OSU is a leader in so many areas. Being an accredited College of

Public Health and Human Sciences shows that we are right there with the best,” he says. “The students and faculty here are excellent, and I’m excited for the opportunity to be a part of it.”



Ann Custer

Manager of Workforce
Development and
Corporate Relations

“Since we moved here 12 years ago, my husband and I have fallen in love

with Oregon in general and with Corvallis in particular,” she says. “Though I was happily employed at the community college, I was also hoping to work for OSU’s College of Public Health and Human Sciences one day.”



TEAM OREGON has a new director in the driver’s seat.

Aria Minu-Sepehr took the reigns in June after a decade with the motorcycle safety program.

“We face many new and exciting challenges in the field of motorcycle training,” Aria says. “As director of the premier motorcycle education program in the nation, what excites me most is that we — TEAM OREGON and OSU — have all the right tools and resources to solve some of the most perplexing issues facing us. I’m also excited to be able to meet the growing demand for training throughout Oregon. No one else can match what we offer.”

Read more online at synergies.oregonstate.edu.

Be a Champion for Health

Join a community of donors dedicated to seeing the college meet its ambitious goals and reach even higher. Your gifts allow our students and faculty to achieve their full potential and increase OSU’s impact throughout Oregon and the world.

Our new giving site, at health.oregonstate.edu/giving, includes information on supporting study and internship experiences abroad, rural internship experiences, professional development opportunities, student research, and diversity and inclusion. Learn more and become a Champion for Health today!

Upcoming alumni events

“Meet the Dean” events are being planned in the Willamette Valley, Portland and Seattle, as well as at Destination OSU in Southern California in Spring 2017.

A **video chat** is in the works for Dean Nieto, who will speak of his vision, the future of the college and why he is excited to lead the college at this stage in its history.

The second annual **Ovation** event will be held May 2, 2017. Join us as we show appreciation for the many people who support our students. Nominations are being accepted at health.oregonstate.edu/alumni/impact-awards.

For a complete list of events, and to register, visit osualum.com/phhs or health.oregonstate.edu/alumni. You also may contact the college’s alumni director, Veronica Royce, at veronica.royce@oregonstate.edu.

Additionally, there are many ways to stay connected to your alma mater:

- ▶ **Attend an event:** Our updated list of events is found at health.oregonstate.edu/alumni.
- ▶ **Stay in touch:** *Synergies* is sent by email each month and features upcoming events. Visit osualum.com/address to make sure OSUAA has your updated contact information.
- ▶ **Become a college volunteer:** There are many ways to get involved — from mentoring current students to helping plan events in your region. Visit health.oregonstate.edu/alumni to learn more.
- ▶ **Become an OSUAA member:** Join or renew your membership at osualum.com/membership.