

# MPH KANSAS

NEWS FROM THE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE PROGRAM

Volume 1 Spring 2001 Number 3

## Department recognized as Outstanding Program

**T**he Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of Kansas School of Medicine (Kansas City and Wichita) was recognized as the Outstanding Program of the Year at the 59th Annual Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine (ATPM) meeting April 4-6, in Savannah, Ga.

The Outstanding Program of the Year Award recognizes an innovative program, department or school of medicine for its involvement in advancing undergraduate medical education in preventive medicine and public health.

"This is an honor because ATPM is the primary organization that represents academic preventive medicine," said S. Edwards Dismuke, M.D., M.S.P.H., Distinguished Professor in Public Health and chairman.

The Department of Preventive Medicine at KU was given the award on the basis of its multiple educational programs for medical students. Four particular medical school courses taught by Preventive Medicine faculty were highlighted. These courses included: The Dramatic

AIDS Education Project (elective), Clinical Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (year 2), the Community Health Project (elective), and Health of the Public (year 4).

"The number of students taking our electives is rather unusual. It is much higher than most departments of Preventive Medicine," said Dismuke. "Also, there are very few departments of Preventive Medicine that have a one-month required clerkship in Preventive Medicine."

Almost all of the 31 Masters of Public Health faculty members within the department contribute to the courses taught to medical students.

"This is definitely the faculty's award," Dismuke said.

One elective that was highlighted, the Dramatic AIDS Education Project (DAEP), is a unique AIDS prevention program presented by medical students from KU Medical Center and professional actors from The Coterie Theatre. Initiated in the fall of 1993, the DAEP has proven to be an innovative and effective way to bring the message of AIDS prevention to schools and community centers. Each year, 15-to-20 medical students are trained to become peer educators and are sent out into the community to



*S. Edwards Dismuke, M.D., M.S.P.H., left, accepts the Outstanding Program of the Year award from ATPM president Bill Greaves, M.D., M.P.H., April 6. KU's Department of Preventive Medicine was cited for its multiple educational programs for medical students.*

educate young people about AIDS. Last year, the DAEP performed in front of more than 8,000 youth in the Kansas City area.

"We found through our evaluations that this format is more effective than that of typical lectures," said Christine Moranetz, Ph.D., clinical associate professor and co-director of DAEP.

Clinical Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (CEP) is a required course that provides an introduction to epidemiology, a basic science of clinical and preventive medicine, biostatistics and the quantitative foundation of clinical and preventive medicine. The focus of CEP is to demonstrate the

See MPH recognition, page 2

### Inside this edition

Message from the director .....	page 2
Online Courses .....	page 3
MPH Faculty .....	pages 4 - 5
Student Studies in Africa .....	page 6
News Briefs .....	page 7
Grants .....	page 8

## Message from the director . . .

The need for strong prevention and public health programs has never been greater. According to WHO, the global disease burden is projected to be changing once again. In the next 20 years, depression is expected to become the second leading cause of disability. Mental and neurological disorders will account for one-sixth of the world's disease burden.

Five of the 10 leading causes of disability are mental problems, with depression as number four, schizophrenia as number five and manic-depression as number six, followed by alcoholism and obsessive-compulsive disorders.

New and flexible public health curricula are needed to begin addressing the prevention issues of this trend, especially in Third World countries, where treatment for mental

and neurological disorders is rare, the need for prevention is acute. As public health professionals, we need to begin dealing with the next areas of prevention for the populations we currently serve.

On a side note, I'd like to give a special congratulations to Dr. S. Edwards Dismuke and the faculty of the Department of Preventive Medicine for recently being awarded the ATPM Outstanding Program of the Year. A faculty member in particular who played a major role in developing the curriculum that warranted this award is Dr. Christine Moranetz. She has served as the interim MPH director on the Kansas City campus for more than a year and a half.

Dr. Simon Choi, recently recruited from Mercer University, will take over as the permanent



**Craig A. Molgaard**

MPH director in Kansas City on April 23. We will miss Chris and her unique strengths, humor and sage advice in future meetings of the Steering Committee for the MPH program.

## *MPH recognition* (continued from page 1)

interrelationships between epidemiology, biostatistics, preventive research and public health policy.

The philosophy of CEP is to combine theory and application in a manner that will enable the medical student to interpret the scientific literature with understanding and to approach clinical practice with an emphasis on prevention. The biostatistical and epidemiologic concepts introduced in CEP are further utilized throughout clinical clerkships.

The Community Health Project (CHP) is a unique educational experience that partners physicians-in-training and masters of public health students with public health and social service agencies. The goal of CHP is for agencies to benefit from the contributions of students who give their time and talents to enhance programs and services. The CHP strives to influence future physicians and other health professionals to become more compassionate, caring and sensitive to the needs of the community, as well as their patients.

The student interns achieve this through exposure to individuals with diverse social and health related needs who are from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. Established in 1992, the CHP has had over 50 students per year serve in over 30 community service agencies across the state of Kansas.

Health of the Public (HOP) is a one-month required senior clerkship. Now in its third year, HOP emphasizes the community dimensions of health care and the organization and financing of medicine and health care. Population-based approaches to health care are the foundation of HOP. In addition to lectures and hands-on learning experiences, students spend half their time completing population-based projects. Upon completion, the projects are presented to faculty members and displayed throughout the medical school.

Past winners of this ATPM award include: Homeless & Indigent Population Health Outreach Project, University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, Robert Wood Johnson

Medical School (1999), and Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, Division of Community Health Services (1998).

In addition to winning the award, several individual faculty members played a key role in ensuring the overall success of the conference. Moranetz served as the conference chair while three KU faculty members gave talks during conference sessions.

James Early, M.D., clinical associate professor, KU School Of Medicine-Wichita spoke on the topic of "Obesity: An American Epidemic." Zita J. Surprenant, M.D., M.P.H., clinical associate professor, Preventive Medicine, KU Medical Center, presented "Intimate Partner Violence: Integrating Prevention in the Health Care Setting."

Finally, Giulia Bonaminio, Ph.D., assistant dean for Medical Education and assistant professor, Family Medicine, KU Medical Center, presented "Faculty Development and Leadership: Curriculum Design."

## MPH COURSES

# Breaking distance barriers: Curriculum now online

**F**or students living outside of Wichita, there are new directions on how to get to the classroom at the KU School of Medicine-Wichita. Forget the turnpike. All you have to do is cruise along the Information Superhighway.

Faculty in the Department of Preventive Medicine in Wichita have transformed more than half of the 36-credit hour Masters of Public Health curriculum into a Web-based format. Seven courses are now offered online.

"Within another year we'd like to make the entire curriculum available online," said MPH Kansas director Craig Molgaard, Ph.D., M.P.H.

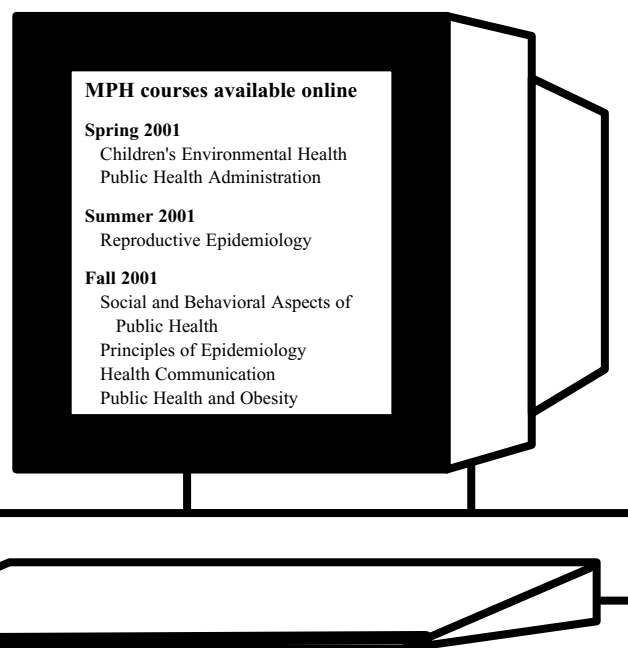
The first phase of the project began in the Fall 2000 semester when Molgaard made one of the five core classes in the program, PRVM 818: Social and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health, completely Web-based.

Another core class, PRVM 800: Principles of Epidemiology, was taught using a Web/classroom hybrid mixture. Students attended class, but logged onto the password-protected course Web site to take quizzes and access lecture notes.

"We basically used these courses as an experiment to incorporate as many traditional classroom functions as possible into the Web-based format to test for effectiveness," Molgaard said. "We received such positive feedback that we decided to move forward, putting more curriculum online."

Using WebCt.com as the online course software, the department is able to add many interactive components into the courses. Students can discuss topics in chat rooms, take part in live chat sessions with the instructor and classmates and also post comments on discussion threads. Faculty members are currently looking at ways to add streaming video and possibly even audio lectures into the courses as well.

"Just because a student does not see his or her classmates doesn't mean there aren't ways to socialize in a distance format," Molgaard said. "The software for these courses are very user-friendly and allow the students several options to keep an active dialogue flowing." Two more core classes are currently being offered online for the Spring 2001



semester - PRVM 827: Public Health Administration, and PRVM 837: Children's Environmental Health, a new alternative core class to fulfill the Environmental Health competency.

"Because online courses can use an asynchronous format, people are able to post messages and assignments at their convenience," said Linda Frazier, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor and instructor of Children's Environmental Health. "That's the wonderful thing about this format. People aren't confined to rearrange their work schedule to sit in a classroom for three hours. If their only free time is at 10 p.m., then that is when they log on."

Frazier will also offer a Web-based MPH elective this summer, PRVM 838: Reproductive Epidemiology. In addition, she will offer an entirely Web-based section of Principles of Epidemiology in the fall, along with a new elective, Health Communication. James Early, M.D., clinical associate professor, will also offer an online elective focusing on the epidemiology obesity.

The roster of those currently enrolled in online courses includes students from Philadelphia, Pa., Galveston, Texas, and Garden City, Kan.

"This has really allowed us to fulfill the mission of MPH Kansas, which is to provide opportunities for health care providers and researchers to develop and apply individual and population-based approaches to improving the public's health in Kansas, the region and the nation," said Molgaard.

"When you can break down the distance barriers, it opens a whole new world of possibilities."

All online courses are structured in the same format as traditional classroom instruction. That means students follow a syllabus with readings and weekly assignments and must complete the course by the end of the academic semester they are enrolled in.

For more information about online courses, please contact Becky Gruhn, MPH Coordinator, KU School of Medicine-Wichita, at 316-293-2606, or e-mail [bgruhn@kumc.edu](mailto:bgruhn@kumc.edu).

## MPH FACULTY

# Fredrickson focuses on children's health issues

**I**mproving child immunization risk benefit communication is the goal Doren Fredrickson, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor, Preventive Medicine, has set in his latest study.

Fredrickson is the principal investigator of a grant through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) titled "Cooperative Agreement Project Improving Vaccine Risk-Benefit Communication With an Immunization Educational Package In Public Health Settings." He is collaborating with Terry Davis, Ph.D., professor of medicine and pediatrics, Health Sciences Center, Louisiana State University-Shreveport, who serves as co-investigator.

In this study, Fredrickson is conducting health department-based trials of new immunization risk benefit communication materials. This initiative is based on a previous study by Fredrickson and Davis in which their findings suggested that there may be a mismatch between legal mandates for risk-benefit communication, providers'



Doren Fredrickson

perception of what parents needed to know, and actual provider vaccine risk-benefit communication practices.

"This is a very practical issue as it relates to patient/doctor communication," Fredrickson said.

Through the information collected from focus groups, Fredrickson has helped develop new materials in consultation with 25 federal and professional organizations. He and Davis will continue to test the new materials in Kansas and Louisiana.

"I've always been interested in literacy and education," said Fredrickson, who received a B.A. in education from the University of Kansas before pursuing medical school. "I found Terry Davis who has similar interests, and we've been working together for 10 years."

### HealthWave activities

The MPH Kansas faculty member, who has been honored in the past with the prestigious W.T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence

Award given at the University of Kansas, is also actively working as a co-investigator on the Kansas HealthWave Evaluation Project, a three-year evaluation of HealthWave, Kansas' State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for low-income children.

HealthWave was launched January 1999, in an effort to provide health insurance to uninsured children whose family's income was too high to qualify for Medicaid, but does not exceed 200% of poverty.

Fredrickson is now conducting the special population impact portion of the study.

"We're following 96 families forward after they first enrolled in HealthWave," Fredrickson said. "These families are grouped into four categories: from rural/frontier counties, urban African Americans, Spanish-speaking Hispanics and income-matched state employees."

In between research projects, Fredrickson still finds time to fulfill obligations as a clinician, seeing patients roughly 10 hours a week, and also currently teaches an MPH elective, "Management of Public Health Data," for the spring semester.

## Life of a biostatistician: More than just crunching numbers

**M**atthew Mayo's phone number is well-known around the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City.

As a biostatistician, Mayo is the person people consult before, during and after tackling a research project.

"About 80-85% of my time deals with meeting with other researchers to help them design projects and doing final analysis," Mayo said.

Mayo, an assistant professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and also the director of Biostatistics and director of the Clinical Trials Office for the Kansas Cancer Institute, helps researchers throughout the Medical Center design

experiments to test their hypotheses. By using statistical methods, he helps a researcher determine the most effective way to test a scientific hypothesis.

"Many software packages can spit out answers, but the procedures chosen may not always be the best," Mayo said.

"Each test has assumptions and those need to be validated statistically. We can bring experience and look at the data from a different perspective that can change the way results are viewed and even possibly generate future research hypotheses."

Although Mayo's position is of great importance, it is one that is often

overshadowed in research centers. Part of this is due to the common misconception people hold that statisticians are merely number crunchers.

"Statistics is more about designs and theories, models and functions," said Mayo. "It's more about relationships than numbers. Numbers are just a byproduct."

"On the whole in medical centers, most quality researchers understand the need for statisticians and those that don't sometimes get lucky."

Mayo received his Ph.D. in applied statistics from the University of Alabama in 1995. He joined the Department of Preventive Medicine in 1998.

## MPH FACULTY

# Kansas Cancer Registry remains important prevention tool

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States. In fact, an estimated 13 million people were newly diagnosed with cancer in the 1990s. So how does an agency, such as the American Cancer Society, come up with this data? They look to database registries like the Kansas Cancer Registry (KCR).

Led by Sue-Min Lai, Ph.D., associate professor, Preventive Medicine, University of Kansas Medical Center, the KCR maintains and updates a database of more than 300,000 cases of diagnosed cancer. Records include anyone who has been diagnosed with or treated for cancer in the state of Kansas since 1968.

"This information in the Kansas Cancer Registry is primarily for cancer surveillance at the statewide level," said Lai.

Lai, an MPH faculty member, has used the registry to train MPH students. Theses such as "Estimating the Expected Number of Cancer Cases from a Hospital," and "Urban and Rural Incidence of Prostate Cancer in Kansas 1995" have come out of the registry.

In order to create the most comprehensive database possible, the KCR collects a wide range of information.

"We collect demographics; we collect clinical characteristics and treatment information," said Lai. "We also have some follow-up information."

The demographic information within the database includes patient name, sex, race, marital status, place of birth, occupation and birth date. It also contains clinical information, such as a date of diagnosis, type of cancer, stage at diagnosis, course of treatment and condition at follow-up.



Sue-Min Lai

The information is used for a variety of reasons. It has been used to evaluate treatments, and develop preventive screening measures, as well as analyze cancer clusterings. It has also been used for such statewide initiatives as Kansas Healthy People 2000 and 2010. One of the more common uses of the KCR database is to present health care providers with information about where a cancer treatment center is appropriate and necessary. The data is also used for Midwest regional cancer prevention and control planning issues.

Even though the KCR provides cancer information about Kansans, the registry receives support at both the state and national level. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded the KCR \$2.5 million to ascertain all types of cancer within Kansas. The KCR was recently

awarded \$214,000 from the CDC to study prostate cancer in the medically underserved. A third major grant from the CDC, through the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine (ATPM), provided the KCR with an additional \$450,000 over three years to study pesticides and the risk of cancer using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping.

In addition to national funding, the KCR has also received national recognition. The KCR received official certification from the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR). NAACCR is an organization for cancer registries, governmental agencies, professional associations and private groups in North America that sets the registration standards for cancer registries across the continent. In 1998, KCR data reached the Gold Standard according to NAACCR requirements in the areas of "completeness, timeliness and data quality."

"The KCR is truly population based," said Lai. "The coverage truly covers the state of Kansas and has improved from a 45% ascertainment rate to a 95% ascertainment rate."

Lai believes that now that the information is nationally certified, health care professionals can confidently and accurately use the KCR data for prevention and cancer control initiatives across the state.

## Researcher receives mentoring award from national society

Jasjit S. Ahluwalia, M.D., vice-chair, director of research and associate professor of Preventive Medicine, received the inaugural "Distinguished Research Mentor Award" at the Society for Behavioral Medicine's annual meeting in Seattle last month.

Dr. Ahluwalia was nominated by 21 colleagues, including Deborah Powell, M.D., executive dean and vice chancellor for Clinical Affairs, and S. Edwards Dismuke, M.D., M.S.P.H., chair of the department of Preventive Medicine.

All praised Dr. Ahluwalia's talent and enthusiasm for

mentoring both junior faculty and students. In their nominating letter, Kimber Richter, Ph.D. and Kari Jo Harris, Ph.D., M.P.H., both of Preventive Medicine, talked about Dr. Ahluwalia's deep commitment to mentoring.

"Dr. Ahluwalia is an inspirational researcher, leader and mentor, making significant contributions to the careers of many students and faculty," wrote Richter and Harris.

Dr. Ahluwalia's research and clinical interests are in pharmacotherapy and behavior change for chronic disease, including nicotine addiction, obesity and hypertension.

*(This article was reprinted with permission from KU In the Center)*

## SERVICE

## Student puts public health training to use overseas

**I**nfectious diseases jeopardize public health all across the continent of Africa. Lolem Ngong, MPH student and research assistant, Preventive Medicine, KU School of Medicine-Wichita, was recently given the opportunity to study a major epidemic in her home country of Cameroon, Africa, and use her MPH education to help improve the health of the public.

Ngong, who will graduate this May, spent seven weeks in Cameroon doing a baseline study on reproductive health and contraceptive use. The study, which gathered data about opinions, attitudes and beliefs surrounding AIDS/HIV in Cameroonian youth, was sponsored by the German Technical Corporation's (GTC) division of sanitation and health.

### Continuing the Legacy

L o l e m Ngong is not alone in her quest to build prevention and treatment centers across Cameroon.

Ngong's mother, Beri Ngong, M.D., M.Sc., is in the process of building an eye care center in a remote city in Cameroon. Dr. Ngong, an ophthalmologist by trade, has done all the fundraising efforts for this center and has even negotiated the donation of some land.

"I am very proud of my mother," said Ngong. "I really want to continue her legacy."



Lolem Ngong

The study took both a qualitative and a quantitative look at AIDS/HIV to see how it impacted the community. The study also looked at intervention and prevention programs, their utilization and the sources of AIDS education for youth.

Ten Cameroonian anthropology students worked under Ngong collecting data. A total of 3,500 people were surveyed in eight different cities. The cities were a mixture of both rural and urban populations. The main goal of the GTC was to find out where more intervention programs were needed for AIDS/HIV and unwanted pregnancies.

"Their main focus for the past three-to-four years has been reducing AIDS/HIV in Cameroon," said Ngong.

The study wanted to see what kinds of intervention programs worked, what new kinds of intervention programs were needed and what kinds of programs were not effective at all. The study also collected slang terms for AIDS in order to make new brochures that would be more appealing to youth.

"A majority of the youths were already aware of all the prevention programs that were available to them," said Ngong.

The study ultimately resulted in two quantitative reports and two qualitative reports. All of these reports are still in the process of being merged into one report. After the final report has been written, the next step will be to create interventions in collaboration with other organizations in Cameroon.

**"My passion has always been to return to Cameroon and be part of the workforce that prevents infectious diseases."**

This experience was not the first time Ngong chose to study AIDS in her native country.

"It was kind of a coincidence, but this study was very similar to my thesis," said Ngong.

Ngong's MPH thesis also deals with AIDS and youth. Her thesis "HIV/AIDS-related knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and sexual practices of Cameroonian youth: A pilot project" was done on a previous trip to Cameroon and included 60 people.

"I chose AIDS because the entire continent of Africa is a red zone for AIDS," said Ngong. Ngong chose youth because that group has typically been neglected in the past. Most of the studies and prevention initiatives in Cameroon focus on adult populations, primarily prostitutes. Cameroon is just starting its youth intervention programs.

"No one has really put any money into studying youth," said Ngong.

Ngong is still making plans for after graduation. She will be attending the Minority Medical Education program at Duke University this summer. After that, she will be shopping for medical schools for fall 2002 admission.

After medical school, her plans include returning to Cameroon and hopefully building prevention and treatment facilities across the country.

"My passion has always been to return to Cameroon and be part of the workforce that prevents infectious diseases."

## NEWS BRIEFS

### NPR personality visits Wichita

National public radio personality Zorba Paster, M.D., met with faculty and staff in the Department of Preventive Medicine at the KU School of Medicine-Wichita on March 28. Dr. Paster has a nationally syndicated radio call-in show called "On Your Health," and is the medical advisor for the health promotion newsletter *Top Health*.

Dr. Paster discussed health communication with faculty and staff and talked about ways in which educators can take health messages to the media.

On air, Dr. Paster emphasizes prevention - diet, exercise and lifestyle changes - as well as treatments and cures, encouraging listeners to become informed consumers and take an active role in communicating with their doctors and health care providers.

### Check out new health career web site

Looking for a career in Health Care? Do you know which colleges and universities in Kansas offer programs in health care? Then check out a new web site at <http://wichita.kumc.edu/KHC/>.

This site lists schools in Kansas that offer programs in various health careers and for each career lists: educational requirements, salary ranges, job outlook, careers in health care, health care job market, programs for minority students, programs for Kansas students and visiting the KU School of Medicine-Wichita.

Information regarding public health careers in Kansas can be found on this web site along with links to national public health organizations.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### May

- 2 Last day for May 2001 master's candidates to file theses and other materials in their KU graduate divisions' offices. No extensions by Graduate Divisions.
- 3-4 26th Annual Women's Health Care Symposium (Kansas City, Mo.)
- 6 National Nurses' Day
- 6-12 National Nurses' Week
- 7 Last day of classes at KU
- 8 World Red Cross Day
- 9-16 FINALS week at KU
- 17 "A Public Health Response to Asthma" A Public Health Training Network Satellite Broadcast
- 19 MPH Kansas Hooding Ceremony (Kansas City)

### June

- 1 35th National Immunization Conference (Atlanta, Ga.)
- 5 Summer classes begin

### July

- 4 Independence Day
- 10 Last day for August 2001 master's candidates to take final examinations.
- 20 Last day for August 2001 master's candidates to file theses and other materials in their graduate divisions' offices.
- 28 Last day of classes

### September

- 27-28 Kansas Public Health Annual Meeting (Lawrence, Kan.)

## KPHA looking for contest submissions

The Health Promotion/Health Education section of the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) is soliciting your best health education, promotion and communication materials for the second annual materials competition. Deadline for submission of materials to the contest is May 31.

This contest provides a forum to showcase your materials during the Kansas Public Health Conference annual meeting and to be recognized for your hard work. All submissions will be displayed at the annual meeting and six awards will be given: best entry submitted by a student, "people's choice" based on conference attendees' votes, and the best in each of the four categories. Those submitting materials judged as "best" in each category by an expert panel will provide a brief verbal presentation at this year's conference, Sept. 27-28, in Lawrence, Kan.

Entries will be accepted in the following categories: Printed materials (e.g. brochure, newsletter, poster, flyer, tailored message, comic book); Audio/video material (e.g. educational videotape, radio PSA, TV PSA); Electronic materials (e.g. Web site, CD-ROM, computer program, video game); Promotional materials (e.g. key chain, t-shirt, button, bracelet, magnet).

Persons wishing to participate in the contest must be members of KPHA. Membership information can be found at <http://kpha.myassociation.com/> or by calling the office at 785-233-3103. For more information regarding the contest, please contact Kari Harris, Ph.D., M.P.H., research assistant professor, Preventive Medicine, at 913-588-2747 or e-mail [kharris2@kumc.edu](mailto:kharris2@kumc.edu).

## Kansas City faculty members awarded new grants

A pair of assistant professors in the Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City were recently notified by the National Institute on Drug Abuse that their grant proposal had been funded.

**Delwyn Catley, Ph.D.**, and **Michael Mosier, Ph.D.**, submitted a grant entitled "Role of controllability in scheduled smoking reduction," along with a colleague from the Department of Psychology, Dr. James Grobe.

According to Catley, this project is designed to examine the feasibility of a method to study the effects of manipulating smokers' control over their smoking in the natural environment. It builds on laboratory research conducted by Dr. Grobe that has indicated that the reward value of cigarette smoking is reduced when smokers do not control their smoking.

This study will use palm computer devices to manipulate controllability while smokers are engaged in their usual daily activities.

"Smokers will initially smoke for three days as they usually do ("ad lib" or controllable smoking) but use the palm device to record each time a cigarette is smoked," explained Catley. "A week later (the same three week days) they will smoke only when the palm tells them to smoke (uncontrollable smoking) - in fact the palm will be 'replaying' their own smoking pattern to them. This way the pattern and number of cigarettes is held constant while controllability alone is manipulated."

The purpose of this study is primarily to develop the feasibility of this method and only secondarily to test the effects of manipulating controllability.

**Kari Harris, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, research assistant professor, Preventive Medicine, KU Medical Center, was awarded a five-year grant from the National Cancer Institute: Preventing transition to regular smoking in college students (KO7 CA88714-01; \$611,000).

The MPH Kansas newsletter is published by the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, Department of Preventive Medicine.

Phone 316-293-2627; Fax 316-293-2695

**Editor:** Becky Gruhn  
([bgruhn@kumc.edu](mailto:bgruhn@kumc.edu))

**Assistant Editor:** Melissa Armstrong  
([marmstro@kumc.edu](mailto:marmstro@kumc.edu))

This newsletter and past editions may be accessed on the Web at <http://prevmed.kumc.edu/mph>.