



THE BRIDGE TO YOUR CAREER IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Program

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MPH PROGRAM RECEIVES FULL ACCREDITATION



CEPH
COUNCIL on EDUCATION
for PUBLIC HEALTH

As of October 30, 2009, the MPH Program at Touro University California (TUC) has received full accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) for a five-year term, extending to December 31, 2014. The Public Health Program truly appreciates and recognizes the valuable support of the Touro community for their participation in the accreditation process. As one of the many benefits of CEPH accreditation, the Program's alumni are now eligible to sit for the Certified in Public Health (CPH) Exam (developed by the National Board of Health Examiners), the nation's only core credentialing exam in public health. Candidates can take the exam if they graduated up to three years before the CEPH-accreditation date of the Program.

NEW COO/Provost for TUC

After an extensive national search, Marilyn Hopkins was chosen to serve as Touro University California's new Provost and Chief Operating Officer. She formerly served as dean of California State University- Sacramento's College of Health and Human Services.

"With her vast experience in health science and education, Dr. Hopkins presents strong leadership qualities that will usher in a new era for Touro University California," said Dr. Michael Harter.

Dr. Hopkins will assume daily administration of Touro University California. Dr. Harter will continue in his role as overseer of Touro University's western division and

manage daily operations of the Nevada campus.

Dr. Hopkins has a Doctorate in Nursing Science from the University of California, San Francisco.



She was a nursing faculty member at CSU Sacramento for 23 years. She was promoted to Associate Dean of the College of Health and Human Services in 1997 and became Dean in 2000. Dr. Hopkins is also a licensed Registered Nurse and has been active in community activities which benefit children, youth and families.

"With colleges of osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, education and health science, Touro University offers great expertise to the region," Dr. Hopkins said. "Touro faculty and their graduates can be part of a national effort that leads to healthier individuals, families and communities."

-Jesus Mena

MEET THE NEWEST FACULTY

The Public Health Program welcomes **Dr. Lucy Thairu** as its newest Assistant Professor. Dr. Thairu obtained a Ph.D. in Nutrition from Cornell University and trained as a postdoctoral fellow at

Stanford University. Her doctoral research emphasized the relevance of the social and economic context for preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS through breastfeeding. Given the increasing

importance of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa, and the potential for Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV through breastmilk, she investigated alternative methods of infant feeding in

MEET THE NEWEST FACULTY (cont.)

"My experiences in the Touro University California MPH Program empowered me with the intellectual capability to explore the many realms of the public health sector. The Program's strong emphasis on community-based learning enabled me to strive to implement changes within the healthcare community. I feel that graduate study at Touro University's Public Health Program was the most logical extension of my academic pursuits and a major step towards achieving my future public health goals and objectives."

Camelia Matthews, MPH
The University of Texas
M.D. Anderson Cancer
Center
Touro University
California
Class of 2008

other studies in Kenya and in South Africa. The results were recognized for their policy implications as the studies were among the first to show that mothers still wanted to continue breastfeeding, even when they were infected with HIV. Based on this research, Dr Thairu has received several awards, including the Abraham Horwitz Award from the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition.

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Rainbow Vogt** has joined the Public Health Program as Adjunct Professor. In addition to teaching Environmental Health at TUC, she is a faculty member at the American University of Complementary Medicine in Nutritional Medicine. Dr. Vogt is currently conducting research on environmental toxic exposure at the University of California, Davis in the Department of Public Health Sciences. She completed her PhD in the Department of Nutrition at the University of California, Davis. Previously, she conducted research on toxic exposure and chronic disease outcome at the School of Medicine at Stanford University. Dr. Vogt has practiced acupuncture in Davis, California since 2007. Her research interests are in prevention-based and complementary medicine, environmental exposure, chronic disease, and health disparities.

MPH ALUMNI UPDATE

After completing the Program in spring 2008, Camelia Matthews recently obtained employment as a Grants and Public Policy Program Coordinator at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. Prior to that, she was accepted to the Clinical Effectiveness Certificate Program at Harvard University's School of Public Health.

After graduating in summer 2008, Katherine Chen, enrolled in the Columbia University School of Social Work MS Program in New York, where she has gained extensive field experience working on a research project with an organization called Ground Work, Inc. through Columbia University in collaboration on a National Institutes of Health grant using a behavioral model that focuses on cognitive behavioral therapy for treating children with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) stemming from psychological, domestic, and sexual abuse. Ms. Chen will graduate from the MSW Program in May 2010 and will later take the Certified in Public Health (CPH) exam after returning to the Bay Area to work in Community Health.

GLOBAL HEALTH FIELD STUDY REPORTS 2009

Maryna Pecherska conducted her field study during the summer 2009 academic session at the AIDS Resource Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where she worked to develop what will later become a nationwide Pediatric

HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Campaign. Plans for a nationwide Pediatric HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Campaign were developed and await approval from the director of the National

Association of Regional Councils and the respective officials from the Federal HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office.

MPH students, Babak Fatirian and Ryan Manolo, produced a striking survey analysis of the drug delivery system of two different hospitals located in different areas of La Paz, Bolivia during the summer 2009 academic session. Their findings surmise that: (1) national health

insurance is limited to the lawmakers approval of medications that are "affordable" to distribute; (2) patients may also face obstacles such as unavailability, unaffordability and insurance coverage problems; and (3) without proper diagnosis and valid prescription, the distribution of drugs can lead to hazardous side-effects and potential resistance.

