



University of Pennsylvania

# Master of Public Health Program



## MD-MPH

### Joint Degree Program

Giang T. Nguyen, MD, MPH, MSCE  
Chair, MD-MPH Advisory Committee  
September 2011



# What is public health?

- **Public health** is the science and art of protecting and improving the health of communities.
- It involves medical care, education, policy, research, and behavioral science.
- It focuses on the whole population as opposed to the individual alone.



# FAQ #1

- **I'm unsure of what it means exactly to do "work in public health." Could you please explain this to me?**



# What is public health work?

- Clean air legislation
- Free clinics for the uninsured
- Water purification
- Tobacco control and clean indoor air legislation
- Trash removal and sanitation
- Domestic violence prevention
- STD prevention education
- Needle exchange and drug rehab programs
- Immunization programs
- Lead testing and abatement
- Bioterrorism preparedness
- Cancer registries
- Health communication
- Superfund cleanup
- Seat belt design
- Outbreak investigations
- Medicare & Medicaid



# FAQ #2

- **What exactly is an MPH?**



# The Master of Public Health Degree

- MPH Competency Areas
  - Health Services Administration & Management
  - Biostatistics
  - Epidemiology
  - Behavioral Sciences & Health Education
  - Occupational & Environmental Health Sciences



# FAQ #3

- **Why get a combined MD-MPH degree?**



If you're interested in...

- Being a leader in your field
- Doing community work
- Improving the health of populations
- Incorporating research into your practice



# M.D. – M.P.H. in federal government



**Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH**  
Director, CDC, 2009-



**Julie L. Gerberding, MD, MPH**  
Director, CDC, 2002-2009



**Howard K. Koh MD, MPH**  
Assistant Secretary for Health, 2009-



# M.D. – M.P.H. other leaders

**D.A. Henderson, M.D., M.P.H.,**  
Director, WHO Smallpox Eradication Program, 1966-1977



**Adewale Troutman, M.D., M.P.H.**  
Director, Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness  
Louisville, KY



# M.D. – M.P.H. Philadelphia scene

**Walter Tsou, M.D., M.P.H.,**  
Former President, American Public Health Association  
Former Health Commissioner, City of Philadelphia



**Donald Schwarz, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.**  
Deputy Mayor of Health and Opportunity  
and Health Commissioner,  
City of Philadelphia



# FAQ #4

- **How can work in public health be coupled with a physician's clinical duties?**





### **Penn Asian Health Initiatives Annual Influenza Vaccine Outreach**

- Every fall since 2004
- Sites: Vietnamese Hung Vuong Association,  
-Bo De Buddhist Temple, St. Helena Parish
- >2,000 doses of free vaccine so far



**St. Helena Parish**



**Vietnamese Hung  
Vuong Association**

# Our Stories, Our Health

Immigrant engagement, community media, and public health



**Focusing on hypertension and doctor-patient communication**



**Elder Immigrant Leadership**



# Community Cancer Education & Research



PAHI Coordinator,  
Ethan Nguyen



PAHI staff (left) assisted with data collection for the evaluation and communication research component of the event. About 900 women attended lectures in 7 languages.





*Physical Activity Programming*  
Hoạt Động, Hoan Hô!

# Perelman School of Medicine Faculty

## At least 37 faculty with MPH degree

- Robert G Prosnitz, MD, MPH
- Susan E. Coffin, MD, MPH
- Brian Strom, MD, MPH
- Judith Green McKenzie, MD, MPH
- Lee R. Goldberg, MD, MPH
- A. Russell Localio, JD, MPH, PhD
- Zachary F Meisel, MD, MPH, MS
- Peter Andrew Meaney, MD MPH
- Ebbing Lautenbach, MD, MPH
- James P. Guevara, MD, MPH
- Marshall M. Joffe, MD, MPH, Ph.D
- Joel A Fein, MD, MPH
- Ron Keren, MD, MPH
- John H. Kempen, MD, MPH, PhD
- Harshad Gurnaney, MBBS, MPH
- Karen Glanz, PhD, MPH
- Meenakshi Bewtra, MD, MPH
- Francis Lopez, MD, MPH
- Sam S. H. Wu, MD, MPH, MBA
- Diego Jaramillo, MD, MPH
- Kendal P. Williams, MD, MPH
- Victoria L. Vetter, MD, MPH
- Marisa A Rogers, MD, MPH
- Margaret Baylson, MD, MPH
- Kathryn H. Schmitz, PhD, MPH
- Philip M. Hanno, MD, MPH
- Anne F. Reilly, MD, MPH
- Michael Alan Ashburn, MD, MPH
- Chris Feudtner, MD PhD MPH
- Peter A. Kanetsky, PhD, MPH
- Giang T. Nguyen, MD, MPH, MSCE
- Valerie A. Arkoosh, M.D., MPH
- Courtney Anne Schreiber, MD, MPH
- Indira Gurubhagavatula, M.D., MPH
- G Russell Huffman, MD, MPH
- Irving Nachamkin, DrPH, MPH
- Abike Thelma James, M.D., M.P.H.

# FAQ #5

- **What will an MPH prepare me to do in the future if I am primarily interested in a clinical practice?**



# Public Health in the Clinical Setting

- Federally Qualified Health Centers.
- Health clinics in underserved communities.
- Local health care administration and other clinical leadership roles
- Community organizing to improve the health of patients in your neighborhood.
- Creating patient education programs to improve medication adherence in your practice.
- Evaluating clinical guidelines to decide how to implement them in your clinical department.
- Setting up and operating hospitals in developing countries.
- Refugee and immigrant health care.
- Emergency response and disaster preparedness.



# Penn's MPH Program

- Interdisciplinary
- University-wide
- Penn Center for Public Health Initiatives
- Research, teaching, service
- CEPH-accredited  
Council on Education for Public Health
- Small, selective program
- Degree conferred by Penn School of Medicine

School of Medicine	School of Nursing
School of Social Policy & Practice	School of Arts and Sciences
School of Veterinary Medicine	Graduate School of Education
School of Dental Medicine	Wharton School



# MPH students at Penn

- Required to have prior field experience (requirement waived for combined degree students)
- Penn MPH students have come from a variety of professional backgrounds:

Medicine	Communication
Nursing	Social work
Anthropology	Veterinary medicine
Informatics	Environmental sciences
Health sciences	Industry



***Details?***



# Penn MPH: Details

## Duration of Study

- Students taking MPH alone require 2 years of full-time study
- MD-MPH students can be complete by adding just 1 extra year

## Core Knowledge

- Biostatistics
- Epidemiology
- Environmental/Occupational Health
- Behavioral & Social Sciences
- Health Care Policy & Management

## Integration

- Methods for Public Health Practice
- Capstone Experience (cumulative field project)

## Breadth and Depth

- Electives in the student's areas of interest selected from across the University
- Many elective options



# Penn MD-MPH: Highlights

- 5-year program  
(as opposed to 6 years to get both degrees individually)
- University-wide course offerings on one campus
- MD course work in Years 1, 2, 3 and 5;  
Full-time MPH coursework in Year 4 and Fall Year 5;  
Students are encouraged to apply to the MPH early and begin coursework prior to Year 4.
- Medical education with a special focus on population health problems
- Interdisciplinary training for students interested in clinical practice, prevention, hygiene, education and policy making



# Penn MD-MPH: Admissions

- The program looks for students with:
  - leadership potential
  - outstanding academic credentials
  - a well-defined concept of and commitment to public health
- Students must apply and be admitted separately to both MD and MPH programs.
- We encourage MD students to apply early during the MD program, so that they can plan ahead; however, students interested in the MD-MPH may apply at any time during year 1-3 of medical school.



# Penn MD-MPH: Details

- 14 MPH course units:
  - 10 required “core” courses
  - 2 PUBH electives
  - 2 additional electives, can be PUBH
  - Capstone project (examples on website)
- Dual-degree counts for your required MD scholarly pursuit
- MOD320 satisfies one MPH required core
- Sample plan of study:



# MD-MPH: Sample Curriculum (Y1-3)

YEAR	FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
1	-MD Modules 1, 3, 6 <b>-Intro to Public Health</b>	-MD Modules 2, 3,6 -MOD320 Health Care Systems	<b>-MPH Elective</b> <b>(e.g., PUBH 525</b> <b>Program Planning</b> <b>Human Rights)</b>
2	-MD Modules 2, 3, 6	-MD Modules 4, 6	-MD Modules 4, 6
3	-MD Modules 4, 6	-MD Module 5	-MD Module 5



# MD-MPH: Sample Curriculum (Y4-5)

YEAR	FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Biostatistics</li> <li>-Environmental &amp; Occupational Health</li> <li>-Behavioral &amp; Social Sciences of PH</li> <li>-Issues in Global Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Epidemiology</li> <li>-Methods for Public Health Practice</li> <li>-Capstone Seminar 1</li> <li>-MPH Elective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PUBH 598 Immersion Experience in Global Public Health</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Law, Ethics and Policy</li> <li>- MPH elective: International Human Rights</li> <li>-Capstone Seminar 2</li> <li>-Residency interviews</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-MD Module 5 and</li> <li>-Residency interviews</li> </ul>	



# FAQ #6

- **What if I'm interested in a very specific aspect of public health?**



# Examples of MPH Electives

- PUBH 516 Introduction to Public Health Genetics
- PUBH 517 Epidemiologic Study of Geography and Health
- PUBH 519 Issues in Global Health
- PUBH 520 Topics in Public Health Economics
- PUBH 521 Program Evaluation in Public Health
- PUBH 522 Critical Appraisal of Occupational and Environmental Health Literature
- PUBH 523 Disease Detectives and Social Engineers
- PUBH 524 Ameliorating Disparities in the Public's Health
- PUBH 527 Media, Advocacy and Public Health
- PUBH 534 Fatal Violence in the U.S
- PUBH 535 Urban Poverty and Violence: Ethnographic Perspectives
- PUBH 536 Mental Health Policy
- PUBH 598 Immersion Experience in Global Public Health



View additional MPH elective offerings here:

[http://www.publichealth.med.upenn.edu/course\\_listing.shtml](http://www.publichealth.med.upenn.edu/course_listing.shtml)

# Tuition and Billing

- MD-MPH joint degree costs less than obtaining the two degrees separately
  - Year 1-3: pay MD tuition
  - Year 4: pay MPH tuition (fall, spring, summer)
  - Year 5: pay MPH tuition for fall and MD tuition for springBasically means you pay 3.5 years of MD, 1.5 year of MPH
- MD students may transfer MOD 320 Health Care Systems for 1 course unit in lieu of the required course PUBH 505
- MD students may take up to 3 MPH courses prior to matriculating in the MPH without additional tuition charged.
- Tuition for the MPH is based upon the number of course units taken; currently \$4,527 per cu plus fees (\$4,999).
- Medical School Scholarships do not apply toward MPH, but students are eligible to apply for Stafford Loans; speak to the Medical School Office of Admissions and Financial Aid for more information.
- Competitive **MPH scholarships** available (based on merit and/or need). Special scholarship for **MD-MPH** students interested in Global Health. External private scholarships accepted.



# What if I'm not sure yet??

- Try it out!

**We strongly urge you to register now for an introductory MPH course**

- Intro to Public Health (fall semester)
- Issues in Global Health (fall semester)

**If you take a public health course before officially matriculating into the MPH program and wish to have it count toward the degree later, it must be taken for a grade (not pass/fail).**



**If you wish to proceed with the MD-MPH...**

**We strongly encourage that you apply by Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>**

# For More Information

Visit our website at: [www.publichealth.med.upenn.edu](http://www.publichealth.med.upenn.edu)

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To learn more about public health at Penn in general:  
**Center for Public Health Initiatives:** [www.cphi.upenn.edu](http://www.cphi.upenn.edu)