Nothing shows us more about the scope of Global Health than does the current EBOLA epidemic raging in three small countries of West Africa. This tragedy, once just a local phenomenon, now has touched Europe and North America and probably will spiral on to further destinations. In times past we could ignore the event as just a local misfortune “over there somewhere”. Nowadays the epidemic is front page news and is on everybody’s lips. Such is the stuff of Global Health and woe is the nation or medical center that ignores it.

Global Health is not just about the health of individuals or communities. Global Health talks the language of health metrics and global trends in data published by the United Nations agencies and the World Bank. It encompasses the physical and social geography of every area on earth. It involves the economics and financial resources of peoples and nations. It relates to the infrastructure, the industries, the political structure and the actual use of political power. Global Health focuses on the demographic profile of the population, the age distribution and the make-up of households. Diet and eating habits are important. Custom and tradition are essential knowledge when attacking an epidemic; they should not be overlooked -- as were the local methods of caring for the sick and the funeral customs early in the current West Africa event.
An academic institution which aims to have global impact must be an active driver in exploring the health of the wide world, expanding its services where needed. The Eastern Virginia Medical School is uniquely placed to become a leader in Global Health. Located in an area of immense commercial and military influence, EVMS owes it to the nation to lead. All departments of the school should assess their potential to explore, to study and to cut new pathways of service, using the full scope of knowledge and methods known as “Global Health.”

The Next Step

Dr. Blando and Viann Nguyen-Feng, MPH 2012 co-authored a paper that was highlighted in the September newsletter. She started on this project while she was an MPH student.

How did this project start out and what did the experience teach you?

“Dr. Blando, colleagues, and I started this project when I was an MPH student in the epidemiology track. This project allowed me to apply skillsets from different areas of public health: Women’s health, basic statistics, and community and environmental health. Additionally, I had the experience of working with colleagues from three different institutions and preparing IRB proposals for those institutions. The experience of designing and implementing this project as well as other projects with Dr. Blando and colleagues really allowed me to see the world of public health outside of the classroom atmosphere. From this project and other work, I was also able to travel to conferences (e.g., Virginia Public Health Association in Richmond, American Public Health Association in San Francisco, American Psychological Association Division 41 in San Juan) and meet others in the field from all over. I would encourage any student with an interest in understanding or applying their schoolwork in a different setting to pursue research with some of the EVMS/ODU faculty.

What are you currently doing and how has the joint EVMS/ODU Graduate Program in Public Health helped you?

After completing an Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Education epidemiology fellowship at the Navy-Marine Corps Public Health Center in Portsmouth, I moved to Minneapolis in 2013 to pursue a PhD in psychology at the University of Minnesota. Though I am in a Department of Psychology, I am able to apply my interests of women’s health and mental health care by creating and assessing web-based interventions for survivors of interpersonal violence, which takes broad, preventative approaches related to public health. Additionally, I collaborate with others in the School of Public Health and Department of Medicine here, so the skills that I gained through the joint EVMS/ODU program are still being applied. I’m very thankful for the opportunities that I was given as well as the space that I was given to develop into the ever-learning researcher that I am today. If you have any questions that you’d like directed to an alumna, please don’t hesitate to contact me at nguy2174@umn.edu.


To read the article click here

Congratulations to Lauramay Nnadi
Research Day Poster Contest

The poster was titled, “A New Paradigm for Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Screening in the Hampton Roads Community of Southeastern Virginia”.

What was this study? This was a retrospective, cohort study with a sample study group of 966 patients that participated in STI screening. Screening was performed either by non-licensed staff at LGBT community events or by healthcare assistants in the office on a walk-in basis with no provider visit.

What did this study demonstrate? This study funded by the Elton John AIDS Foundation demonstrated that a program in which non-licensed staff provide STI counseling and screening to unscheduled clinic patients or at community events, can reduce costs to the health care system. In this study there was a cost savings of $10,731.

Lauramay Nnadi, MPH 2015
What was the conclusion of the study? “Our findings suggests that those seeking screening on a walk-in basis may be more at risk for a STI. In addition, the time to notification of abnormal results was decreased by almost 24 hours. Earlier notification may expedite treatment and decrease further transmission of STIs”.

What did your poster win? “This poster presentation won the Biomedical Sciences Program Travel Award in the amount of $1000. There were 3 winners out of over 60 participants, who were mainly doctoral students.”

This abstract has also been published and presented at the 70th Annual American Society for Reproductive Medicine in Honolulu, HI October 22, 2014.

Helping the Community

The MPH program was able to participate in a great volunteer activity at ForKids. Several MPH students and staff went over Wednesday, October 29th, to help paint some of the office space. ForKids founded the Norfolk Homeless Consortium, they also started the first Transitional Housing program, and was the area’s first permanent supportive housing program. ForKids has five residential programs and serve 39 families each night.

To find out more about ForKids, go to www.homesforkids.org

Did You Know

According to AAA auto group:

90% of travelers will get to their destination via automobile during the Thanksgiving holiday. Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving, is the single busiest traffic day of the holiday season. Thanksgiving is also the holiday with largest number of drunk driving fatalities.

Here are some travel safety tips from the Red Cross:

- Be well rested and alert
- Use caution in work zones
- Give your full attention to the road. Avoid distractions such as cell phones
- Observe speed limits. Driving too fast or too slow can increase your chance of being in a collision.
- Make frequent stops. During long trips, rotate drivers. If you are too tired to drive, stop and get some rest.
- Be respectful of other motorists and follow the rules of the road.
- Don’t follow another vehicle too closely.
- If you plan on drinking, designate a driver who won’t drink
- Clean your headlights, taillights, signal lights and windows to help you see, especially at night.
- Turn your headlights on at dusk approaches, or if you are using your windshield wipers due to inclement weather.
- Don’t overdrive your headlights.
- If you have car trouble, pull off the road as far as possible.

To view more driving safety tips and how to prepare for the unexpected click Red Cross

The MPH Program wishes you a safe holiday break!
Dr. Ben Dobrin gave two presentations in the month of October. They are as follows:
On October 15, 2014 I presented “Ebola, What We Know” to a meeting of the Law Enforcement/Fire Subcommittee of the Hampton Roads Port Authority and the USCG Port Security.

On October 23, 2014 Dr. Dobrin gave a talk to Virginia Beach Emergency Medical Services, “Ebola: Background on the Current Outbreak”.

Dr. Hind Baydoun was involved with a Poster Presentation that won the top five prize. It’s titled “Incidence of Endometrial Spotting and Bleeding During Continuous Combined Estrogen plus Progestin Therapy in Normotensive versus Hypertensive Postmenopausal Women” Click the link to see the poster.


Also an article was accepted for publication:
Beydoun MA, Fanelli-Kuczmarski MT, Rostant O, Beydoun HA, Evans MK, Zonderman AB. "n-3 to n-6 dietary fatty acid ratio is associated with longitudinal change in depressive symptoms among US women." American Journal of Epidemiology, 2014.

Dr. Dana Bradshaw and Dr. Baydoun presented two lectures at Granby High School. The titles of the presentations are:
Hind Baydoun: “MATH IN ACTION!” Using logistic regression to examine risk factors for Ebola
Dana Bradshaw: “MATH IN ACTION”: GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) IN EPIDEMIOLOGY

Dr. Jim Blando presented the following:
Blando, J.D.; Ridenour, M; Hartley, D.; Casteel, C. “Barriers to effective implementation of programs for workplace violence prevention in hospitals.” Presented at the 4th International Conference on Violence in the Health Sector, Miami, FL, October 23, 2014.

Dr Faulkner was selected as a CPH exam writer for the Epidemiology section.

Interested in the MPH Program?
EVMS and ODU have partnered to develop an interdisciplinary program that trains students in bettering public health and preventing disease and disability around the world. Take a look at what an MPH degree from EVMS/ODU can offer you...
Health Promotion: Provides students with an understanding of public health sciences along with skills in the expanding field of healthcare promotion in private organizations, as well as local, district and state health departments.

Epidemiology: Provides students with a well-structured curriculum of experiential learning analyzing the cause, pattern, and control of disease and conditions that affect populations.

Health Management and Policy: Provides students with knowledge and field experience in both public and private healthcare sector organizations. Students have the opportunity to engage with faculty research and in community service through academic courses or in student/program sponsored volunteer efforts.

Global Environmental Health: This track familiarizes students with a broad range of 21st century issues at the local, national, and international levels. Global Environmental Health graduates work in government, the uniformed services, not-for-profit organizations, the private sector and international organizations.

MD/MPH: A five year dual degree program for students admitted in the EVMS MD Program. The MPH degree supplements the MD students’ medical education with skills involving the health of populations.

To see the detailed curriculum and information regarding tuition and the application process, please visit us online at www.evms.edu/mph or call us at 757-446-6120.

Follow us on Facebook for public health job postings, scholarship information, events and up to date program information.