Dear NHS Students, Faculty, and Alumni,

Happy Spring!

The annual dusting of yellow pollen reminds us that the spring semester is more than halfway over! April is the month for several exciting national conferences where many of our students will be presenting their research. We’ll include special reports in next month’s newsletter highlighting conference topics and the presentations of our students.

(*Student attendees- please remember to take photos of posters, presentations, and other events!)

Please let us know about any of your accomplishments and feel free to email us (ashley.holmes@emory.edu, ellen.smith@emory.edu, or caroline.um@emory.edu) with any feedback or events that you want listed!

Cheers,

Ashley, Ellen, & Caroline

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SPECIAL EVENT: NHS STUDENT - ALUMNI MIXER

Please save the date for the 2016 NHS Student - Alumni Mixer!

- **When:** Sunday, May 1, 1-3pm
- **Where:** The home of NHS Alum, Dr. Andrea Sharma
EVENTS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT EMORY

RSPH Grant Writing Tools
**What:** All presentations from the RSPH grant writing workshops are now available here!

Career Lab: Medical Marketing
**When:** Thursday, March 31, 4-6pm
**Where:** School of Nursing, Room 201
**Details:** Click here to sign up

Emory Symphony Orchestra and University Chorus
**When:** April 15 and 16, 8pm
**Where:** Schwartz Center for Performing Arts
**Details:** Enjoy the combined Emory University Symphony Orchestra and University Chorus ensembles perform Maurice Durufle's "Requiem." This last concert of the semester is free and open to the public. More info here!

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Caroline Um, 5th year
I recently defended my dissertation "Calcium and Milk Product Intakes and Risk for Colorectal Cancer and Other Health Outcomes." For my dissertation, I used data from previously conducted case-control studies, a randomized controlled calcium supplementation trial, and the prospective REasons for Geographic And Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS) study to investigate associations of calcium and milk product intakes with risk for colorectal adenomas and mortality and to test the effect of calcium supplementation on circulating insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1) levels. Special thanks to my committee chair and advisor, Dr. Roberd "Robin" Bostick, and the rest of my committee, members of the Cancer Epi lab group, and everyone who attended!

CONFERENCES

Experimental Biology (EB) 2016
**EB** is an annual meeting comprised of more than 14,000 scientists representing six sponsoring societies (including the American Society for Nutrition) and 45 guest societies. EB 2016 will be held in San Diego from April 2-6, and is open to anyone with interest in the latest life sciences research. Featured nutrition topic categories include: aging and chronic disease, community and public health nutrition, dietary bioactive compounds, nutritional epidemiology, and experimental animal nutrition. **Stay tuned**
American Association for Cancer Research (AACC) Annual Meeting 2016

The theme of this year’s AACC annual meeting is “Delivering Cures Through Cancer Science” and will be held in New Orleans from April 16-20. There will be a number of presentations that include exciting new data from cutting-edge clinical trials as well as presentations that spotlight the science behind the trials and implications for delivering improved care to patients. This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the AACC journals publication program, as well as the 75th anniversary of publishing the journal, Cancer Research, which has a long tradition of being the most frequently cited journal in the field. Stay tuned for reports from our student attendees in next month’s newsletter!

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) 2016

The AAP is now accepting abstracts for the 5th annual Global Child Health Abstract Symposium, held on October 23, 2016 from 8am-5:30pm. Topics for this year’s symposium include: “No Passport Needed: Global Child Health at Home” and “Critical Care in Resource-Limited Settings”. This year’s AAP National Conference and Exhibition is being held in San Francisco, California. Learn more here! Abstracts are due Friday, April 8, 2016. Submit your abstract here!

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT
(And this month’s ALUMNI UPDATE)

Karen Siegel, PhD, MPH
Dr. Siegel is an Epidemiologist in the Division of Diabetes Translation at the CDC as well as Adjunct Assistant Professor for the Department of Global Health and Adjunct Faculty for the NHS Program.

1. Path to your current position

During my first year as an NHS student, I read a lot about the disconnect between food/agricultural policy and nutritional recommendations in the United States (this usually occurred while I was supposed to be studying for Nutrition I exams). I felt so strongly about the issue that I wrote an opinion editorial in AJC (http://www.ajc.com/news/news/opinion/obesity-cheese-politics-and-the-usda/nQqTT/). This ultimately led to an opportunity to do a dissertation in collaboration with colleagues at the Division of Diabetes Translation at CDC, using NHANES to estimate the contribution of subsidized food commodities to US diets and examine associations between consumption of subsidized food commodities and cardiometabolic risk. After finishing my PhD, I continued to work with DDT colleagues as an ORISE Fellow. Last year, I was offered a position as an Epidemiologist in the division, and I continue to
2. **One piece of advice for current students?**
   The most valuable piece of advice I can think of is to remain open to any and all possibilities for current and future research interests. Be willing to change your mind and adapt, or to at least explore multiple options that may be presented to you. I originally came to Emory to work on diabetes policy research in India, and the decision to change my dissertation topic to food and agricultural policy in the US was a tough one. Looking back, I think that the decision to switch topics was a good one - analyzing NHANES data, especially in collaboration with biostatisticians at CDC, vastly improved my data analysis skills and gave me more confidence. I have also been lucky to remain involved in research in India, and am currently part of a team that won a small grant to investigate fruit and vegetable supply policies in India.

3. **One thing students should strive to accomplish while in the PhD program?**
   Confront your fears. A PhD program is a great time to focus on improving skills or areas that are less-well developed than others. As a student, you have some lee-way for trying things out that may not be your particular expertise - and the practice in a safe space is a great way to become better in those areas. For me, these included (1) data analysis and (2) public speaking. Although I’m constantly working on improving these, tackling these as a PhD student allowed me to make great strides in improvement.

4. **Something challenging or positive about your current position?**
   It’s exciting - and challenging! - to know that the research I do at CDC has the potential to impact national-level policies and practices.

5. **Any rotation opportunities for students?**
   Yes, possibly - particularly for students interested in food and agricultural policy issues, or interested in working with NHANES or other large datasets on diabetes and nutrition. (Contact Dr. Siegel!)

6. **Something you enjoy doing in your free time?**
   Photography

7. **Last place you visited for vacation?**
   Iceland, and it was amazing!

8. **Cake or ice cream?**
   Chocolate cake with vanilla icing!

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**OPPORTUNITIES**

(AGGREGATED HERE SO YOU DON’T HAVE TO SEARCH THROUGH HUNDREDS OF ARCHIVED EMAILS)
The following NHS faculty members have rotation opportunities available: Drs. Jessica Alvarez & Tom Ziegler, Unjali Gujar & the Global Diabetes Research Center, Dean Jones, Helena Pachon, and Solveig Cunningham. Email them for more details!

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Call for Proposals
Healthy Eating Research has released its 2016 Call for Proposals (CFP). This CFP is for 2 types of awards aimed at providing advocates, decision-makers, and policymakers with evidence to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic. The award types are Round 10 grants and RWJF New Connections grants awarded through the Health Eating Research program. There are multiple deadlines so check the website for more info!

The Mary Frances Picciano Dietary Supplement Research Practicum
The Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is offering a 3-day educational opportunity to provide fundamental knowledge of dietary supplements. The practicum will provide an overview and grounding about issues, concepts, unknowns, and controversies about dietary supplements and supplement ingredients. Applications are due by April 4, 2016. For more details and to complete the online application, click here!

The Georgia Dietetic Foundation’s Scholarship and Professional Development Program
The mission of the Georgia Dietetic Foundation (GDF) is to promote the health and well-being of Georgia citizens through nutrition education by supporting the education and professional development of dietetic and other health care professionals. GDF awards scholarships worth $1500 to qualified graduate students, and an annual professional development stipend of $750 to registered dietitians who are members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (and reside in Georgia). Learn more about the application process and apply here (due by April 30)!

American Institute of Indian Studies Fellowship Competition
Junior research fellowships are available to doctoral candidates at US universities who want/need to pursue their doctoral research in India. Awards are available for up to 11 months. To learn more about the fellowship competition, click here. For descriptions of the fellowship categories, click here.

The Cochrane/Cornell University Summer Institute for Systematic Reviews in Nutrition for Global Policymaking
This unique institute on the Cornell campus brings together experts from the WHO, Cochrane, Cornell, and the Micronutrient Initiative to train participants in the development of systematic reviews of nutrition interventions in populations. Participants will learn to apply the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation (GRADE) tool to assess the overall quality of evidence. When: July 25-August 5, 2016 Cost: $1600 + $60/night stay (could be covered under $2500 Laney Graduate School professional development funds) Learn more and register here (due by May 1)!

LOCAL EVENTS
March 20-29: Atlanta Film Festival
The Atlanta Film Festival is a seven day event in which over 150 films are screened. It is an Academy Award qualifier for narrative short films and draws an annual audience of over 25,000 people. Films are shown at the Plaza Theatre located in the Poncey-Highland area, 7 Stages Theatre in Little Five Points, Goat Farm Arts Center and Callanwolde Fine Arts Center.

March 28-April 3: Inman Park Restaurant Week
This year, over 13 restaurants and pubs will be offering special menus for $15, $25, or $35. For more info and to book a restaurant, click here!

April 16: PAWS Atlanta's 50th Anniversary
Join PAWS Atlanta at Historic Fourth Ward park as it celebrates 50 years as Georgia's oldest no-kill animal shelter. This fun and free (dog-friendly!) event will have Creature Comforts beer, food trucks, artists, live entertainment, dog activities, and more.

April 16-24: Buckhead Restaurant Week
Buckhead Restaurant Week also returns this year with various restaurants offering special menus for $15, $25, or $35. The list of restaurants will be available soon so check here for all the details!

April 16-24: National Park Week
The National Park Service turns 100 years old this year and is offering free admission to everyone during National Park Week! Explore our local Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, which offers many activities including hiking, fishing, kayaking, picnic areas, and family programs. For general park info and additional free admission days, click here!

Join our Alumni and Student Group on LinkedIn!