



## *Monday Memo – April 20, 2015*

### **Grants**

- Hugh Silk was awarded his 4th year of funding at \$220,000 per year from Dentaquest to continue his work on his project, From The First Tooth, training medical offices to incorporate oral health into primary care offices. Training this year will expand to add Vermont and New Hampshire to the current Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut and Rhode Island, and within training programs will add Physician Assistant and Medical Assistant programs to the residency programs and medical schools already served by the project.

### **Presentations**

- Hugh Silk conducted a webinar on March 31st for the Virginia Oral Health Coalition to launch their Health People 2020 oral health program covering “Medical-Dental Integration in Primary Care and Beyond”.

### **Media**

- Barry Saver was on the Jim Polito show on WTAG Friday morning talking about his PCORI project work trying to help patients understand the USPSTF recommendations about PSA screening for men and mammography for women in their 40s.

- The Department’s Rural Health Scholars program is cited in a recent article in the Vineyard Gazette on April 13 for its role in helping to establish the Healthy Aging Task Force on Martha’s Vineyard, and for identifying an informational gap among seniors, family members and physicians about the full range of services available on the Island.

## Appointments and Promotions

Congratulations to the following faculty with recently completed academic appointments or promotions:

· **Francisco Diaz, SJ, MD** was recently appointed as an Instructor in the Department. Dr. Diaz is a 1998 graduate of the University of Costa Rica Medical School and in 2009 completed a Family Medicine Residency at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso, TX. Prior to and throughout his residency training he pursued non-degree studies in Philosophy at institutions such as Loyola, University of Costa Rica and Georgetown University. He is currently a Masters in Divinity candidate at Boston College with an anticipated completion date of 2016. Dr. Diaz is a former Clinical Director, experienced attending physician and medical student preceptor. He is committed to teaching and providing care to vulnerable populations. He was introduced to our Department due to his involvement as a volunteer at both St. Anne's and Epworth's Free Medical Programs offered in Worcester, where several Department faculty also volunteer. Dr. Diaz continues to serve as a preceptor for medical students who rotate through both of these free clinics caring for the patients in the Worcester community.

· **Emily Lauer, MPH** was recently appointed as an Instructor in the Department. Ms. Lauer earned a Masters of Public Health degree in Biostatistics in 2010 from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, School of Public Health and is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Philosophy in Sociology at UMass Boston (anticipated 2017). She is based in Commonwealth Medicine at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center for Developmental Disabilities Evaluation and Research (CDDER), where she has served as their Assistant Director and this September was named Interim Director for CDDER. She previously worked with Shriver in 2001-03 as a Database Manager before pursuing her interests in research and evaluation and becoming the owner of her own business, Lauer Consulting, LLC, providing analysis and data utilization expertise for her clients on a variety of independent projects. Ms. Lauer has co-authored articles appearing in peer-reviewed journals and presented on health and public policies issues for individuals with disabilities internationally, nationally and regionally. Since 2007, she has produced nine public reports for agencies such as the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Service. She has collaborated with faculty in our Department teaching in the Population Health Clerkship as a small group co-facilitator and has assisted with local data analysis work for regional developmental disabilities projects which have been submitted for publication.

· **Monika Mitra, PhD** was recently promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Mitra received a Masters degree (1993) and PhD (1997) in Geography, both from Boston University. Prior to coming to UMass she was employed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (1998-2009) as a Senior Epidemiologist/Evaluator, and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (1993-96) as a Geographic Systems Analyst. During this time she was appointed to the Boston University faculty at the rank of Instructor; an appointment she held for two years. Earlier in her career she also was employed as a Research Analyst for the Center for Child and Adolescent Health Policy (1992-93) at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. In 2010 she was hired by UMass Medical School as a Research Scientist/Senior Program Director in Commonwealth Medicine's Center for Health Policy and Research and was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department. Dr. Mitra's research focus has been on health disparities in both young adults and adults with disabilities. She is the PI on an R01 grant and has received numerous other large awards, including those from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and from the Department of Public Health. She has successfully collaborated with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services on a Home Care Aide State Training program grant which brought in half a million dollars to UMMS/Commonwealth Medicine. Dr. Mitra has had numerous publications as first author focused on women's health disparities and developmental and intellectual disabilities. Nationally, she has served as a grant reviewer for the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. Additionally, she serves as an ad hoc reviewer for a number of journals and from 2014-16 is the Program Chair for the Disabilities Section of the American Public Health Association. Within the region, she recently served as a leader for the Department of Public Health's State Health Improvement Plan Advisory Group responsible for the design and implementation of the planning process, making recommendations and evaluating the overall output as a result of the Group's work. As a UMMS faculty member she has served on a Department of Family Medicine and Community Health 'A3 Team' to help increase scholarship and dissemination of practice innovations; participated in Commonwealth Medicine's strategic planning committee; and, participated in a Search Committee to recruit the Director of Academic Development for Commonwealth Medicine. Dr. Mitra has also become a mentor for community faculty on infant mortality rates within our community. She has been the Co-director of the Population Health Clerkship on Living with Disabilities. She continues to be a faculty preceptor for a number of other UMMS Interclerkships including those focused on domestic violence, health and disabilities and Multicultural health.