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Greetings from your MPH colleagues and friends!

Here's a quick update on a few happenings in the MPH Program and PHS Department.

Warmest Regards,

Ruth (Gaare Bernheim), Aaron (Pannone), and the MPH Team

Public Health Sciences **Graduation 2022!**

On Sunday, May 22, a total of 62 Master of Public Health and Master of Science in Clinical Research degrees were conferred by the UVA School of Medicine in an afternoon ceremony.

Some of the students' projects are highlighted below.



Kathryn W. Goodman, MPH, CHES (UVA MPH 2018), Director of Communications & Public Engagement of the Blue Ridge Health District/Virginia Department of Health, was the guest speaker. Kathryn gave a first-hand look at being on the front lines of the local COVID-19 response, including her work informing the community through TV, Facebook Live, Newspapers, and other venues and forms of media.



The Effectiveness of State Policies on Housing Insecurity and Homelessness during the COVID-19 Pandemic -- Jacklyn Chen, Master of Public Health

This study examines the relationship between income, recent household job loss, and employment status on the confidence in ability to pay mortgage or rent next month in selected states by analyzing the US Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey data from April 2020 to October 2021. Read the full story [here](#).



Incremental Cost-effectiveness Analysis on Length of Stay of an Enhanced Recovery After Spine Surgery Program: A Single-center, Retrospective Cohort Study -- Bhiken Naik, Master of Science, Clinical Research

This study investigates the costs versus benefits of implementing a program to protocolize care for patients undergoing spine surgery using an incremental cost effectiveness approach. Read the full story [here](#).

Asthma Among Non-Hispanic Black High School Students: A Cross-Sectional Study -- Jenna Moody, Master of Public Health

E-cigarette use is on the rise in children. According to the National Youth Tobacco Survey, from 2011-2018, e-cigarette use increased from .6% to 4.9% among middle school students and 1.5% to 20.8% among high school students. So, I wanted to see if e-cigarette use could be a determinant of asthma. Read the full story [here](#).

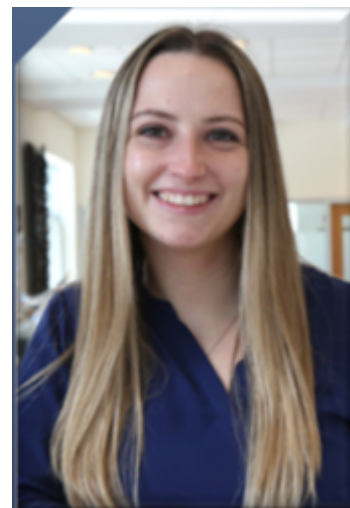


Telehealth Best Practices in Federally Qualified Health Centers During the COVID-19 Pandemic -- Caroline Reilly, Master of Public Health

My ILE project was based on the research I did with the Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center last year. I interviewed 3 Subject Matter Experts from almost 10 Federally Qualified Health Centers up and down the east coast to determine the best practices used when implementing telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read the full story [here](#).

MPH Student Caroline Conrad Helps Lead Interdisciplinary UVA Team to Top Three Finish in National Competition

MPH Student Caroline Conrad helped lead UVA's interdisciplinary "Team Spindalis," which won third place in the University of Minnesota's 2021 Clarion Case Competition for their program "Per Pares Navigation." Read the full story [here](#).



**Farewell, Tim McMurry.**

Best Wishes to Tim McMurry, who has a new position with Waymo in San Francisco. He is helping to save lives by developing algorithms to improve self-driving cars. Professor McMurry taught the Biostatistics courses in the MPH and MS programs at UVA since 2011. We miss you, Professor McMurry!

Welcome, Pavel Chernyavskiy!

The PHS Department is pleased to welcome Dr. Pavel Chernyavskiy as an Assistant Professor within the Division of Biostatistics. Prior to UVA, Dr. Chernyavskiy was an Assistant Professor of Statistics at the University of Wyoming (2018-2020) and a Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Cancer Institute – Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (2015-2018). His areas of collaborative research have spanned public health, education, psychology, and ecology. Welcome, Pavel!

**Congratulations, Carolyn Engelhard!**

Please join us in congratulating Carolyn L. Engelhard, M.P.A. who recently attained the status of

School of Medicine and in the Frank Batten School of Public Policy and Leadership. Professor Engelhard's academic activities include analyzing and monitoring changes in health policy at the federal and state governmental levels and teaching in both the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Medicine. Ms. Engelhard co-authored a book about myths surrounding the U.S. health care system and completed a national project in conjunction with the nonpartisan Urban Institute examining the use of public policies to reduce obesity. More recently, Professor Engelhard co-directed a national webinar featuring health policy experts and students across four universities and was a contributing health policy expert for the web-based news journal, *TheHill.com*. Her current activities include producing short educational health policy "snapshots" for the national news service, *MedPage Today* as well as consulting with MPH students on applied practice projects and individual courses.

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