



Joint MSPAS/MPH Program

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SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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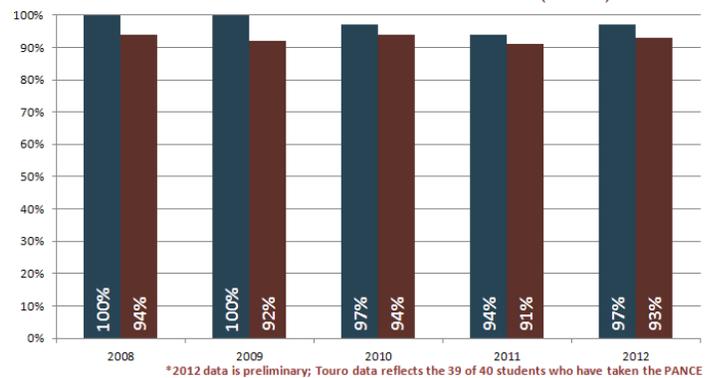
Class of 2012 PANCE: 97%

With a first-time pass rate of 97%, the Class of 2012 is the sixth consecutive Touro University California Joint Program class to beat the national average for first-time PANCE pass rates, which was 93% in 2012. In addition, the overall pass rate for the Program is 99%.

This rate reflects the scores of 39 of the 40 graduating students of the Class of 2012. One student has not yet taken the PANCE, and the rate may therefore change slightly. However, the rate will remain above the national average.

The PANCE is the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination. Successful completion of the PANCE is a requirement to practice clinically as a PA in the United States, although individual states may apply further

Touro University California First-Time PANCE Pass Rate (in blue) and the National First-Time PANCE Pass Rate (in red)*



criteria before granting a license.

After passing the PANCE, PAs become NCCPA-certified, which entitles them to use the PA-C designation. To maintain NCCPA certification and retain the right to use the PA-C designation, PAs in many states must log 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years and sit for recertification every six years.

Mental Health Training Held at CAPA/Napa

On February 24, the Joint MSPAS/MPH Program hosted a free daylong training at the Napa Valley Marriott. This was the day after the annual CAPA at Napa training, and in the same hotel. Seven Category 1 CMEs were offered.

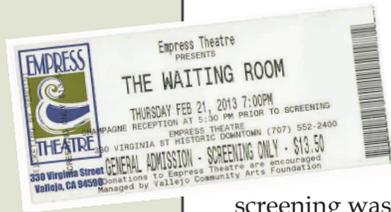
Over seventy people were in attendance, including the current Class of 2015. The training was supported by a grant from the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD). Since 2008, OSHPD has supported the Program in its efforts to further its mission.

The speakers included three clinicians from the VA system: Dr. Nicola Alenkin, Supervisory Social Worker/PACT Social Worker at the VA in Los Angeles; Shaili Jain, MD with the Behavioral Health Team at the VA in Palo Alto; and Dr. Elizabeth Manning (pictured), clinical psychologist in the Women's Health Center at the VA in Palo Alto.



Keep an eye out for another free mental health training to be offered in February 2014!

The Waiting Room Fundraiser Held for Touro SRFC



On February 21, Touro hosted a special screening of *The Waiting Room*. The

screening was sponsored by Touro, NorthBay HealthCare and Sutter Solano Medical Center. Proceeds for the event benefitted Touro's Student Run Free Clinic at the Norman C. King Community Center.

The Waiting Room is a documentary that explores the impact of U.S.

healthcare policy on Highland Hospital in Oakland, California. It offers a raw, intimate and uplifting look at how patients, staff and caregivers each cope with disease, bureaucracy and difficult choices of life without health insurance.

A discussion with the film's director, Peter Nicks, and several featured employees of the hospital followed the viewing.



SRFC Executive Director and PA/MPH student Lauren Williams '14 addressed the audience before the screening

Class of 2014 Heads Out on Rotations

On December 14, 2012, over 300 people gathered at the Touro University California Auditorium to celebrate the passage of the Class of 2014 from the didactic phase of their training to the clinical phase.

The Community Service Awards were awarded for each of the four didactic semesters. Each student has the chance to nominate one of their peers who has performed exemplary public service. Here are some of the actual nominations for the winners.

Lauren Williams, Fall 2011 "I do not know anyone else who has wholeheartedly dedicated almost all of her time, energy and hard work into the community. She has gone above and beyond in leading the student run free clinic, making changes and progress to improve and better the clinic for our community... It is remarkable how many goals she had envisioned and together as a team we have accomplished in one semester alone."

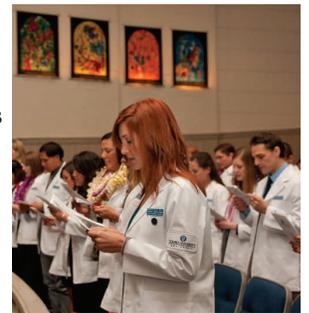


Rebecca (Craft) Hu, Spring 2012 "She is a superstar and devoted 45 hours of community service last semester to her local community in Oakland and those living in East Bay. Despite transitioning to PA school and working hard in school, planning her wedding, and dealing with her beloved grandmother's passing, she managed to still devote time and service to her community."

Felicia Ma, Summer 2012 "I nominate Felicia

because she has a huge heart to serve, and has been very involved in the Student Run Free Clinic as a Clinic Director and also volunteers on days she is not working as Director. She helped with some of the public health drives last year, and is always eager to serve in any capacity that involves helping others!"

Carolan Whitney, Fall 2012 "She is a great representative for our class as Class President and always adds so much positivity to our class, doing what she can to bring our class together. In addition, she has continually gone above and beyond to ease the transition for the 15s and is there for them. She is also always eager to volunteer her time at the Student Run Free Clinic and steps up when needed."



Community Service Award winners (left to right): Carolan Whitney, Felicia Ma, Rebecca Hu, and Lauren Williams

CAPA at Napa Alumni Reception

After nightfall on Saturday, February 23, the Joint Program held its second alumni champagne reception at the CAPA at Napa conference. This year, the program reserved the Redwood Suite, and hosted nearly a dozen alums.

Among alums who were in attendance were Karen Dvorkin, Joy Dugan, Alfred Tobias, Mabel Ng, Craig Humes, Christopher McConnell, Kim Warburton, Erin McMorris, and Christina Pangborn.

The Joint Program holds an Alumni Champagne Reception at both annual CAPA conferences – Palm Springs in October, and Napa in February.

In addition, the Touro system will hold a joint alumni reception at the AAPA conference in May.

These reunions are regular events, so please join us if you find yourself at one of these conferences – no RSVP required!

In addition, next year we are again hosting a free training with CMEs offered, to be held the day after the CAPA at Napa conference, in the same hotel. Space is limited, so RSVPs will be required! *See page 1 for an article on this year's conference.*



Rebecca Hu '14 Wins CAPA Scholarship

Rebecca Hu was awarded the CAPA Community Outreach Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded annually to a student who is currently in good academic standing and has demonstrated

community outreach and other philanthropic activities as a student.

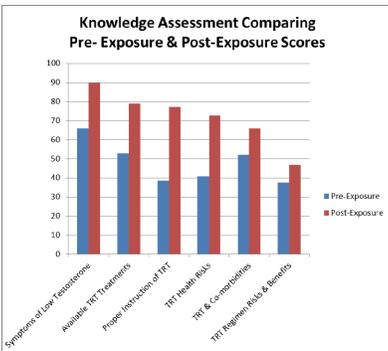
Congratulations, Rebecca!

Class of 2015 MPH Capstones

Six Class of 2013 students are writing capstone presentations for their MPH degrees. Here are summaries of three of the presentations.

Zhila Khamisi asl: A cross-sectional study was used to survey 118 immigrants from different countries. This study was designed to evaluate the relationship between immigration and depression, and whether factors such as gender, age, current level of language proficiency and at arrival, current job, housing status, marital status, and country of origin can be considered confounding factors for developing depression.

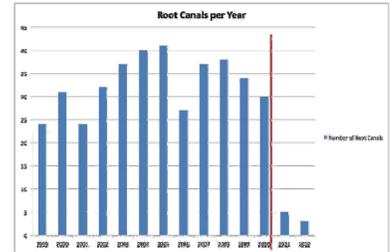
Ashley Mullen: While rotating at Vanderbilt University Medical Center-Department of Urologic Surgery, I developed a strong interest in the population of male patients



with hypogonadism, and the lack of research focusing on hypogonadal patients, their views on testosterone, and how a decision aid, such as an informational pamphlet can help patients with making an informed decision. As a

result, I conducted a pilot study that examined the knowledge of and attitudes towards testosterone replacement therapy among 11 men with hypogonadism.

Christine Ruby: Despite its popularity in other parts of the world, Biomimetic Dentistry is not a well-known or accepted concept in the field of dentistry in the United States. Public Health professionals have long been interested in the links between oral health and disease processes, such as links to heart disease, increased risk of infection, cancer, chronic fatigue, etc. The current standard of treatment for most dental pain is a root canal procedure. This procedure is costly and poses increased risk to the patient. The research question posed in this paper is, can Biomimetic Dentistry reduce the need for root canals in one dental clinic in Reno, Nevada. Preliminary data from this clinic shows the potential for positive outcomes in patients who had Biomimetic interventions. More research with specific individual data is needed to prove the relationship between biomimetic interventions and improved patient outcomes.





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MISSION OF THE JOINT MSPAS / MPH PROGRAM

Through the integration of the Physician Assistant and Public Health disciplines, the mission of the Joint MSPAS/MPH Program is to: 1) train quality PAs to work with underserved populations, 2) recruit applicants from these communities or individuals with a demonstrated interest in serving these communities, and 3) increase access to care for underserved populations

Meet the Faculty: Lucy Thairu, Ph.D.



Lucy Thairu joined the Public Health Program faculty in January 2010. She teaches Epidemiology and Health Education and Promotion to the Joint Students, and also teaches Research Methodology, Global Reproductive Health, Public Health Nutrition, Maternal and Child Health, and leads the TUC Public Health field study in Ethiopia.

Lucy is originally from Nairobi, Kenya. She left Kenya in 1993 to study biochemistry in Nantes, France. Her interest in nutrition led her to pursue a master's and doctorate in nutrition from Cornell University.

Her research interests include Global Health Innovations for Mothers and Newborns in the Developing World, Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV through Breastfeeding, and Delivery of Low-cost CD4 Diagnostics in Resource-poor Settings. She is a published author, most recently in The Journal of Tropical Medicine and International Health.

Preceptor Survey, 2013

In January of this year, a survey was sent to 269 preceptors at 131 different sites. These are all sites that had been used within the past few years. We had a wonderful response rate: for individual preceptors, it was 33%, and for sites the response rate was 51%.

The preceptors were solicited for input on our didactic and clinical years, and for how we could better support them. Here is a sampling of a their comments.

"My 1st experience with PA vs NP, great preparation. Student was awesome. Thanks for using me as a preceptor !"

"The students I have dealt with are interested and motivated to learn. Very enjoyable!"

"I have been impressed by thorough history, physical, and reporting."

"Students have been of high quality!"

"It's always a pleasure hosting Touro students."

"I have enjoyed working with your students and have found that most of them are eager and willing to learn."

Tracey DelNero, PA-C
Clinical Coordinator

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

American Academy of Physician Assistants, May 26-30, Washington, DC (*See article p3)
Third Annual ENT for the PA-C (CME Event), April 26-28, New York, NY
Physician Assistants in Orthopaedic Surgery, September 9-13, San Antonio TX
Association of Family Practice Physician Assistants, September 16-20, New Orleans, LA