TAKING ROOT, GROWING STRONG
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Center for Public Health Initiatives
Penn Center for Public Health Initiatives
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Dear Friends in Public Health,

Over the last several years the Center for Public Health Initiatives has seen unprecedented growth, strong collaborations, and a multitude of opportunities and initiatives. The theme of our 2014/15 annual report, Taking Root, Growing Strong, is supported by the many accomplishments of our students, faculty, fellows, and friends of the public health community. We have stepped into our mission to educate and train new and emerging public health leaders, foster multi-disciplinary collaborations, and promote excellence in public health research and community partnerships. We have made significant strides, including:

- Completing our comprehensive strategic plan and establishing our primary areas of focus
- Engaging with our 135 CPHI Fellows who bridge 11 schools and departments within UPenn and over 30 external partner organizations
- Graduating our largest cohort of 40 Master of Public Health (MPH) students, many of whom had dual concentrations from social work, law, medicine, and dentistry
- Facilitating over 6,000 hours of MPH student fieldwork experiences, fostering both student growth and strong community partnerships
- Expanding our Service Link initiative to five service sites and 60 student volunteers
- Further developing our CPHI Research arm and successfully launching our first cohort of six student public health research assistantships

We are thankful for the leadership and input from the CPHI advisory board and our strategic planning team. As we continue to take root and grow strong, we look forward to continued scholarship and partnerships to increase the presence and participation in public health activities across the University.

Jennifer Pinto Martin, PhD MPH
Executive Director, CPHI
The Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI) was created as a university-wide center in 2007 by the Provost's Office in order to create an organizational home and academic base for Penn's multi-disciplinary, inter-school Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program. CPHI has grown into the epicenter of public health activities at the University, with structured initiatives around public health education, research, and community engagement. All of our work continues to provide support and growth for our world-class MPH program, a program housed in the School of Medicine with the collaboration of eight schools across the University.

CPHI is led by Jennifer Pinto-Martin, Executive Director and Viola MacInnes/Independence Professor of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania. Throughout her tenure, Dr. Pinto-Martin has engaged over 100 CPHI Fellows across 11 schools, fostered rapid growth of the MPH degree program, and structured a team of staff and directors to support all Center activities.

CPHI has five strategic focus areas. As shown in the diagram to the right, the MPH program is at the heart of CPHI, connecting future leaders in public health to our learning opportunities, community-engaged work, and public health research. CPHI’s comprehensive communications strategy enhances the visibility and focus of public health both within and outside of the University.
**VISION**

To improve the health and quality of life of populations

**MISSION**

To educate and train public health leaders and practitioners, foster multi-disciplinary collaboration, and promote excellence in public health research and community partnerships
STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

MPH Program
Support and foster growth of the multi-disciplinary MPH program

Learning Opportunities
Provide high quality learning opportunities, seminars, and institutes

Community Engagement
Apply evidence-based approaches and experiences in practice

Research
Facilitate cross-disciplinary research collaborations

Visibility & Communications
Enhance public health visibility and focus

Communications

Research assistantships, Pilot funding

Service Link, Community-academic partnerships

Continuing education institutes, Seminar series

Dual-degree programs, Dynamic core courses, Rigorous capstones

Introduction
Key Accomplishments

Luke Butler, MPH ’15 & Alexis Singh, MPH ’16 collecting data for the Voices of Health community project

Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, MD, MBA, speaking at the kickoff event for the 2014/15 Seminar Series: Conversations Around Cultures of Health September 19, 2014

Students and Brian Work, MD at Service Link event April 23, 2015

2015 MPH Graduation May 18, 2015
Key Accomplishments
CPHI fosters the growth of a world-class, interdisciplinary Master of Public Health (MPH) Program. Here's how:

**Strategy**

1. Support MPH students’ efforts to conduct research and carry out public health promotion activities

   **Key Accomplishments**
   - CPHI Fellows provided mentorship for 40 student capstone projects
   - CPHI Fellows taught and guest lectured in MPH core courses and electives

2. Provide opportunities for CPHI Fellows to dedicate their time to the MPH program

   **Key Accomplishments**
   - As part of the Curriculum Committee...
     - Approved 9 new electives in the MPH program, bringing the total number of public health electives to 24
     - Offered public health students external graduate-level electives, with 115 courses available for students to explore
   - As part of the Admission Committee...
     - Reviewed over 400 applications for fall 2015 admission
     - Developed a cross-cutting evidence-based public health (EBPH) case about the epidemic of opioid misuse and overdose in Philadelphia
What makes the Penn MPH program unique?

- Dynamic Core Courses
- Flexible Electives
- Rigorous Capstone
- Engaging Fieldwork

Icons created by Alex Fuller, Barranco Hernandex, and Bjorn Andersson from Noun Project

STRATEGY

Create public health practice experiences for students via high quality fieldwork placements

**KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Provided oversight for 6,000 hours of student fieldwork across 50 local community, government, academic, and industry partner organizations
- Facilitated global placements for students in Botswana, Mozambique, Malawi, and China

August 4, 2015

Dana Gatto, MPH ’15, Kelsey Gangemi, MPH ’15, and Nicole Frager ’15 at the 2015 MPH Graduation Ceremony, May 18, 2015
Strategy

4. Increase support and visibility of MPH students’ capstone projects

Key Accomplishments

- Provided $2,500 in competitive grants for student capstone projects
- Held MPH Student Capstone Presentations attended by over 300 members of the UPenn public health community
- Assisted over 20 MPH students and alumni who attended regional and national meetings to present their capstone work

Strategy

5. Engage students in campus-wide and local public health initiatives

Key Accomplishments

- 8 students assisted in the data collection and analysis of over 300 qualitative responses for the CPHI Voices of Health project
- 20 students volunteered at the HYPE Youth Leadership Summit with 21 middle schools
- 12 MPH students helped organize and run CPHI Seminar Series events

Clockwise from top left: Kelsey Gangemi, MPH '15, Tirza Calderon, MPH '15, & Darra Finnerty, MPH '16 at the 2015 MPH Graduation Ceremony on 05/18/15; Senior Pediatric Tuberculosis Research Nurse, Malebogo Ntshimane with Christian Stillson, MPH '15 in Gaborone, Botswana Summer 2014; Current MPH students Allison Golinkoff, Nelou Rahal, Matthew Kearney, & Zhi Pan; Michael Brennan, MPH '15 receiving a Certificate of Appreciation on 11/07/14.
**Key Accomplishments**

- **Aaron Rak, MPH ’13 at the MPH Career Panel**
  April 17, 2015

- **Bethany Hall, MPH ’14, Jeane Ann Grisso, MD, and Maddy LaFerla Jenni, MPH ’14, at the Fall 2014 MPH Capstone Presentations, December 9, 2014**

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**Moving Forward**

- Increase international fieldwork partnerships with the Center for Global Health

- Expand opportunities for UPenn’s undergraduates to engage in CPHI events and submatriculate into the MPH program

- Continue to engage faculty from across the University to provide mentorship to students and teach public health courses

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“**It was great to see that the results of [my capstone] project submitted to the administration actually produced change.**”

MPH student
Makuu Black Cultural Center
“Introducing public health scholars and practitioners to mapping and spatial analysis through the Summer Institute is such a privilege. Folks who are new to GIS software often have the most creative and exciting ideas about how to apply their new tools. I am always energized by the experience.”

Amy Hillier, PhD, MSW
CPHI Senior Fellow
Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning
University of Pennsylvania

“I came to the program hungry to learn...I came in with great expectations that were met and surpassed. I was nourished, nurtured, challenged, and prepared to think about and contribute to the health of the public both locally and globally, by the professors who possessed diverse educational backgrounds and experiences.”

Harriet Okatch, PhD, MPH (2015)
Senior Lecturer in Chemistry
University of Botswana
“I’m passionate about bringing together biomedical sciences and public health. With a PhD in Biochemistry, I ran an NIH-funded research laboratory for almost 20 years. With my Penn MPH in 2011, I moved from “proteins to populations”. I combine these passions through co-directing the Public Health Certificate Program (PHCP) for biomedical doctoral students with a keen interest in public health; co-teaching a pathophysiology course for MPH students, helping them better understand the fundamentals of chronic and acute diseases; and teaching a Freshmen Seminar on public health problem of antibiotic resistance.”

Hillary Nelson, PhD, MPH
CPHI Senior Fellow
Associate Professor of Biochemistry & Biophysics
University of Pennsylvania
Learning Opportunities

Providing Opportunities to Engage in Collaborative Learning

CPHI works with students, alumni, faculty, practitioners, and community-based organizations to provide high quality learning opportunities, seminars, and institutes. Here’s how:

**Strategy**

1. Offer high quality seminars to increase public health knowledge and leadership

**Key Accomplishments**

- Successfully launched our 2014/15 Seminar Series: Conversations around Cultures of Health presenting diverse expert speakers across the fields of health, philanthropy, medicine, psychology, marketing, law, and policy
- Over 1,000 total registrants in eight CPHI-led and four partner seminars with average attendance of approximately 100 per CPHI seminar
- Increased cross-discipline representation; 30% of registrants included individuals from outside academic, non-profit, government, industry, and community-based organizations
- Inaugurated new MPH Brownbag guest lecture series for MPH students

**Strategy**

2. Educate and train the current and future public health workforce

**Key Accomplishments**

- Hosted two learning institutes:
  - Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research Institute led by Dr. Rosemary Frasso (Director of Education, MPH Program)
    - 25 participants
    - 8 expert instructors
  - Summer Institute on GIS and Public Health led by Dr. Amy Hillier (Associate Professor, Penn Design)
    - 22 participants
    - 5 expert instructors

Key Accomplishments
KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Engaged 60 MPH students in the MPH Required Fieldwork Experience (RFE) to provide practical public health skills

Initiated MPH Career Panel featuring professionals from public health sectors including global health, philanthropy, food access, and more

10 expert panelists including recent MPH alumni

45 MPH participants

MOVING FORWARD

Engage alumni with additional training in the broad field of public health

Expand learning institutes and opportunities for public health professionals

Broaden partner opportunities for CPHI seminars

“...The Winter Institute was extremely valuable to our team. We are using the skills we learned in the training to complement our quantitative research with rigorous qualitative research, providing our stakeholders with a more holistic understanding of community development trends and issues.”

Noelle Baldini, Community Engagement Associate
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia
2015 Winter Institute Participant
“In a fundamental way, CPHI is the public health identity at Penn... it provides a home for public health education through the MPH degree and a matrix program to bring like-minded faculty together around a common educational purpose and research interest. For me personally, teaching my course on theories and systems and this exposure to this intellectual diversity has directly influenced and strengthened my own research program.”

ROBERT SCHNOLL, PHD
CPHI SENIOR FELLOW
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY
CO-LEADER, TOBACCO & ENVIRONMENTAL CARCINOGENESIS PROGRAM, ABRAMSON CANCER CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

“Being a CPHI fellow allows for wonderful opportunities for networking, community engagement, and research-community partnerships. For the past several years I’ve participated in the Winter Institute on qualitative methods and taught MPH students...I have been inspired by energized and creative students and networking with passionate activists, scholars, and community partners.”

MELISSA DICHTER, PHD, MSW
CPHI ADJUNCT FELLOW
RESEARCH HEALTH SCIENTIST
VA CENTER FOR HEALTH EQUITY RESEARCH AND PROMOTION (CHERP)
“Health is impacted by complex and intertwined systems. The value of an inter-disciplinary perspective is to see the interconnections and foster collaborations across sectors. The complexities emphasize the need to prioritize health and health equity as an outcome within the decision making process, which will result in healthier communities and a healthier nation.”

Katie Meirs, MPH (2014)
Program Associate
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

“Completing my MPH was an incredible chance for both knowledge and skill acquisition. I was able to build and practice valuable research skills that will aid me as I pursue a career in academic pediatrics. I gained a greater appreciation for the myriad of ways in which health can be measured and affected. Finally, spending time in the public health community was wonderfully enriching. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity.”

Atu Agawu, MD, MPH (2015)
Pediatric Resident
The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
DEVELOPING COMMUNITY-ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

DIRECTOR: HEATHER KLU SAR ITZ, PhD, MSW

CPHI fosters evidence-based approaches to public health practice through both strong relationships with schools and centers across UPenn’s campus and meaningful community-academic partnerships, emphasizing translation of science into sustainable health improvements. Here’s how:

STRATEGY

1. Collaborate with community-engaged university partners to align CPHI’s initiatives with existing programs and activities to respond to community needs

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided leadership for Philadelphia Promise Zone Health and Wellness Committee
- Initiated two school-based health & wellness initiatives in West Philadelphia K-8 schools
- Launched the Community Scholars Training Program in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program
- Hosted the Linking Research & Practice seminar series with the Prevention Research Center
- Conducted community health needs assessment with the UPenn School of Medicine’s Program for Diversity and Inclusion (PDI)
- Collaborated with the School of Nursing and the Netter Center for Community Partnerships to launch “Community/Academic Partnership to Increase Activity in Youth and their Families”
- Co-hosted the “Youth for Health Change” leadership summit for the Food Trust and the School District of Philadelphia
**Strategy**

Expand Service Link, a cross-university student organization that aims to improve the health of Philadelphians by linking them with public benefits and community resources to address the social determinants of health.

**Key Accomplishments**

- Active in 5 sites in FY15; connected over 250 clients with public benefits and resources
- Expanded the model from a primary care clinic base to a community site base, thus building our partnerships in schools and other host public health organizations in West Philadelphia
- Engaged 60 student volunteers from 6 schools at the University and created an 8-member interdisciplinary student leadership team – over a 50% increase in student engagement in 2 years
- Developed and implemented a secure case management database
- Developed and implemented an evaluation plan to assess impact on client outcomes

**Strategy**

Increase opportunities for community-based organizations to engage with CPHI fellows and students and to participate in learning opportunities.

**Key Accomplishments**

- Collaborated with over 30 community organizations in our 5th annual Community Driven Research Day
- Reached over 200 community-based organizations in CPHI’s 2014/15 seminar series
- Linked over 50 MPH students in meaningful public health fieldwork experiences and maintained partnerships with a cross-section of local and national community organizations

**Moving Forward**

- Continue to expand and strengthen CPHI’s service and school-based initiatives
- Develop training for community organizations in south and southwest Philadelphia to facilitate community-academic partnerships
- Increase the visibility of CPHI’s community-engaged work to expand partnership opportunities and address community needs

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**Key Accomplishments**
“Community-Driven Research Day is in its 5th year and continues to support the important concept of community and academic partners working hand in hand to address research questions of interest to the community. In addition to promoting collaborative relationships between community and academic partnerships, the unique collaboration between five Philadelphia-based academic institutional sponsors has been extremely rewarding and demonstrates the ability to work across institutional boundaries to achieve a common goal.”

Ayana Bradshaw, MPH
Administrative Director
Center for Injury Research & Prevention
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

“MPH and other fieldwork participants are vital because they bring questions and perspectives about what impacts a community’s health well beyond the narrow medical definition of “health” as “absence of disease.” They want to figure out ways that systems large and small can be designed to impact the social determinants of health, including housing, income, employment, education, and safety. On a practical level, they help us implement projects that we otherwise could not have accomplished.”

Laura Weinbaum, MA
CPHI Adjunct Fellow
Vice President
Public Affairs & Strategic Initiatives
Project HOME
Clockwise starting at top left: The 5th Community Driven Research Day held at Temple University on 01/29/15; 2015 HYPE High School Summit held at the University of Pennsylvania’s Hall of Flags on 01/22/15; José Ramón Fernández-Peña, MD, MPA speaking with a community member after his Seminar Series talk Immigrant Health, Workforce Diversity, & Cross-Cultural Communication on 12/05/14; Panel of veterans at the Seminar Series event From War to Home: Art, Creativity, and Advocacy as Pathways to Recovery from Trauma on 02/04/15; Ryan Coffman, MPH, CHES speaking at the Seminar Series event Fact, Fiction, & Local Action: Resetting the Norm for Tobacco Use in Behavioral Health Settings on 11/20/14.
RESEARCH

FACILITATING COLLABORATION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH RELATED RESEARCH

DIRECTOR: KAREN GLANZ, PHD, MPH

CPHI works with faculty in several centers, institutes, and departments across the university to facilitate collaboration for public health related research at the University. Here’s how:

STRATEGY

1. Provide research-focused public health students special access to research opportunities

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Successfully launched our first cohort of six research assistantships linking MPH students and UPenn faculty across various departments
- Student poster presentations displayed at local and national public health meetings including the College of Physicians (11 student posters) and the 2014 American Public Health Association Conference (12 student posters)
**Strategy**

2. Stimulate dialogue and generate creative ideas for expanding community-oriented translational research, and evidence-based practice, in our region

**Key Accomplishments**

- Hosted three seminars focused on linking research and practice for CPHI faculty fellows, featuring guest experts who are leaders of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Regional Health and Human Services, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

**Strategy**

3. Fund promising pilot research initiatives through an annual "Call for Proposals" for interdisciplinary public health research endeavors

**Key Accomplishments**

- Awarded $10,000 in pilot funding to a community-academic partnership project entitled “Community Integration: A Psychometrically Sound, Usable Tool for Agencies”

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**Moving Forward**

- Expand public health pilot grant funding that results in successful grant applications or refereed publications
- Increase opportunities for CPHI fellows’ research to support [and influence] the work of practitioners through translation and dissemination
- Optimize the functionality of existing faculty collaboration/networks across the university

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“...Our pilot funding enabled researchers from the School of Social Policy and Practice to partner with Elwyn, a community-based organization, to develop a scale to measure community integration for people with serious mental illness. The tool fills a gap in the field and will support providers and consumers to talk about goals and strategies, enhance treatment planning, and measure progress in fostering community integration.”

Ryan Petros, LICSW, Doctoral Candidate, UPenn School of Social Policy and Practice
2014 Pilot Funding Recipient
CPHI enhances public health visibility and focus and serves as an institutional home for public health through university-wide partnerships and a comprehensive communications strategy. Here’s how:

**STRATEGY**

1. Raise awareness of and visibility for public health at the University

**KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Sent out 14 CPHI electronic newsletters (CPHI Digest) to a listserv of over 2,000 individuals to highlight the work and achievements of CPHI fellows, students, staff, alumni, and the broader public health community

- Tweeted with 740 followers and amassed 1,100 tweets

- Accrued over 15,000 website visitors

- Created *Voices of Health*, a month-long photo exhibit that captured what “health” means to members of the UPenn community, including faculty, staff, students, and residents who live near or around campus

*Voices of Health participants, Fall 2014 & Spring 2015*
27

Key Accomplishments

Strategy

2

Expand the nexus between public health partnerships and collaborations on campus

Key Accomplishments

- Collaborated on public health events and activities across 12 schools and over 50 UPenn centers, departments, and programs
- Partnered with the School of Nursing, Netter Center, and Office of Government and Community Affairs to deliver the first University-affiliated Healthy Youth Positive Energy (HYPE) leadership summit for over 100 Philadelphia high school students
- Established the Healthy Penn partnership with Human Resources, Campus Health, and Penn Athletics to increase the availability and awareness of wellness activities on campus

Results from Voices of Health, a freeciting analysis of responses from faculty and staff, students, and community residents when asked "what words come to mind when you think about health?"
Acknowledgments

Advisory Board

Dawn Bonnell, PhD
Charles Branas, PhD
Robert J. (Skip) Collins, DMD, MPH
Harold Feldman, MD, MSCE
Karen Glanz, PhD, MPH

Amy Hillier, PhD, MSW
Shiriki Kumanyika, PhD, MPH
Daniel Polsky, PhD, MPP
Gary Smith, DPhil
Susan Sorenson, PhD

CPHI Leadership

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Executive Director

Sara Solomon, MPH, RD
Deputy Director

Elizabeth Devietti, MPH, MURP
Program & Communications Specialist

Rosemary Frasso, PhD, MSc, CPH
Director of Education

Karen Glanz, PhD, MPH
Director of Research

Heather Klusaritz, PhD, MSW
Director of Community Engagement

Moriah Hall, MPH
Associate Director, MPH Program

Monique Shaw, MPH
Program Coordinator & Student Affairs, MPH Program

Mary Ann Case
Program Administrator, MPH Program
## MPH Faculty

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<td>Amy Hillier</td>
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**Acknowledgments**
# Fieldwork Placement Sites

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**Acknowledgments**
To our MPH faculty and students, CPHI Fellows, and community partners who are the heart of our work -

Thank You