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*e-PRL IHPS NEWSLETTER!*

The Institute’s Strategic Development Committee surveyed faculty members, asking them to write about what they regard as their greatest past contributions—to health policy, to health care, to the health of the public, or other contributions, during their tenure at IHPS, and what future contributions they would like to make. The faculty’s responses together make up the story of what the PRL IHPS has accomplished as an institution over more than thirty years, as well as what core faculty hope to accomplish at PRL IHPS in the next ten years. Their stories tell in a compelling way the history of the Institute—and its future as well—and the vision and values of many of the people who are a part of the Institute. Each month the IHPS e-letter will profile a faculty member’s story about his or her contributions, past and future tense. —**Claire Brindis, Dr. P.H., PRL IHPS.**



The Gydish group pictured above L to R: Emma Passalacqua, Jongserl Chun, Joe Gydish, Barbara Tajima, Sarah Manser, Mabel Chan, Pat Henderson  
-photo by Richard Kite

**Joseph R. Gydish, PhD**

**Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine and Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies**

**The HIV Epidemic and Injection Drug Use: Establishing an Evidence Base for HIV Prevention Policy**

As a clinical psychologist and postdoctoral fellow working in San Francisco 20 years ago, I was drawn into the HIV epidemic. Like many health practitioners in this city I treated men and women dying of HIV, and with effort galvanized by this experience, sought ways to slow the epidemic. Distributing clean needles to active drug users in the Tenderloin each week, I saw firsthand the ravages of drug use, and the need not only for HIV prevention but also for more and more effective drug abuse treatment. Early research work in our team focused on the use of needle exchange as an HIV prevention strategy, and developing data to support expansion of needle exchange efforts. It seemed that nothing could be simpler. Drug users were infected by sharing needles, and access to clean needles should reduce HIV infection

(Cont'd. from page)

The hard policy lesson was that, in the face of a growing number of needle exchange programs and despite the force of many studies, the federal government still does not recognize a "harm reduction" rationale. At the federal level, this particular policy issue has been resiliently "dataproof." State and local government policies in many cases, however, have followed the evidence on needle exchange and it is a key component of HIV prevention strategies.

### **Clinical Trials of Drug Abuse Treatment: Ground-breaking Evaluations of Day and Residential Treatment**

Our work passed from the frame of HIV prevention to the slightly broader frame of evaluating drug abuse treatment through the lens of clinical trials. At that time randomized trials research was uncommon in the drug abuse treatment field, and I can recall talks at professional meetings about why clinical trials research was not appropriate in this area. We were just naïve enough to conduct clinical trials at a time when the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) was awakening to these methods, and we tested day treatment versus residential treatment using clinical trial methods. Today our field is heavily driven by clinical trials research, partly through the NIDA Clinical Trials Network, where our own work in clinical trials continues along with that of 15 other research centers located across the country.

### **Changing Drug Treatment Systems to Improve Outcomes: Key Questions**

Working with county-funded treatment programs we also learned about the broader picture of how treatment systems are funded and organized and, in collaboration with government agencies, we studied changes in these larger treatment systems. Can you improve treatment by having a single point of access with standard evaluation and referral procedures? How effective was the growing network of Drug Courts in California? Can you support treatment systems by building business capacity and infrastructure? What are the effects of major national policy changes concerning social security eligibility based on drug and alcohol "disability?"

### **Smoking and other Drug Use**

In recent years we have turned attention to the problem of smoking among persons in drug abuse treatment. With 14% smoking prevalence among adults in California, the second lowest rate behind only Utah, California tobacco control efforts have made great strides. Yet it is not recognized that the 3.8 million current California smokers will often be found in our publicly funded drug abuse treatment systems, where smoking prevalence is close to 80% among clients, and 40% among program staff. Those continuing smokers who have not been compelled by public health campaigns so far, or who have been unable to quit using currently available technologies, are in our drug treatment programs (and also in our mental health and criminal justice programs). Yet, in a tragic paradox, neither the tobacco control community, nor the drug abuse treatment community is prepared to address smoking in this population. We are now testing a manualized intervention designed to help drug abuse treatment programs systematically address smoking in their staff and in their clients. But this is a small beginning because, as learned in the past, each staff person is supported by a program, each program supported by a system, and each system supported by funding and regulatory agencies at state and national levels. And we must climb this ladder with our research and our interventions, from the individual treatment level, through programs and systems, up to the national policy, funding, and regulatory levels.

For further reading on the work of the Guydish group, here is a link to the **Guydish** E-Scholarship publications:

[http://repositories.cdlib.org/cgi/query.cgi?field\\_1=Iname&value\\_1=Guydish&field\\_2=fname&value\\_2=Joseph&advanced=1](http://repositories.cdlib.org/cgi/query.cgi?field_1=Iname&value_1=Guydish&field_2=fname&value_2=Joseph&advanced=1)

## Awards, Publications, Announcements

**Tracey Woodruff, PhD, MPH**, has been named as director of the Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment (PRHE) and associate professor in residence in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at UCSF.



The mission of the PRHE is to advance scientific inquiry, professional training, public education and health policies that reduce the impacts of environmental contaminants on reproductive and developmental health. PRHE is a unique program designed to pioneer a transdisciplinary model in environmental reproductive health that will integrate basic, translational and health policy research with education, health care and health policy. PRHE is housed within the UCSF National Center of Excellence in Women's Health at Mt. Zion.

For a complete article, please refer to: <http://pub.ucsf.edu/today/cache/news/200711023.html>  
[UCSF Today - "UCSF Welcomes Director of Reproductive Health and the Environment"](http://pub.ucsf.edu/today/cache/news/200711023.html)

<http://www.ucsf.edu/coe/prhe.html>

UCSF National Center of Excellence in Women's Health

**Tracey** was also featured in the "Science Café" series on November 16.  
 Health in the Time of Poison: A Conversation with Reproductive Health Expert **Tracey Woodruff**

<http://www.ucsf.edu/sciencecafe/2007/woodruff.html>

**Claire Brindis** has been appointed to the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Committee on A Comprehensive Review of the DHHS Office of Family Planning Title X Program. The review will assess the administration, and management of the program, including whether the program is serving its intended target populations. The committee will also consider the extent to which the Title X program needs to reexamine the scope of its services, objectives and operational requirements of the program.

Institute faculty members, **Dan Dohan** and **Dana Hughes** were recently awarded a Curriculum Innovations Grant from the UCSF Academy of Medical Educators (AME). AME is supporting the PRL IHPS in planning a new Master's Degree program to coordinate policy teaching across multiple schools, departments and units at UCSF. The specific motivation for this planning effort is the School of Medicine's recently announced Pathways to Discovery Program. This initiative seeks to foster the pursuit of discovery, inquiry, and innovation among physicians trained at UCSF in areas beyond the routine practice of medicine, including in Health Systems and Health Policy.

As part of the Innovations grant, we plan to map the landscape of health systems and policy training at UCSF in all four schools. We will then propose a framework for a Master's program that will be tailored for learners in the Pathway while serving as an accessible and valuable training resource for all. Thus this planning effort - and the resulting Master's Program - will be a vehicle for strengthening and supporting health systems and health policy training throughout the University. If you have any ideas/suggestions and/or would like to participate in their efforts, please get in touch with **Dan** and **Dana**.

Congratulations **Dan** and **Dana** on this important endeavor to plan for our future teaching efforts.

**"Extracurricular Activities"**

We want to congratulate our very creative winners of the Laurel Heights Halloween competition. Leave it to our creative and stellar staging stars to develop and put on an award winning show, that was truly "outside" the box of the traditional approach. That is why we believe we won (all right, second prize, 2 years in a row—remarkable given the increasing building competition!). Thanks to the Institute's and Cabana group's "repertory" group, including writers, producers, directors and actors:

Joe Funk, Leah Gonzales, Richard Kite, Nancy Killion, Shelley Koenemann, Annie Larson, John Meyer, Vince Moulton, Beth Newell, Angelina Nicole, and Michelle Rait.

A special thanks to Angelina and Annie for their mobilizing the troops.

Rumors abound about next year's performance already in the planning stage.

Thanks again for your spirit. We welcome additional ideas for group creativity. -Claire Brindis



Beth Newell and Angelina Nicole -photo: R. Kite

**We want you!**  
to submit any articles of interest to:  
**Annie.Larson@ucsf.edu**  
(awards, births, events, hobbies, things people do in their spare time, etc.)

**Fellows News**

Announcing the arrival of two new potential fellows:

Esai Mateo, born to parents Rosemary Polanco and Luke Bergmann, on October 8, 2007.

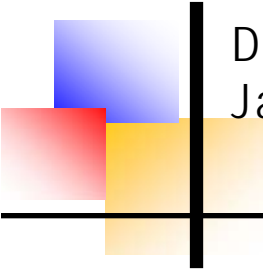


And.....Avi Micah, born to parents Naomi Bardach and Jonathan Katzman on November 21, 2007.



Our illustrious Director of Training , **Dr. Dan Dohan**, assisting his friend, Chris, a wine maker, whom he's known since they were in the third grade together. Dan is teaching a new course taught next semester...."Swirling, twirling, and Health Policy"





December 2007  
January 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9	10	11	12	13 Eisenberg Lecture-Victor Fuchs UC Berkeley 4 PM	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 UC Holiday	25 UC Holiday	26	27	28	29
30	31 UC Holiday	Jan 1 UC Holiday	Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4	Jan 5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Holi- day	22	23	24 Grand Rounds: Arnold Milstein	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		