



# College of Public Health

## Faculty Awards Reception



4:00-5:30 PM

*Thursday, April 28, 2016*

MAURER CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

## 2016 College of Public Health Excellence in Teaching Award



*Patrik Johansson, M.D., MPH, Associate Professor, Department of Health Promotion, Social and Behavioral Health; Director of the Rural Health Education Network (RHEN)*

Dr. Johansson's teaching philosophy is to facilitate student learning about complex public health programs. He is also dedicated to educating rural students as shown by his online course *Principles of Community Engagement in Public Health: Service Learning, Community-based Participatory Research, Leadership and Civic Engagement* funded by Rural Futures. Dr. Johansson developed an e-module using the "Mobilizing Actions through Planning and Partnerships" (MAPP) process for the Public Health Solutions District Health Department in Crete, NE. It has become part of an online undergraduate public health course at Peru State College. Another example of a scalable curriculum is a module focused on Native American health disparities. One student commented "I have never seen such detailed written feedback from the instructor. He is a very learned and committed teacher."



*Shireen Rajaram, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Health Promotion, Social and Behavioral Health.*

Dr. Rajaram has been with the college since 2009. She is a promotor of an excellent educational experience for students. She strives to inspire and challenge students to use the knowledge gained in their educational experience to improve population health and make a difference in peoples' lives. She inculcates critical thinking skills and a desire for excellence and a passion for knowledge, learning, and justice. Dr. Rajaram is an education innovator, using multiple creative instructional methods focused on learning rather than grades (experiential learning, service learning, flipped classroom, and online group discussions). A student in her "Indigenous Research Methods" course at Little Priest Tribal college, says, "I can see the importance and different things that this provides for us as a people. I personally appreciate it because it gave me a direction to do what I wanted to do." Seventy percent of her research publications have been co-authored with students.

## 2016 College of Public Health Faculty Research Award



*John - Martin Lowe, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental, Agricultural and Occupational Health and Director of Research Nebraska Biocontainment Unit.*

Dr. Lowe's education in molecular virology, environmental sciences, epidemiology, and community-based participatory research prepared him for research that directly impacts the public's health. His research in infectious disease has resulted in over 28 peer-reviewed articles and being primary investigator or partner in over \$20 million in extramural funding. Dr. Lowe was invited to present his work at the National Academy of Sciences and Internal Medicine. His leadership in education has resulted in developing national training on "Fundamentals of infectious disease of public health significance: Ebola, MERS, and emerging infectious diseases" with a team from the University of Texas School of Public Health. He is currently working on practices relevant to the clinical setting as well as high-level patient isolation environments (i.e. Biocontainment Unit). Dr. Lowe believes in involving students in research and is currently mentoring and co-authoring papers with MPH and PhD students.

## Fred & Eve Simon Public Health "Impact" Prize



*Alice M. Schumaker, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs; Associate Professor, Department of Health Services Research and Administration*

Dr. Schumaker's career highlights dedication to community service and the health of Nebraskans and a belief that personal health depends on community health. Although Public Health was not her first career, her earlier work in the clinical laboratory and public administration led there. Working with the transplant laboratory team inspired an advocacy for increased organ donations. Dr. Schumaker led a statewide effort to require licensure for clinical laboratory scientists to ensure quality laboratory results. Developing and leading health services strategic planning in rural communities resulted in initiatives that continue today. A statewide planning effort to reduce youth violence raised awareness and action in communities across the state. Her greatest impact on the health of Nebraska has been through the College of Public Health and its predecessor, the MPH program. She worked tirelessly to build interest and support to formal public health education. The growth of the college and the MPH program is testament to Dr. Schumaker's dedication to public health and community service.

## **Carruth J. Wagner, MD, Faculty Prize in Public Health**



*Kendra K. Schmid, Associate Professor and Vice-Chair, Dept. of Biostatistics;  
Director of Masters Programs*

Dr. Kendra Schmid's leadership role as Masters' Program Director facilitates increasing public awareness and raising the level of interest in public health careers among students. She speaks to many prospective public health students at the undergraduate and high school levels to plant the seeds of public health awareness early. Education is very important to Dr. Schmid. She has made videos promoting public health and is a leader in the development of e-modules on biostatistics. In addition, Dr. Schmid teaches biostatistics to public health students and many other graduate students. Beyond teaching, Dr. Schmid is a prolific researcher with grant funding from such organizations as the National Children's Cancer Center, Komen Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, National Institute of Health, Veterans Administration, and Douglas County Health Department. Her contributions to tribal communities include serving as biostatistician for projects under the Maine Tribal Health Assessment Study funded by the Penobscot Nation Health Department and the Waponahki Public Health District.

## **University of Nebraska Medical Center Distinguished Scientist Award**

Sponsored by the UNMC Chancellor, this prestigious UNMC-wide award recognizes researchers who have been among the most productive scientists in the country during the last five years. Drs. Schmid and Watanabe-Galloway were honored earlier at a campus-wide event.



Kendra Schmid, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor Dept. of Biostatistics  
Masters Program Director.



Shinobu Watanabe-Galloway, Ph. D.  
Associate Professor Dept. of Epidemiology  
Graduate Program Chair



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