

# Master of Public Health Degree Program

## News and Updates

- The MPH program proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has cleared staff review and is going on to the Board in October for final approval.
- A permanent program director for the MPH Program is set to be in place starting in Fall of 2013.
- Next faculty program retreat is planned for **September 2013**.

## Progress and Accomplishments

- MPH Faculty submitted for approval by the Graduate Council and appointed to the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
- MPH faculty has been finalized and has submitted course description, objectives and syllabi for approval.
- MPH faculty and director will review and finalize program format, guidelines and admission criteria at the next program retreat.
- Hosted a campus orientation of MPH Program in El Paso.
- Approximately 75 TTUHSC faculty, staff and interested community members have been educated about the program thus far.

## Course Schedule

### FALL 2014

Intro to Epidemiology (GSPH 5307)	3 hours
Intro to Biostatistics (GSPH 5311)	3 hours
Intro to Public Health (GSPH 5313)	3 hours

### SPRING 2015

Intro to Social and Behavioral Sciences (GSPH 5304)	3 hours
Social and Behavioral Sciences for Majors (GSPH 5305)	3 hours
Basic Environmental Health Sciences (GSPH 5309)	3 hours
Management and Policy Sciences (GSPH 5310)	3 hours

### SUMMER 2015

Practicum (GSPH 5320)	3 hours
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### FALL 2015 - SPRING 2016

Prescribed Elective	9 hours
Free Electives	12 hours
Culminating Experience	3 hours

## Director's Corner



Dr. Byrd

I am so excited to be a part of the development of a new Public Health program at TTUHSC! Public health is a fascinating field, and the work we are called to do is so important. Let me tell you how I got involved in public health. I started my health career in nursing, and after a year working labor and delivery and emergency room, I left the hospital setting to become a public health nurse. I worked at a local health department in Tucson, Arizona, where I served a large community. My role was mostly health education and advocacy, in addition to running a few well-child clinics. The work of a PHN at that time was done during home visits, so I was working with clients mostly one-on-one. After several years, I noticed that no matter how much I "educated" my clients, they still continued to have the same problems (in my district mostly teen pregnancy, uncontrolled diabetes and drug use). I was frustrated, to say the least. I decided there must be another way—and I got interested in the idea of community change for health. This led me to UCLA where I completed an MPH, and learned about population health, social determinants of health, and the importance of culture, societal norms, and policy. Getting an MPH completely changed my focus, moving from looking at the individual patient to looking at the community and the larger society for answers to health problems. After completing my degree, I worked in Mexico for three years, where I learned in practice the importance of cultural humility, and the need to learn from the communities we serve—they have so much to teach us! I later received a Dr.PH with an emphasis in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences from the University of Texas-Houston SPH. I was faculty at UTSPH in El Paso Texas for almost 18 years, and then in 2011 I moved over to the Texas Tech Paul L Foster SOM to direct the Society, Community, and the Individual course as well as an MD/MPH program. I have seen first-hand how public health training can influence medical practice, giving physicians a broader view of health and how to relate to patients and their families.

We have a great group of faculty who are excited to help us get started. When I met them, I was blown away by their expertise, experience and enthusiasm. I look forward to meeting the students who will work together with us to make our communities places where people can be healthy. I hope you will join us!

## Minor in Public Health Coming Soon

An interdisciplinary minor in public health is on the horizon. This minor will help build a foundation for students interested in a health profession and allow for a better understanding of perspectives on conditions and problems in health care. The program will also give students a broader view of more advanced studies in a health professions program and help students make a more knowledgeable judgement on health and health care.

The proposed courses are:

- Required:
  - Introduction to Public Health (3 hours)
  - Biostatistics (3 hours)
  - Epidemiology (3 hours)
- Elective Course Work:  
(Select 3 courses for 9 hours)
  - Culture and Health
  - Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
  - Measurement Techniques in Health
  - Foundations of Epidemiology in Public Health
  - Administration of Health Services

In Texas, there are currently no public health programs offered at the undergraduate level, and only 11 that exist in the country. This type of degree program will allow students in pursuit of a career in health care to easily transition into the various health professions programs available. In addition, students will gain valuable knowledge and training and increase future employability.

### Faculty Spotlight



Professor Sherwin

Professor Brie Sherwin, a former toxic tort litigation attorney and current law professor, is proud to join Texas Tech's Master of Public Health Program.

Prior to joining the Texas Tech Law faculty, Professor Sherwin practiced environmental law in Dallas from 2001 through 2008. She graduated from the University of New Mexico with a B.S. in Biology. She was also one of the first students to graduate from Texas Tech School of Law's dual degree program in 2001 (J.D./M.S. in Environmental Toxicology).

Currently, Professor Sherwin is a Ph.D. candidate in Environmental Toxicology. Her dissertation focuses on an assessment of potential stressors to the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard habitat in western Texas and an analysis of the listing process under the Endangered Species Act.

### Faculty Support

#### Teaching Faculty

- Jennifer S. Bard, J.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.
- Theresa Byrd, R.N., M.P.H., Dr. PH.
- M. Nicholas Coppola, Ph.D., M.S.A., M.H.A., F.A.C.H.E.
- Zuber D. Mulla, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.
- Billy U. Phillips Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.E.
- Ken Stewart, Ph.D.
- Brie D. Sherwin, J.D., M.S.
- Adao Alexandre (Alex) Trindade, Ph.D.
- James G. Surles, Ph.D.

#### Supporting Faculty

- Cynthia Jumper, M.D., B.S.N., M.P.H.
- Roland Patry, Dr. P.H., F.A.S.H.P.
- Patti Patterson, M.D., M.P.H.
- Vasum Peiris, M.D., M.P.H.
- Debra Reed, Ph.D., LD, RD
- Matt Richardson, Dr. P.H.
- Roger Smalligan, M.D., M.P.H.
- Patrick Tarwater, Ph.D.