

UISPH - News

Epidemiology and Public Health Sciences, Umeå University
No 7 February 2004

MPH-student at the Nobel Prize Ceremony



The Nobel Prize ceremony I attended, which enriched my experience, left me a very deep impression. I feel so lucky and proud of myself to attend this grand ceremony, with the appreciation of STINT and Epidemiology and Public Health for giving me such a precious chance to experience the great touching moment, seeing those hard-working scientists with curious exploring minds, getting their harvest finally.

Siyang Yuan

**Jeremiah has "nailed" his thesis.
The dissertation will be on March 12**



Welcome to the Library

If you want to borrow a book or a journal in the Epidemiology library you are not allowed to bring it home but you can always sit there and read. Please use the computer for searching in the Epidemiology library register or search for a journal or book at the University library. Don't forget that the library is also a nice place for studying.



Master seminars December 2003



The teams from the soccer match in January (students lost again!!!)



Master Program in Public Health in the West Bank

In 1924, a school for girls was started in the village Birzeit in the West Bank, at a time when schools were almost non-existent in the area. This educational nucleus gradually expanded. In 1975, the name was changed officially to Birzeit University.

After the Israeli military occupation in 1967, Birzeit became a center for the Palestinian national revival. Today, Birzeit is the most important university in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It has an active public health department, "Bir Zeit Institute of Community & Public Health". The head is Rita Giacaman, a charismatic woman who started a small "community health unit" in the 70ies. I visited her in October last year. The institute has 33 employees. It has been forced to move to the nearby city of Ramallah, as the Israeli roadblocks have made civilian travel in the West Bank extremely difficult. One third of the resources of the institute are used for research, one third for community work, and one third for a masters program in public health. Yearly, 24 students are accepted for a one year Diploma course. Around 20 of them continue for a second year, which is called Masters course.

A look at the curriculum showed a very ambitious program. During my work with developmental programs in the West Bank, I have met several doctors attending the program. They confirm the picture of a comprehensive masters program. The community work done by the Institute is also very visible, when one is discussing the health situation in the West Bank. Professor Giacaman was interested in cooperation with Umeå University. A first step could be Palestinian people, who have completed the Birzeit masters program, visiting the summer course in Sweden.

Lars Jerdén, District medical doctor in Falun and PhD student in our department

Smoking in pregnancy workshop in Cape Town, South Africa, February 1-6, 2004

Participating among others: Zaino Petersen, Krisela Steyn, (Medical Research Council, Cape Town, South Africa), Maria Nilsson, Lars Weinehall (Umea)



Schedule:

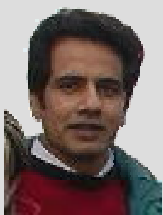
Day 1 and 2: Project presentations

Discussion about presentations and how South Africa can learn from the Swedish experience. Discussion about using motivational interviewing as a key method in our intervention, and discussions on how all those present, health workers, doctors and the Swedish side, can assist in our planned intervention.

Aim of **day 3** was to decide on a set of programmes that will be used as an intervention. Amongst others we agreed that training in motivational interviewing for midwives and doctors will be one part of the intervention.

Day 4, discussing smoking policy, ideas for new or revised policies, the proposed intervention, and funding for the evaluation of the intervention. A general agreement on roles of those present were also discussed

Day 5, summary of the outcomes of collected data and the planning that occurred in the previous days. Completion of the funding proposal.



My experience of staying in Umeå on Christmas and New Year

My stay in Sweden is full of experiences, which start from the day that I arrived here, when I was accorded with remarkable hospitality by the department. My first impression about Umeå was that it was a real hub of learning. I am sure that not far in the future will it become one of greatest city of learning.

I was waiting anxiously for the winter holidays after a hectic semester of courses dealing with public health and biostatistics. In spite of suggestions from other students I opted to stay in Umeå to witness the 'snow', Christmas and New Year. I have no regrets regarding my decision to stay. I owe a lot to Umeå for the way it enriched my experiences and life during these days.

My celebrations of New Year were kicked off by a lunch hosted by the department in one of the leading restaurants of the city. It was my most memorable and exciting gathering so far at Umeå. The whole of UISPH was there. We were served with various Swedish delicacies.

On New Years eve, I along with some other International students planned to visit downtown. Around 11:45 pm people started gathering there. For the first time I saw so many people at the same time in Umeå. As the clock struck twelve and the midnight bell started sounding and announced the New Year there were much jubilation among the crowd. Then the much-awaited fireworks started which lasted for more than half an hour. It was so fantastic that I forgot the chilling cold of Umeå. The fireworks and the energetic spectators really vaporized my homesickness. These wonderful moments have left an everlasting print on my memory. Now I can cherish these memories whenever I feel lonely.

Here I think it would be incomplete if I would not mention the wooden bridge near the department. A lot of talk is made about the weather of Umeå being inhospitable during the winter. This bridge has a little water underneath which has not frozen and provides living space for some ducks. It always inspires and strikes me to watch that these ducks, which are always full of joy, quaking regardless of temperature and darkness. I think the affiliation one develops with places which play a major role in life can always make us love that place in spite of all the drawbacks.

For me New Year refreshes and energizes our life. A new year is a landmark in our life. We have learned from past and start again with new zeal and zest when the New Year sets in. My New Year resolution is that with dedication, commitment and devotion one can make a huge difference. This is what I learned during my winter stay in Sweden.

Abrar Baig, MPH student from Pakistan

Special occasions



Christmas lunch



Students' party



Lucia

CALENDAR

February 27 10-12	Pre-dissertation: Maria Emmelin. Self-rated health in public health evaluation
March 5 10.30-12	Seminar: Hoang Minh Hang. Epidemiology of accidents and injuries in rural Vietnam: A community-based survey
13.00	Seminar: Stephen Martin. European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET)
March 12 9. 00	Dissertation: Jeremiah Chikovore. Gender power dynamics in sexual and reproductive health: A qualitative study in Chiredzi District, Zimbabwe
March 26 9.00 Room D, 9th floor	Dissertation: Ninuk Sri Hartini. Food habits, nutrient intake and nutritional status among pregnant Indonesian women during the economic crisis
April 16 10-11	Seminar: Gisela Dahlqvist och Marianne Hultmark. Ny organisation för etikprövning av humanforskning
April 23 9.00 Room 135, building 9A	Dissertation: Maria Emmelin. Self-rated health in public health evaluation
May 28 9.00	Dissertation: Torbjörn Lind. Iron and zinc in infancy - dietary determinants and functional effects of intervention: Results from experimental trials in Sweden and Indonesia



Something to look forward to...

		Sunrise	Sunset
Jan	1	09.26	13.59
	16	09.01	14.37
Febr	1	08.18	15.28
	16	07.31	16.17
March	1	06.44	17.00
	16	05.52	17.45
April	1	05.55	19.32
	16	05.03	20.17
May	1	04.11	21.03
	16	03.22	21.51
June	1	02.38	22.38
	16	02.15	23.05

Public Health News is published on the web every second month at: <http://www.umu.se/phmed/epidemi/>
Send contributions to Birgitta Åström
Birgitta.astrom@epiph.umu.se