

# HARVARD PUBLIC HEALTH

Winter 2014



**sparkling  
innovation**



## DEAN'S MESSAGE

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# Defining Choices

## *Between Indifference and Caring*

**D**uring 2013, the remarkable centennial year of Harvard School of Public Health, I had the deeply gratifying experience of reflecting on the meaning and purpose of public health—both across the globe and in my own life. I circled this theme in writing, in conversation, in moments of solitude, and on occasions of exuberant celebration.

One realization was that, if there are two irreducible qualifications for a successful career in public health, they are a fundamental dissatisfaction with the way things are *and* a stubborn determination to narrow the gap between what can be achieved with our current knowledge and what is being achieved with our present practices.

I know this from my own life. My father and his family were refugees who would have died had they stayed where they lived—Germany in the 1930s. They escaped to a much poorer country, yet one rich in culture and tolerance, which welcomed them with open arms. That country—Mexico—saved their lives.

I grew up with a strong sense of indebtedness, of the need to give back. But I did not have a clear idea of where this impulse would lead until I was 16 and spent two months after my junior year in high school living in a poor indigenous community in the state of Chiapas, in southern Mexico. I had traveled there to see a famous anthropologist working in a tiny town. At that point, I was considering a career either as an anthropologist or a doctor. I wanted to see this anthropologist in action.

One day, a destitute woman arrived at the town's modest health post, carrying her grandson in her arms. It was freezing up in the mountains, and she had walked more than three hours carrying the sick child to the clinic. On her arduous journey, she had injured her head. When she arrived, she was covered in blood.

Both she and her grandchild were in desperate need of care—but there was no one to help. The health post staffer was out, the anthropologist could do nothing, and of course, neither could I.

*Neither could I.* That was my decisive moment. I remember thinking: "I will not merely study these people, I will serve them." In that instant, medicine and public health became my life's calling.

Many of our faculty, students, and staff have had such defining moments. So too, many of our donors tell me of the moments that have driven them to embrace our work. All made defining choices—between indifference and caring.

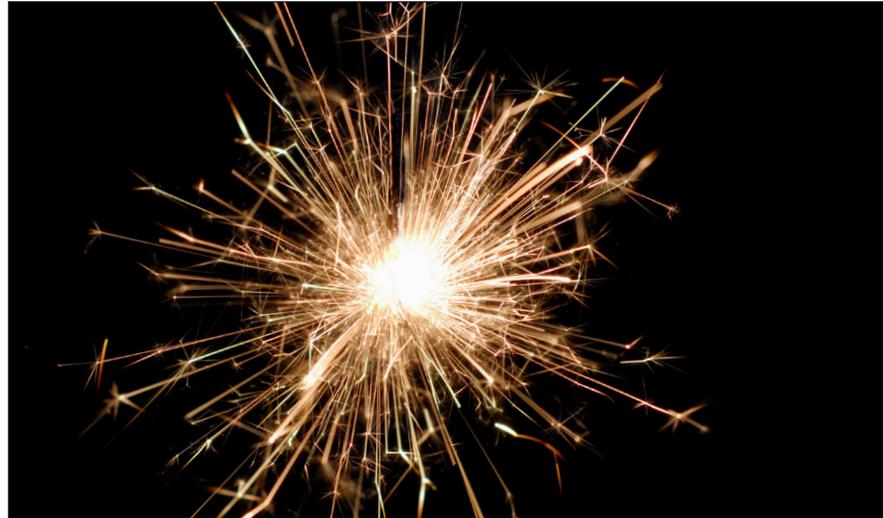
Such moments have the capacity to reverberate across lives and communities and nations, over years and generations—even centuries. The capital campaign on which the School has just embarked (see page 32) reflects what Martin Luther King, Jr. called "the fierce urgency of now"—the fact that delay carries devastating human costs. Inspired by our individual and collective vision of the way things could be—now, in the lifetimes of those who most need help—we will change the world.

**Julio Frenk**  
Dean of the Faculty and  
T & G Angelopoulos Professor of Public Health  
and International Development,  
Harvard School of Public Health

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## THE END OF TRANS FATS?

A proposal issued in November 2013 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), if finalized, would eliminate trans fat from the food supply. Trans fat—which is produced by partial hydrogenation and found in many processed foods, from cookies to frozen pizza—both raises LDL “bad” cholesterol and lowers HDL “good cholesterol.” The FDA move vindicates decades-long research and advocacy by Walter Willett, MPH '73, DPH '80, chair of the HSPH Department of Nutrition, and his colleagues. “By getting trans fat off the table entirely,” Willett told the *Harvard Gazette*, “we can redirect efforts to the many other aspects of our diet that need attention.”

## Your on Breakfast

An HSPH study in the journal *Circulation* confirms generations of folk wisdom. As senior author Eric Rimm, SD '91, associate professor of epidemiology and nutrition, put it, “It’s a simple message: Eat your breakfast.”

Men who regularly skipped breakfast had a 27 percent higher risk of heart attack or death from coronary heart disease than those who had a morning meal. Noneaters of breakfast likely were hungrier later in the day and ate more of their calories compressed into fewer meals, a habit that may lead to adverse metabolic changes and heart disease.



## A Public Health Portrait of Africa’s Elders



Like other populations worldwide, Africans are living longer. But with greater longevity come chronic diseases—both infectious and non-infectious. A new study by the Harvard Center for Population and Development (Pop Center) will paint a broad picture of aging, health, productivity, and well-being among thousands of older adults in

sub-Saharan Africa. The study will be conducted in South Africa, with launches in Ghana and Tanzania to follow. “We know very little about chronic disease and aging in sub-Saharan Africa,” said principal investigator Lisa Berkman, Pop Center director and Thomas Cabot Professor of Public Policy and of Epidemiology. “Over time, we’ll be able to understand country-level differences and ultimately pinpoint policies that promote population health.” The three-year HAALSI Program Project (Health and Aging in Africa: Longitudinal Studies of INDEPTH Communities) is being funded by the National Institute on Aging.

**LEARN MORE ONLINE** Visit *Harvard Public Health* online at <http://hsph.me/frontlines> for links to press releases, news reports, videos, and the original research studies behind Frontlines stories.

## FIRST, DO NO HARM ...

**M**ore than 43 million people are injured worldwide yearly due to unsafe medical care, according to a recent study from HSPH. The research focused on adverse events in hospitals from medications, catheter-related urinary tract and bloodstream infections, hospital-acquired pneumonia, blood clots, falls, and bedsores—injuries that lead to an annual loss of nearly 23 million years of “healthy” life. The study, which appeared online in *BMJ Quality & Safety*, is “the first attempt to quantify the human suffering that results from unsafe care,” said lead author Ashish Jha, MD ’96, MPH ’04, professor of health policy and management.

## ... AND MAKE SURE HARM DOESN'T PAY

A separate study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* by HSPH and other collaborators revealed that hospitals have financial disincentives to reduce harm and improve quality of care. Privately insured surgical patients who had a complication provided hospitals with a 330 percent higher profit margin than those without medical complications. The study’s senior author, Atul Gawande, MD ’94, MPH ’99, professor in HSPH’s Department of Health Policy and Management, said, “Hospitals are not rewarded for quality. This [research] is a clear indication that health care payment reform is necessary. Hospitals should gain, not lose, financially from reducing harm.”

## More Black Americans Are Sleep-Deprived



An HSPH research study has found that black workers—particularly black professionals—are more likely than whites (43 percent vs. 26 percent) to experience “short sleep” (under seven hours a night), which has been linked with increased risk of occupational injuries, obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes,

heart disease, and premature death. Chandra Jackson, SM ’07, Yerby postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Nutrition and the study’s lead author, noted, “With increasing numbers of blacks entering professional roles, it is important to investigate and address the social factors contributing to short-sleep disparities.”

Possible sleep-disrupting factors for blacks include discrimination in the workplace, greater job strain, and home stress. Blacks may also suffer from a phenomenon known as John Henryism, in which black professionals, for example, may display an extraordinarily high work ethic to overcome negative racial stereotypes—a coping strategy that can induce anxiety, disrupt sleep, and impair health. The authors have called for more investigation to explain disparities and develop interventions to improve sleep among blacks. The study appeared in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

## Low Vitamin D Higher Risk for Type 1 Diabetes?

Having adequate levels of vitamin D during young adulthood may reduce the risk of adult-onset type 1 diabetes by as much as 50 percent, according to an HSPH study in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*. If confirmed, the findings could lead to a role for vitamin D supplementation in preventing the autoimmune disease in adults. According to lead author Cassandra Munger, SD ’09, research associate in the Department of Nutrition, “It is surprising that a serious disease such as type 1 diabetes could perhaps be prevented by a simple, safe intervention.”



Top, ©Blend Images / Alamy; at right, iStock

## IN MEMORIAM ELIF YAVUZ, SD '13

Elif Yavuz, SD '13, was killed on September 21, 2013, during a terrorist attack on a shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya. She and her partner, Ross Langdon, also killed in the attack, were expecting their first child.

Yavuz, 33, a Dutch national, completed her dissertation research on malaria in eastern Africa. After graduating from Harvard School of Public Health this past spring, she took a job in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, as a senior researcher with the Clinton Health Access Initiative's applied analytics team. She was in Nairobi to deliver her baby, expected in early October.

"Elif was brilliant, dedicated, and deeply admired by her colleagues, who will miss her terribly," former President Bill Clinton, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and Chelsea Clinton said in a statement released on the Clinton Foundation's website.

At a memorial held at the School, doctoral student Corrina Moucheraud, SD '15, a close friend, remembered Yavuz as a "force of nature" with "boundless heart, brains, and spirit."

Yavuz's thesis adviser, Jessica Cohen, assistant professor of global health, recalled both the dedication and infectious joy she brought to her work. Yavuz tackled her doctoral fieldwork in Luwero, Uganda, with a "drive for perfection [that] was remarkable," Cohen said. But she also made it fun, teaching all of the children in town the Michael Jackson "Thriller" dance.

Although she was just at the start of her career, Yavuz had already made a contribution through the deep bonds she forged around the world, Cohen said. "No one forgets Elif."

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*The HSPH Department of Global Health and Population has established a fund in honor of Elif Yavuz, SD '13. Contributions will support next-generation students in global health to carry on Elif's passion for research and service. For more information, go to the HSPH Gift web page: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/campaign/giving/how-to-make-a-gift/>. Please designate "Elif Yavuz Memorial Fund" with your contribution.*



Courtesy of Carrie Stringer



## THE BEST POSSIBLE RESPONSE

**PAUL BIDDINGER**  
DIRECTOR, EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS AND  
RESPONSE EXERCISE  
PROGRAM  
HARVARD SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

**The world seems increasingly under the siege of public health emergencies: deadly new infections, catastrophic weather events, terrorism, industrial accidents. Do successful public health responses in one realm translate to other types of threats?**

“Absolutely. In any disaster, the two main challenges for a public health or health care organization tend to be the same, irrespective of the threat. One is information flow or situational awareness. In a pandemic, the questions may be, ‘How many cases are there? What is the virus? How is it behaving? How can we best protect ourselves?’ In a mass-casualty event, the questions may be, ‘How many critically injured patients are there? Where are they? Are there any chemical hazards? Are there other security threats?’ In the chaos and stress of a disaster, you also have to be able to rapidly transform your organization from a day-to-day function to a fast, nimble, but still thoughtful operation.

In Boston, public health and hospital responders drew on the same overarching emergency operations plans for Hurricane Irene, Hurricane Sandy, the flu pandemic of 2009—and the Marathon bombings. But the reality of the world, of course, is that we can’t possibly be fully prepared for everything. We have to continually revise our plans and systems, based on the lessons we have learned. We also have to reassess potential threats. Some things are common—you have to be ready for flu, mass vaccination, mass dispensing. But uncommon things of extraordinary consequence—whether a Category 5 hurricane or a large-scale improvised explosive device (IED) attack—also can take a tremendous human toll. Today, we worry about emerging infectious diseases, large-scale information systems failures, the nefarious use of biologic or chemical or radiation weapons, IEDs, and the persistent threat of lone-wolf shooters. You prepare for threats that are a combination of very likely and very consequential, or that require special talents not otherwise available in your day-to-day operations.

We’re always faced with new threats, so we’re always changing our response plans and always trying to get better. I use the analogy of a football team: Just because you won a game, you can’t stop practicing.”

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# Recognizing Alumni Accomplishments

Three alumni nominated by their peers received the Harvard School of Public Health Alumni Award of Merit—the highest honor presented to an alumna or alumnus—at this year’s Alumni Centennial Weekend dinner held on November 2 at Boston’s Institute of Contemporary Art.



2013 Alumni Award of Merit winners Eiji Yano, Marc Schenker, and Debra Silverman.

## **MARC SCHENKER, MPH '80**

Marc Schenker has led the development of internationally recognized programs in occupational and environmental health, epidemiology, public health science, and global health. Since 1983, he has directed the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, and since 1990, the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety, both at the University of California at Davis. His work with these centers encompasses an array of projects addressing toxic, ergonomic, and environmental factors affecting the quality of life in underserved farm-

worker populations. His work applies a public health focus to underserved populations, social justice, global health, disease prevention, and the impact of migration on occupational health.

## **DEBRA SILVERMAN, SD '81**

Debra Silverman is a leading expert on the carcinogenicity of diesel exhaust, having conducted the landmark Diesel Exhaust in Miners Study, a 20-year collaboration with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. The study culminated in the publication of two landmark papers and the International Agency for Research on Cancer’s reclassification of diesel exhaust as a Group 1 carcinogen. Silverman is an internationally recognized authority on the epidemiology of cancers of the bladder and pancreas and an outstanding mentor of young scientists.

## **EIJI YANO, MPH '84**

Eiji Yano is founding dean of the first independent school of public health in Japan. As a professor at Teikyo University Medical School, he fostered continuous collaboration between Teikyo and Harvard Universities through his organization of the joint, international Teikyo-Harvard Symposium. It was at this symposium in 2009 that the idea of creating of a graduate school of public health in Tokyo was discussed. The Teikyo School of Public Health (TSPH) was established in April 2011, with Yano as dean, despite the devastation of earthquakes, tsunami, and a major nuclear accident in Japan that same year.

Four additional alumni awards, which recognize achievements in various arenas of public health and at various stages in public health careers, were presented earlier in the day.



Left to right: Leadership in Public Health Practice awardee Adam Finkel, Public Health Innovator awardee Royce Ellen Clifford, Emerging Public Health Professional awardee Kelechi Ohiri, and Public Health Innovator awardee Akudo Anyanwu Ikemba.

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH INNOVATOR AWARD**

**Akudo Anyanwu Ikemba, MPH '03**, advances the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria through her leadership of Friends Africa, a pan-African NGO she founded in 2006. Friends Africa mobilizes and builds the capacity of the African private sector, civil society, and governments to improve Africa's health.

It works across the continent to implement innovative projects, engage the underutilized African private sector, and leverage the power of African celebrities to advocate for better health systems and to fight stigma against people living with HIV.

**Royce Ellen Clifford, MPH '06**, explored the damaging effects of high-decibel noise exposure on the hearing and cognitive capacities of her fellow Marine Corps pilots. While at an Army hospital in Baghdad, she spent three weeks testing Armed Forces members with hearing loss, documented her findings, and spread the word of how prevalent the problem was. Her efforts influenced the Department of Defense to launch a "Global War on Noise" to reduce and treat noise-induced hearing loss, and resulted in her appointment as Operational Advisor to the Office of Naval Research.

#### **LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE AWARD**

**Adam Finkel, SD '87**, has for 25 years led governmental and research organizations in data-driven and precautionary campaigns to reduce a wide variety of occupational and environmental health risks, and pioneered transformative methods of quantitative risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis. For five years during the Clinton administration, he directed the health regulatory offices at the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); during that time, he helped forge five of the seven final regulations to come out of the agency in the past 20 years that protect U.S. workers from chemical, biological, and other health hazards.

#### **EMERGING PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL AWARD**

**Kelechi Ohiri, MPH '02, SM '03**, advises the Minister of Health of Nigeria with leadership, analytical rigor, and advocacy. After working with the World Bank and McKinsey & Company, he returned to his native Nigeria, where he was a fierce advocate for improving access to healthcare for the underserved. As adviser, Ohiri pioneered the Ministry's Saving One Million Lives Initiative to reduce child and maternal deaths, and spearheaded the establishment of a \$500 million maternal health initiative. Ohiri played a lead role in establishing the Private Sector Health Alliance of Nigeria and is currently designing a comprehensive quality improvement and clinical governance program.

Catlin Powers has converted her concern for the environment into lifesaving energy technologies.



# A BURNING PASSION

*When Catlin Powers first stepped into a nomadic family's canvas tent in the Chinese Himalayas, she was overpowered by the smell of burning yak dung, the traditional source of fuel. She almost choked on the thick yellow smoke that spewed out of the family's stove and hung in the air. Her eyes and nose stung, and her eyes started watering—just like those of the woman leaning over the stove, boiling water for tea.*

Powers, SM '11, SD '14, became so dizzy that she had to step outside, where she noticed the same thick smoke billowing out of rows of other tents. She had come to this region—in the Qinghai province of Western China—as an eco-conscious undergraduate, planning to address outdoor air quality. But this visit completely altered her plans.

“The family questioned why there was such a huge scientific effort focused on climate change and outdoor air pollution when the smoke from their stoves was so much thicker than what they could see in the blue skies outside,” Powers says. “I ended up bringing my equipment inside their home and we measured the air quality together. We discovered that the air they were breathing was ten times more polluted than the air in Beijing.”

Catlin Powers, left, meets with a woman from a semi-nomadic village in Gansu, China who used an early SolSource cooker prototype.

She immediately postponed her next semester of college to stay in this remote village and help solve its indoor pollution problem. Within five years, she would become not only a cutting-edge environmental researcher and PhD candidate, but also an even rarer breed: a public health entrepreneur combining indigenous know-how with modern investment tools, including a hugely successful Kickstarter campaign.

## A KNACK FOR ADAPTING

Powers' upbringing prepared her well for such a decisive shift in plans. Growing up with two academic parents, she had lived in almost a dozen countries, from the U.S. and the Netherlands to South America and Asia. The itinerant lifestyle taught her to adapt quickly, and to forge much of her own education from the conditions—and problems—she encountered. “From a young age, I was fascinated by how people use

resources, how waste goes out into the world, and what we can do to live in a more sustainable way,” Powers says.

She attended Wellesley College, intending to go into international relations. But then she took a chemistry course and fell in love with the subject. “I spent every waking moment thinking about chemistry, reading textbooks, being in the laboratory, so much so actually that my skin became really pale. You could see the veins underneath.”

That's when she realized it was time to bring her scientific passion out of the lab. She booked a flight to the mountains of western China, ready to study climate science in the field.

## FINDING GLOBAL SOLUTIONS IN THE HIMALAYAS

The Himalayas have always struck Powers as a harbinger of global environmental changes. Glaciers in the Qinghai region provide water for 40

*continued*

percent of the world's population—but over the past 50 years, the ice sheets have shrunk by 5 percent. During the same period, the Himalayas have heated up six times faster than the rest of China, and more than twice as fast as the rest of the world. Powers thought if she could help find environmental solutions in that supremely challenging environment, she could have a global impact.

After her indoor-smoke epiphany, she moved into her own hemp tent and began to follow the villagers' routines—especially those of the women, who ran the households. Powers had to learn to haul water on her slim frame, eventually helping design a special backpack to stop the water from sloshing down her back. She accompanied the women on their fuel runs—often deep in the forests, dodging local police, to collect illegal firewood. She also joined them in

the fields to collect yak dung, doing her best to find the dry, dense pieces that are best for fuel.

“I couldn't tell which one was wetter or drier, which one was more trampled,” Powers says. “The women made fun of me, saying, ‘Oh, you would never be able to get married here because you would make such a bad wife.’”

#### SCIENTIST AND ENTREPRENEUR

The immediate goal she had in mind—reducing the overall need for fuel through sun-powered cooking—would also address fuel scarcity and indoor pollution. After she completed her undergraduate degree, her work attracted the attention of Majid Ezzati, Harvard School of Public Health adjunct professor of global health, who encouraged her to pursue her project while obtaining a doctorate; her

## Kickstarting a Public Health Breakthrough

Catlin Powers and her colleagues chose a novel way to finance the development of their SolSource solar cooker: a campaign on Kickstarter, the popular online platform for soliciting pledges for creative and independent projects, from movies and books to clothing and new technologies. Powers knows of no other public health venture financed this way.

The Kickstarter campaign, which surpassed the team's original \$43,000 goal by \$100,000, enabled Powers to test the viability of selling the cooker in affluent markets, which in turn helps underwrite the cost of the cooker in developing nations. The campaign was cannily pegged to national holidays in the U.S. when grilling is popular—such as Fourth of July and Labor Day. Along the way, Powers found unexpected perks in the online fundraising forum: beta testers for the solar cooker, analytics that helped her company glean the wishes of potential customers, and a loyal and engaged customer base. As Powers sees it, “At a time when government support is uncertain, Kickstarter has become an efficient funding mechanism for public health innovations.”



Nomadic villagers burn yak dung on an adobe stove inside a tent on the Himalayan plateau, where Catlin Powers carries out her research.



In a nomadic village in Qinghai, China, a woman prepares a traditional noodle soup that will be cooked on the SolSource cooker, at right.

research was supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and her tuition covered by the National Science Foundation. At HSPH, the solar stove project became the focus of her dissertation, which her adviser, Jack Spengler, SM '73, Akira Yamaguchi Professor of Environmental Health and Human Habitation, says “she has pursued from the perspective of both a social entrepreneur and a research scientist.”

Powers learned that Himalayan families would use only a solar cooker powerful enough to boil water at high altitudes for tea and tsampa (a tea-and-butter-filled dough soup) and capable of reaching high enough cooking temperatures for traditional stir-fry dishes. She tinkered with many designs, none of which generated much interest—until a local clan leader offered advice. “He said, ‘I’m sure these technologies are good,’” Powers recalls. “But the biggest thing that motivates

people to make significant change in their lives is the promise of a rise in status or living standards.”

The early designs looked too much like what the villagers had used before, so she set about inventing something sleeker, more

modern, and more efficient. Funded by grants, consulting fees, and research prizes, Powers and her research team tried out 54 solar stove prototypes over five years, seeking the right balance between durability, power, portability, safety, and tasteful aesthetics.

#### **A WORLD POWERED BY THE SUN**

In 2012, Powers launched the SolSource cooker, the first major product in what would become her tech company, One Earth Designs, co-founded with Scot Frank and funded through a Kickstarter

campaign. The stove looks like a large satellite dish, with shiny silver panels that curve upward and a platform in the middle for a pot or pan.

Innovative financing lowers the cost for villagers below the \$400 U.S. retail price—low enough so that most

“When I visit the villages, some of the women come running up to me and say, ‘I can’t believe it, my husband actually is cooking!’”

can afford it but high enough to make the stove a status item.

SolSource has since made its way into some 2,000 households in the Himalayas and 300 more in 17 other nations, from Asia to Latin America. Fuel use has dropped by 30 to 70 percent among SolSource users. The company is now looking to expand into more affluent markets, moving away from the nonprofit model and toward an independent investor-funded venture. One Earth Designs surpassed its \$43,000 goal on Kickstarter by \$100,000.

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Francesca Dominici's  
research on airplane noise  
and heart disease  
documents an everyday—  
and overlooked—risk.

# secrets of SOUND Health

Growing up, Francesca Dominici lived about a mile from Ciampino Airport, the second busiest in Rome. As she remembers it, the greatest nuisance from the roar of aircraft over her home was that she couldn't hear her friends when talking on the phone.

Fast forward a few decades. Now professor of biostatistics and senior associate dean for research at Harvard School of Public Health, Dominici is a renowned expert in analyzing huge data sets to ferret out hidden environmental causes of disease. And her latest finding, published in October 2013 in the *British Medical Journal (BMJ)*, has reverberated across the field.

With co-author Jonathan Levy, AB '93, SD '99, professor of environmental health at Boston University School of Public Health, Dominici found that elderly individuals who live along the noisiest flight paths near airports have a higher risk of being admitted to the hospital for cardiovascular disease. Specifically, she estimated a 3.5 percent increase in the cardiovascular hospitalization rate for every 10-decibel (dB) increase in airport-related noise. She also saw a strong association between noise exposure and cardiovascular hospitalizations in zip codes with noise exposures greater than 55 decibels, but no association in zip codes with exposures less than 55 decibels. (The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines indoor sound levels under 45 dB as acceptable; a level of 55 dB is about the same as a loud conversation.)

*continued*

## *Dominici says her latest study “opens a whole series of questions about what exposure to noise does to your system generally. You may be adapting in your mind, but not in your body.”*

It's a surprising and significant discovery. For one thing, cardiovascular diseases are the number one cause of death in the U.S. and globally. Moreover, the harmful effects of airplane noise are in the same league as other well-documented environmental hazards. Exposure to secondhand smoke in homes or bars, for example, raises the risk of hospitalization for heart disease by 4.2 percent. Two key constituents of air pollution—ozone and fine particulate matter—raise the same risk by 4.2 percent and 6.8 percent, respectively.

Dominici should know—she made all these calculations across a raft of studies since the 1990s, painting with biostatistics an otherwise unseen picture of commonplace dangers. “I like the fact that with data and rigorous mathematics and statistical methods, you can address very interesting questions that cannot be addressed otherwise,” she says. “You can tease out hidden associations.”

Her latest study—the first to analyze noise exposure in large populations near multiple airports—was published alongside a separate *BMJ* report by British researchers, which showed that residents around London's Heathrow Airport who are buffeted by the highest levels of daytime and nighttime aircraft noise suffered higher risks of hospitalization and death from stroke, coronary heart disease, and cardiovascular disease.

Adding urgency to the findings, experts predict increasing airline traffic, especially in countries with emerging economies and in the rising number of megacities across the globe. But public health worries about noise are not confined to the skies. Around the world, noise pollution is steadily

rising with population growth, urbanization, and a flood of mobile devices.

According to Dominici, the cacophony that pervades our lives—from garbage trucks and construction to leaf blowers and wind turbines to iPods and booming car stereos—may be taking a physical and mental toll that scientists are only beginning to comprehend. The science of secondhand noise, a modern airborne pollutant, may be at the same stage as the science of secondhand smoke 60 years ago.

### **A BEAUTIFUL MEAL**

Traditionally, science begins with questions—around which researchers design a study, gather volunteers, collect data, and ultimately arrive at answers. Long-term Cadillac-quality studies cost tens of millions of dollars.

Dominici's report was inspired not by a question, but by fortuitous access to two giant administrative information sets from 2009. One was Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) data on geographic patterns of aircraft noise, broken down by census block. The other was Dominici's bank of information on more than 48 million people enrolled in Medicare, the federal health insurance program that covers some 90 percent of elderly Americans, of whom 6 million live close to a major airport. Included in Dominici's rich data set: residential zip codes and hospitalization reports. In an era of intense competition for research dollars, the FAA offered Dominici and Levy very modest funding to figure out the best study that could be done with thin bankrolling.



### **A SHORT HISTORY OF NOISE**

“Because their wheels clattered on paving stones, chariots in ancient Rome were banned from the streets at night to prevent the noise that disrupted sleep and caused annoyance to the citizens. Centuries later, some cities in Medieval Europe either banned horse-drawn carriages and horses from the streets at night or covered the stone streets with straw to reduce noise and to ensure peaceful sleep for the residents. In more recent times in Philadelphia, the framers of our Constitution covered nearby cobblestone streets with earth to prevent noise-induced interruptions in their important work.”

*Noise Pollution: A Modern Plague*, Lisa Goines, RN, and Louis Hagler, MD *Southern Medical Journal* 2007;100(3): 287–294

185<sub>9</sub>379074<sup>8</sup>=9725064<sub>2</sub>%<sub>6</sub>+(x ÷ 1234)87<sup>3</sup>0<sup>6</sup>=4<sub>3</sub>9<sub>3</sub>?

## A LOVE OF NUMBERS

Francesca Dominici traces her passion for biostatistics to a love for numbers that reaches back to childhood. Today, she specializes in separating signal from noise in big data sets—“noise,” in this case, referring to the false or irrelevant data in which meaningful information can be buried. She has studied environments where people are deluged with many toxic exposures at once—from air pollution and cigarette smoke to the deadly brew of chemicals deployed on the battlefield—and has disentangled the effects of each. Among the complex subjects of her curiosity: Gulf War syndrome, Agent Orange use in the Vietnam War, the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil blowout, exposure to low-level radio frequencies from military radar, blast exposures in war, and others.

“My expertise is in dealing with large, messy data sets, integrating them and trying to extract meaningful conclusions,” she says. Her first groundbreaking study, published in 2000 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, showed that even a moderate shift in fine airborne particulate, from sources such as automobiles and industrial smokestacks, has measurable daily effects on a community’s death rate. Looking forward, she hopes to fashion statistical models that predict how climate change and its ensuing shifts in pollution will alter human health.

As the world becomes more intricately connected, the repercussions of ignoring the secrets behind big data are serious, says Dominici. “How many more deaths and hospitalizations will occur if we don’t act now?”

“I like to make analogies with food,” says Dominici. “On the one hand, you might decide one night to cook a wonderful meal. You find a recipe and you buy the best ingredients. On the other hand, you might open the fridge, grab whatever is on the shelves—and end up with a better meal than one you might have carefully planned from the start. That’s what happened with this study. We used aircraft noise data from the FAA, health data from the Center for Medicare Services, and air pollution data from the Web—to make sure we weren’t confounding the effects of noise pollution with those of air pollution. We cooked it all together. And we came up with a beautiful meal.”

### THE BIOLOGY OF NOISE

What happens to the body under the onslaught of noise?

It reacts with a fight-or-flight response. Blood pressure rises, heart rate accelerates, stress hormones surge. All of these conditions can be precursors to cardiovascular disease.

Even at levels not harmful to hearing, our bodies subconsciously perceive noise as a danger signal—including when we are fast asleep. Likewise, our physiology is triggered even though we may have become mentally acclimated to the sonic intrusion.

The effects are not limited to adults. A 1990s study looked at children in Munich, during a period when the city’s airport was moved to a new location—a perfect natural experiment

for gauging the public health effects of intrusive sound.

Among children exposed to higher levels of jet roar before the airport was moved, stress hormones were higher and memory and reading comprehension lower. Their scores improved when the airport was moved—but the children newly exposed to the racket overhead began suffering the same deleterious effects.

“Calling noise a nuisance is like calling smog an inconvenience. Noise must be considered a hazard to the health of people everywhere,” William Stewart, U.S. surgeon general in the late 1960s, prophetically remarked.

As Dominici and others have since shown, people who are bombarded daily by noise and seemingly inured to it may be suffering chronic biological stress of which they are completely unaware. And the damage may accrue over a lifetime. “It opens a whole series of questions about what exposure to noise does to your system,” says Dominici. “You may be adapting in your mind, but not in your body.”

### SCIENCE TO ACTION

In Dominici’s study, 23 percent of the Medicare recipients were exposed to noise greater than 55 decibels—but this group accounted for fully half of the hospitalizations. If aircraft noise in the high-decibel locations were reduced from 55 to 45 decibels, it could result in 9,000 fewer hospital admissions annually for cardiovascular problems.

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For the past 100 years, donors to Harvard School of Public Health have stepped in at pivotal moments to fund the people, ideas, and infrastructure needed to make life-saving discoveries and innovations possible. From polio to AIDS, from workplace safety to improving the delivery of humanitarian relief, from obesity prevention to air flight safety—the stories of how donors have emerged from the most unlikely places or at the most difficult times are a fascinating and integral part of the School’s history.



# sparking innovation

## FROM VIRTUAL ORGANIZATION TO A PERMANENT PLACE

At Harvard School of Public Health, groundbreaking ideas have always depended on breaking ground—that is, on buildings. The eight students who enrolled in the Harvard-MIT School for Health Officers in 1913 crisscrossed between Boston and Cambridge to take classes, long before shuttle buses made that relatively easy. They studied at Harvard Medical School, at MIT—then located in Boston’s Back Bay neighborhood—or in Harvard’s sanitary engineering department in Cambridge. Sunday afternoon teas at the home of founder George Whipple provided the far-flung campus’s social life.

Looking back a century later, we might consider the School of that era more of a virtual organization, though significantly more difficult to run without computers, websites, and smartphones. Thankfully, a \$1.8 million gift in 1922 from the Rockefeller Foundation—the equivalent of \$27.8 million today—combined with \$1 million from Harvard University, made it possible for the School to acquire an impressive new home at 55 Shattuck Street. Originally built as an infants’ hospital to commemorate the child of the first full professor of pediatrics at Harvard, the edifice was an admirably handsome marble structure with a columned portico and a large foyer. The nursery of the hospital was converted to a recreation room for students. Located just down the street from the medical school’s even grander administrative building, it was in the heart of what is now Boston’s Longwood Medical Area.

HSPH’s first permanent home was a former infants’ hospital, its nursery converted into a recreation room for students.

### A NATION ON A POSTWAR BUILDING SPREE

Further building expansion did not occur until after the Depression and World War II, when the School acquired a 40,000-square-foot building on Huntington Avenue that had housed the Huntington Memorial Hospital. By the 1950s, the whole country was on a building spree. Robert Moses was reshaping New York City; the Interstate Highway System was being built; Americans fled to new suburban subdivisions in droves; and the School’s faculty and student enrollment had more than doubled. Lamenting the overcrowding in “two old, reconstructed hospital buildings” that belonged to the School, HSPH Dean James Stevens Simmons proposed a \$6.5 million construction program in 1949 (about \$64 million in today’s dollars).

Simmons died of a heart attack in 1954 and didn’t get to see the School’s physical transformation. His successor, John C. Snyder, after whom the auditorium in the Kresge Building is named, would become the master builder of the

*continued*



School and the person most responsible for the physical campus we know today.

Seed money for what were to become Buildings 1 and 2 came from the Rockefeller Foundation: \$275,000 of a \$500,000 grant for the study of radiological health was earmarked for construction and equipment. General Foods in 1960 gave \$1.03 million (\$8.1 million in today's dollars) for the Nutritional Research Laboratories, which would be housed in these buildings. This was a stunning amount—at the time, the largest corporate gift ever to any part of the University. (In hindsight, there has been criticism that the nutrition department of that era might have been too close to the food industry.) Federal funding was also an essential piece of the pie; the Health Research Facilities Branch of the National Institutes of Health awarded the School two grants totaling \$1.45 million (nearly \$12 million today) toward the buildings' nutrition and environmental hygiene research facilities.

### AMBITIONS ON SHAKY GROUND

By the beginning of 1966, Snyder's ambitious building program was on shaky ground, however. The first four floors of Building 1 had been occupied in anticipation of adding 11 more floors later. But the School hadn't come up with the matching funds for grants from the federal government, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Kresge

today. Forty corporations promised another \$612,000 (or \$4.3 million in today's equivalent). Among the donors listed on the program for the 1969 dedication ceremony of the completed Building 1 was Aristotle Onassis, the Greek shipping tycoon and husband of former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

### A DREADFUL SHOCK

The road to a completed Sebastian S. Kresge Building was also a rocky one. Snyder and other School officials had planned an impressive modern educational facility, with a "comprehensive communications system" featuring extensive use of audiovisual services, television, and computer-assisted instruction. A federal grant of about \$7 million (\$44 million today) would cover more than half of the cost. When the Kellogg Foundation contributed \$1 million toward the project in 1969 (\$6.5 million today) and the Mellon Foundation another \$250,000 (\$1.6 million today), the fundraising seemed adequate.

But later that year, the "School received a dreadful shock," Snyder wrote in the annual Dean's Report. Construction costs for the education building had jumped to \$16 million from \$12 million, and because of tax issues, a gift of Florida real estate that the School and Snyder were counting on to bankroll the building was worth \$1.5 million instead of the original estimate of \$4 million. The situation

When construction estimates for the Kresge building jumped, the situation looked dire—until generous donors stepped in.



Foundation. About \$4 million (nearly \$29 million today) was at stake. Here was another turning point where philanthropy made the difference.

Snyder, who, as a young bacteriologist, had worked on typhus control in the Middle East, set his sights on governments there and on companies that did business in the region. He threw himself into the pursuit of funds so the building could be finished—and by the end of the year, disaster had been averted. The governments of four Middle Eastern countries—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, and Bahrain—pledged a total of \$816,000, about \$5.7 million

looked dire—and catastrophically embarrassing—until the Kresge Foundation agreed to contribute \$2.6 million (\$16.5 million today) in exchange for the naming rights.

### PHILANTHROPY SAVES THE DAY—AGAIN

At the dedication of the Kresge Building in May 1975, the president of the foundation, William Baldwin, told the audience that he had gone to summer camp in northern Michigan with Thomas Weller, the powerful chair of the Department of Tropical Medicine who had shared in the 1954 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. "I remember



Above: the Laboratory of Human Environmental Epigenomics. HSPH faculty and students engaged in 21st-century learning and research need 21st-century facilities and technologies to accomplish their goals.

Tom as that towheaded kid who used to hang around the nature hut,” recalled Baldwin. “As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined!”

For the next 15 years, the School’s basic physical dimensions stayed roughly the same, and fundraising concerns shifted to bolstering the endowment. In 1992, the construction hiatus ended when Countess Albina du Boisrouvray made a \$20 million gift to build the François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) Building, named for her son, who had died in a helicopter accident when he was 24 (see “Her Fortune for the Children,” page 24).

### INFRASTRUCTURE: A GROWING CHALLENGE

While Harvard Medical School and hospitals around HSPH expanded significantly over the next 20 years, HSPH’s building aspirations were met instead by renting space. Today, the School’s activities are housed in the four main buildings it has owned for decades—Buildings 1 and 2, Kresge, and FXB—and an amalgamation of other rented facilities that range from storefronts on Huntington Avenue to a refurbished Catholic school in nearby Mission Hill. Plans for a potential move of some or all of the School’s work to significant permanent space on Harvard’s

proposed new Allston campus were stalled by the “Great Recession” that began in 2008. But with buildings and facilities showing their age, the challenge is only growing.

As the School enters its second century, its infrastructure priorities are broad and ambitious. Faculty and students engaged in 21st-century learning and research need 21st-century facilities and technologies to accomplish their goals. There is a focus on redesigning classrooms to meet the needs of today’s public health education—not unlike the vision for the Kresge Building in the 1960s. Harkening back to the early days of a “virtual” School dispersed around the city, HSPH is investing in massive open online courses via HarvardX. (Ronay and Richard Menschel, MBA ’59, are among those who have made generous contributions to these endeavors; see page 29.) And as scientific advances make it possible to generate giant banks of information, technological resources are critical for translating “big data” into meaningful public health interventions.

And so, just as constructive research over the past 100 years has required construction of places and spaces in which scientific discovery can bloom, the same will likely hold true in the next century as well.

## IGNITING DISCOVERY

In 1928, the New York Consolidated Gas Company gave HSPH's Philip Drinker \$500 (about \$6,800 in today's dollars) to develop a breathing device that could save people injured by electric shocks and gas leaks. Working with colleague Louis Agassiz Shaw, Drinker built an early prototype of the machine that would become known as the iron lung—an invention that went on to far exceed the original mission, saving the lives of thousands of people stricken by polio. Put simply, a timely and enlightened investment in public health changed the world.

This story is just one illustration of the myriad ways gifts from private donors, combined with government funding, have ignited lifesaving—and world-changing—ideas and discoveries at Harvard School of Public Health.

### DAANGEROUS WORK ENVIRONMENTS

During the School's early history, perilous and unhealthy working conditions in factories had become a national concern. The School's flagship program was "industrial hygiene"—the study of the health effects of working conditions—and faculty members Alice Hamilton, Cecil Drinker, and David Edsall pioneered the study of toxic exposures

in factories and other workplaces. In 1918, one of the first major gifts to benefit the School totaled \$125,000—equal to \$1.93 million today—from a group of New England manufacturers to establish courses for factory physicians in the field of industrial hygiene.

### PHILANTHROPY MAKES FLIGHT SAFER

Decades later, a postwar boom in air travel led to a \$250,000 gift (about \$2 million today) from the Guggenheim Fund in 1957 to create the Center for Aviation Health and Safety, led by Ross McFarland, a renowned expert on the effects of altitude and fatigue on pilots. McFarland studied how oxygen deprivation can cloud judgment, evaluated the size and illumination of instrument panels on planes to see if they were legible at extreme speeds, and worked with Pan American Airlines to study pilot fatigue on long flights. The warning still heard on every commercial airline flight—"In the unlikely event of a drop in cabin pressure..."—is the result of research conducted by McFarland and his team.

### FUNDING THE EARLIEST AIDS RESEARCH

The catalytic effect of private philanthropy on government investment is perhaps nowhere more evident than in HIV/AIDS research. When the AIDS epidemic exploded in the early 1980s, the U.S. government was slow to react. It was private philanthropy that underwrote the earliest efforts to slow and prevent the infection. With critical gifts from philanthropists such as Maurice Tempelsman and Mary Woodard Lasker, the School was able to respond to the epidemic and established the Harvard AIDS Institute in 1988, bringing disparate AIDS research efforts around the University under one roof.

HSPH was also a timely leader in research and prevention of AIDS in Africa, thanks to Deeda Blair, a volunteer and donor who introduced Tempelsman and the many business and government contacts he had in Africa to the School. In 1985, while working as a graduate student in the Essex laboratory, Phyllis Kanki, SD '85, now professor of immunology and infectious diseases, discovered a previously unknown form of the human immunodeficiency virus

A patient suffering from infantile paralysis in the mid-1950s reads a comic book attached to the rim of his iron lung. A \$500 gift in 1928 enabled HSPH's Philip Drinker to develop an early prototype of the machine that would save the lives of thousands of polio victims.



(HIV), which causes AIDS. While HIV-1 is responsible for most infections in the United States, the form of the virus that Kanki discovered, HIV-2, predominates in West Africa and is less virulent than HIV-1—qualities that lend it scientific interest.

In 2000, Kanki won a \$25 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to study AIDS in Nigeria.

Eight years later, those investments have paid—and continue to pay—extraordinary dividends.

A joint effort of HSPH and the YMCA, the initiative has enjoyed many successes, including the evidence-based “Food and Fun” curriculum. The program has been found to boost children’s physical activity levels and increase their time spent doing moderate and vigorous



When the AIDS epidemic emerged in the early 1980s, governments were slow to fund research—so private philanthropy took up the cause.

In 2003, President George W. Bush, MBA '75, announced the \$15 billion President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Over the next 10 years, HSPH received a total of approximately \$390 million from PEPFAR for work in Nigeria, Botswana, and Tanzania, largely led by Kanki; it was the largest government grant in Harvard University’s history.

### KIDS AND OBESITY PREVENTION

As the HIV/AIDS history makes clear, government funding has been critical to public health progress. That said, in an era of budgetary constraints and fiscal uncertainty, private philanthropy is an increasingly important complement, fueling early research and on-the-ground progress in areas of pressing need.

One of these areas is nutrition and obesity. In 2003, Paul Finnegan, AB '75, MBA '82, and his wife Mary Finnegan made a gift of \$250,000 to provide seed money for two initiatives—one to uncover possible genetic links between obesity and asthma, the other to fund a program by Steven Gortmaker, director of the HSPH Prevention Research Center, to develop new curricula that teachers in after-school programs, as well as coaches and staff in school athletic programs and summer camps, can use to improve nutrition and physical activity in youth. In 2006, Harvard College alumna Penny Pritzker, AB '81, and her husband, Bryan Traubert—the parents of two healthy, active adolescents—pledged \$5 million to launch an initiative to promote health and prevent obesity among children nationwide through the Donald and Sue Pritzker Nutrition and Fitness Initiative, named to honor Pritzker’s parents.

exercise. The YMCA after-school project evaluation found that children in intervention sites raised their daily energy expenditure by 25 calories per day through more exercise programs—an impressive 24 percent increase. In 2010, Food and Fun After School was used by 700 Ys nationwide, and is estimated to have reached more than 28,000 children through the Y alone.



A dramatic expansion is now under way, which includes the introduction of Food and Fun into 120 out-of-school programs in Boston through a collaboration with the Boston Public Health Commission, among other new partnerships. The initiative is also exploring a possible collaboration with HarvardX, the University’s online learning platform, to further disseminate the curriculum and its proven benefits.

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# Her Fortune for the Children

In 1992, Countess Albina du Boisrouvray gave \$20 million to the School to establish the François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) Center for Health and Human Rights. Her gift included sufficient funds to construct the FXB building—in which the Center is housed—and to endow the FXB Professorship to lead the center’s work. All were named for her son, who died in a helicopter accident when he was 24.

The gift—which is the largest the School has ever received and dramatically enhanced the School’s capacity to help the world’s poorest and most vulnerable—was inspired by Jonathan Mann, MPH ’80, when he was the crusading leader of the Global Programme on AIDS at the World Health Organization before joining the HSPH faculty in 1990.

“To me he was a warrior fighting against AIDS at large, standing for health and human rights, committed to rescue the discriminated, the most destitute, the most vulnerable ones,” the French countess-turned-activist-and-philanthropist recalled.

Through the lens of Mann’s work, du Boisrouvray saw a critical need to focus on the world’s most vulnerable children with the goal of making real the children’s rights spelled out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the right to survival; to develop to the fullest potential; to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and to participate fully in family, cultural, and social life. “Investing in children and youth is investing in peace and security,” she says.

Described by *Time* magazine as an “alchemist” who transmuted private pain and personal wealth into a commitment to help tens of millions of AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children, du Boisrouvray was the grandchild of “Bolivian King of Tin” Simón Patiño, reputed to be one of the world’s wealthiest men at the time of her birth. After a glamorous career in journalism and film production, the tragic death of her only son changed everything. “My son was a rescue pilot. My job was to carry on his work at a different level, of rescuing people in distress, of course, within my capacity,” she explained in a 2003 interview.

In 1989, du Boisrouvray sold off three-quarters of her large inherited fortune and launched the Association François-Xavier Bagnoud, headquartered in Switzerland.



“My son was a rescue pilot. My job was to carry on his work at a different level, of rescuing people in distress, of course, within my capacity.” —Countess Albina du Boisrouvray

Three years later came her transformative gift to HSPH, which resulted in what she describes as the world’s first academic center for health and human rights.

Du Boisrouvray’s inspiration, Jonathan Mann, was the first person to hold the FXB Professorship in Health and Human Rights and to direct the FXB Center. Today, both of those positions are held by Jennifer Leaning, a physician and expert in public health and rights-based responses to humanitarian crises, who is pushing ahead on an agenda of what she calls “action-oriented research.” (Stephen Marks, former director of the FXB Center, also currently holds the FXB Professorship in Health and Human Rights.) A particular focus of the center’s current work is the plight of the world’s most vulnerable children and adolescents—a group Leaning calls “the bottom billion,” noting that of the world’s 7 billion people, 2.2 billion are under age 18, with half of this group living in extreme poverty.

Within this young, disenfranchised population are those in need of protection from harm and those on the quest,

against very steep odds, for a sense that they can control the events in their lives. The FXB Center has launched initiatives with the aim of bringing meaningful policy improvements within two to three years of the start of each project. Current initiatives focus on children under 18 who are trafficked in the U.S. and elsewhere for labor or sex; war-affected children and youth in refugee settings and camps for the internally displaced; children whose mothers die in a subsequent childbirth; and children in families affected by HIV/AIDS.

Other projects collaborate with partners to engage the Roma in Eastern and Central Europe; to address the vast unmet need for rural girls in India to attain secondary and higher education; and to create high-level international policy interventions that promote rights-based approaches to reproductive health.

As for the Countess, more than 20 years after her gift, her passion continues unabated. Along with remaining an active presence in the work of the FXB Center and related activities around the world, she was the driving force behind the book *The Cost of Inaction: Case Studies from Rwanda and Angola*, published in 2012, in which Oxford economist Sudhir Anand and his coauthors introduced a method to determine the true (and astronomical) costs of failing to help the world's poorest children.

"There's so much to do," says du Boisrouvray. "But as I look at the women and children on field trips, I get the energy to go on."

## MAKING HUMANITARIAN AID MORE EFFECTIVE

Farther afield, private philanthropic support is contributing to the growth and development of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), which, in the words of a glowing *Boston Magazine* article, "combines data-driven research, new technology, and fieldwork into a single academy designed to build a better humanitarian." HHI's mission is to relieve human suffering in war and disaster by advancing the science and practice of humanitarian responses—in crises ranging from earthquakes and tsunamis to terrorism and war. A key focus is educating and training the next generation of humanitarian leaders—who will serve both on the frontlines and in the highest reaches of government. By improving the speed and efficiency of disaster responses, such training also averts billions of dollars of well-intentioned humanitarian aid from being wasted. Through HHI, for example, students can participate in a simulated humanitarian crisis—such as a Darfur-like battlefield complete with a simulated flood—designed to help them function in actual disasters. The goal is to create formal institutions to foster best practices and help the world's 250,000 aid workers avoid their predecessors' mistakes—mistakes that have all too often resulted in aid workers worsening the very situation they are seeking to improve.

So compelling was the HHI vision that it inspired Jonathan Lavine, MBA '92, managing partner of Sankaty Advisors, and his wife, Jeannie Lavine, AB '88, MBA '92, to make a \$5 million gift in 2012—far above what HHI Director Michael VanRooyen originally requested. Through the Lavine Family Humanitarian Studies Initiative, 250 or more students each year will delve into the public health specialty of humanitarian aid, with access to courses, simulated trainings in rural and urban settings, and case studies.

"We were blown away by what Michael VanRooyen is doing to address some of the world's biggest problems," said Jonathan Lavine, who, with his wife, is chairing the School's current \$450 million capital campaign. "Effective management practices are critical in the effort to systematically alleviate humanitarian problems all over the world."



Donors have partnered with HSPH to improve the lives of the world's most vulnerable—from adolescents living in extreme poverty to people struggling in the aftermath of an earthquake.

# THE CAPACITY OF FINANCIAL AID TO TRANSFORM MILLIONS OF LIVES

After graduating first in her class from medical school in Afghanistan in 1991, Suraya Dalil, MPH '05, embarked on a long-planned career in general surgery—until a graveyard filled with children who had died from measles set her on a different path.

“I had never studied this in medical school,” Dalil recalls. “I’d never expected to see a graveyard for hundreds of children who had died within a few weeks from this preventable, treatable disease. That event inspired me. That is how I shifted my path to a career in public health.”

Today, Dalil is minister of public health in Afghanistan, a role she prepared for through studying at Harvard School of Public Health. It was a transformative experience—and possible only because of the award of a full-tuition Presidential Scholarship from Harvard University.

“When I went home I was a different person,” says Dalil, who received her master’s degree in health care management in 2005. “Along with knowledge, the School gave me inspiration and confidence.”

Dalil’s story—like so many others—reflects the critical importance of financial aid throughout the School’s history in creating public health leaders. From the School’s founding in 1913—when fees were a mere \$250 (the inflation-adjusted equivalent of roughly \$5,898 today)—financial aid has been a pressing need. In its second year, when only seven students were admitted, the leaders of what was then known as the Harvard-MIT School for Health Officers asked University and MIT officials for scholarship money, but to no avail. Instead, students with financial needs received credit toward the School’s certificate—degrees weren’t awarded till 1923—if they worked in public positions during the second semester.

## EXPENSIVE TUITION, LOW SALARIES

During the Great Depression, the School’s enrollment dwindled to around half of what was considered optimal, with School officials ascribing the student shortfall to the mismatch between the expense of public health education and the low salaries students would earn after completing

their studies. That asymmetry still exists today and is one of the reasons student aid has long topped the School’s funding priorities.

“I would hope no student who comes here would ever have to worry about survival as they seek to spend time studying, learning, and interacting with the faculty and students.” Those words came from former Dean Barry Bloom, who led the School from 1998 to 2008 and is now the Joan L. and Julius H. Jacobson Professor of Public Health. As dean, Bloom made increased student aid his highest priority—a stance adopted by his successor,

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“I never expected to see a graveyard for hundreds of children who had died... from this preventable, treatable disease. That event inspired me to shift my path to a career in public health.”

—Suraya Dalil, Minister of Public Health, Afghanistan, and Harvard scholarship recipient

# Today's biggest philanthropy supports HSPH work in infectious diseases, safe childbirth, maternal health

Much like the Rockefeller Foundation, which helped set the direction of public health in the early 20th century by supporting infectious disease eradication efforts and the training of public health officers, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has shaped the landscape of public health in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, investing in such areas as vaccine development and women's and children's health. This mission includes important grants to Harvard School of Public Health—from research that could lead to a malaria vaccine to tuberculosis and cervical cancer control policy development to a groundbreaking study on the global burden of disease. At the end of 2013, Gates Foundation grants to HSPH over the years totaled more than \$94 million.

Among the most significant of these grants are:

## SAFE CHILDBIRTH CHECKLIST

In 2011, the foundation awarded a \$14.1 million, four-year grant to test the effectiveness of a checklist-based childbirth safety program with a randomized trial in 120 hospitals in India. A pilot study of the program—developed in conjunction with the World Health Organization by Atul Gawande, MD '94, MPH '99, HSPH professor of health policy and management and a surgeon at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital—dramatically improved health workers' adherence to hand hygiene and other essential clinical practices.

## HIV/AIDS

The foundation has supported HIV/AIDS prevention efforts at the School with grants that include \$25 million awarded in 2000 to create the AIDS Prevention Initiative in Nigeria (APIN). Founded and led by Phyllis Kanki, SD '85, professor of immunology and infectious diseases, with local partners, this program trained clinicians and developed systems of care that continue to play a significant role in supporting HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention efforts in the country.

## MATERNAL HEALTH

A three-year, \$12 million grant awarded in 2011 supports the Maternal Health Task Force—a one-stop shop for maternal health information and research from around the world. Hosted at HSPH under the leadership of Ana Langer, professor of the practice of public health and coordinator of the Dean's Special Initiative on Women and Health, the task force works with maternal health organizations to support research, provide training opportunities, and disseminate health information. It focuses on three countries struggling to improve maternal health: Nigeria, Ethiopia, and India.



Bill and Melinda Gates

current Dean Julio Frenk. In recent years, this promise has paid off, with the School repeatedly exceeding its annual fundraising goals for student aid. In the 2013 fiscal year, more than \$2.7 million was raised, almost 30 percent above the \$2.1 million goal.

Still, this is only a fraction of what is needed. Today, at least 65 percent of the School's 1,212 students depend on financial aid to cover some or all of their expenses. With total tuition and expenses estimated at more than \$69,000 per academic year for an individual student, it's not surprising that a majority of HSPH students would not be attending without substantial aid. That is especially true of international students, who make up 35 percent of the student population and often come from the developing world.

### A QUEST TO PREVENT DENGUE FEVER

One of these is Panji Hadisoemarto, SD '14, a doctoral student from Indonesia focusing on dengue fever prevention. In the beginning, HSPH struck him as an impractical aspiration. "I thought, 'When I go back to Indonesia, I will make something like \$300 a month—and have so much debt!'" Hadisoemarto says. "How is that even possible?" That question was answered in the form of a substantial aid package—support that not only makes it possible for Hadisoemarto to pursue his studies but also will make it possible for him to return to a place where his talents and skills are desperately needed.

### DAUNTING DEBT

But for every Panji Hadisoemarto or Suraya Dalil, there are many qualified students who are unable to attend HSPH because they lack the resources. In addition, many HSPH graduates are forced to make tough decisions, balancing their desire to use their talents where they are most needed against the need to pay off student loans. At graduation, the average debt load of an HSPH student (including undergraduate and any other graduate student loans) is \$75,454—a daunting figure for anyone, let alone for those who aspire to lives of public service.

In the aftermath of World War II, the federal government pumped money into higher education, first through the GI Bill and later in response to the Soviet launch of the Sputnik satellite in 1957, which sparked fears that the U.S. was losing its competitive advantage in mathematics and science. Student aid was also part of President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society program during the 1960s. By the 1977–78 school year, 96 percent of the \$1 million in funds for student financial aid (not counting loans) at HSPH came from the federal government.

The current climate is very different. While far more aid is available than in the past, private gifts make up a greater share of the total. During the most recent fiscal year, the School allocated approximately \$11 million to student support, with an estimated 80 percent coming from philanthropic giving, notes Kathryn Austin, the School's director of student financial services.

This donor-fueled expansion in student support has yielded tremendous benefits, including substantial progress toward the goal of funding tuition for all doctoral students in their first two years, Austin says. The funding will boost the School's competitive advantage in attracting the world's best students and make it possible for more students to attend HSPH, especially those from developing nations.

"None of our students is in this for the money," says Austin. "To the contrary, they are willing to come here

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"When I go back to Indonesia, I will make something like \$300 a month," says Panji Hadisoemarto, whose financial aid package made attendance at HSPH possible.

# Menschel Gifts Define Enlightened Philanthropy

Case-based teaching, “flipped” classrooms, and a focus on leadership skills—these will be key changes as Harvard School of Public Health ambitiously redesigns its educational strategy. In recent years, the effort to help future students make a dramatic impact on public health has received critical support from the Charina Endowment Fund and Richard L. (MBA ’59) and Ronay Menschel of New York City.

The recent \$12.5 million gift from the Menschels—longtime supporters of HSPH—establishes the Transforming Public Health Education Initiative, which enables the School to develop innovative teaching methods, train faculty, harness new educational technologies, and highlight fieldwork and experience-based learning.

The gift to the HSPH campaign will underwrite faculty efforts to infuse the educational experience at HSPH with more case-based and field-based “real world” learning. It will accelerate the move toward “flipped classrooms,” in which lectures are delivered online, thereby freeing class time for back-and-forth discussion and a focus on the kind of problem solving that students will encounter in their careers. And it will help the School update its master’s degree program for health professionals and create a new Doctorate of Public Health (DrPH) degree.

“We support Harvard School of Public Health with our philanthropy because we believe in the importance of public health and the opportunity to expand the knowledge and skill sets of future public health leaders through the use of technology and case studies,” said Ronay Menschel.

Added Richard Menschel, “Improving learning leads to better-prepared students who can more successfully address the major public health issues facing the world today.”

The Menschels have made HSPH one of their top philanthropic priorities for more than 20 years. Since 1989, they have made gifts in general support of the School’s efforts, as well as in focused areas such as health communications; AIDS, cancer, and infectious diseases research; and improving the humanitarian response to emergencies around the world.

In another gift, the Menschels have provided \$2.5 million for Ariadne Labs, a joint initiative of HSPH and Brigham and Women’s Hospital headed by HSPH’s Atul Gawande, to improve health systems performance globally.

The Menschels have also established key professorships and fellowships at the School. The Richard L. and Ronay A. Menschel Senior Leadership Fellows Program, launched in 2012, brings high-level leaders in government, nonprofits, and journalism to HSPH for three months to share their expertise. The Horace W. Goldsmith Fellowships—for which six students are chosen each year to receive \$20,000 on the basis of need and merit—were established with support from the Menschels in 2007.

Professorships endowed by the Menschels include the Harvey V. Fineberg Professorship of Public Health, established in 2005 in honor of the former dean of the School and Harvard provost, which is currently held by professor of biostatistics Nan Laird; and the Richard L. Menschel Professorship in Public Health, created in 2011 and held in tandem with the directorship of the Division of Policy Translation and Leadership Development, and currently held by Robert Blendon, senior associate dean for policy translation and leadership development.

Richard and Ronay Menschel reside in Manhattan, where Richard is a senior director at Goldman Sachs and Ronay serves as chairwoman of Phipps Houses and The Trust for Governors Island. Over the years, the Menschels have shared their generosity with several Harvard schools and programs. Richard Menschel has also held many leadership roles with Harvard, including national co-chair of the Harvard University Campaign from 1992 to 1999, service on the University Campaign Executive Committee, and honorary co-chair of the forthcoming HSPH Capital Campaign. He is a recipient of the Harvard Medal.

Richard Menschel sees his gifts to HSPH as long-term investments with wide repercussions. “Better educated public health leaders,” he said, “have the capacity to improve the health of us all.”



Richard L. and Ronay Menschel

and often assume debt because they believe they can go out and make a difference. It is such a relief for students to know that they will be able to do what they came here to do. That's what donors can give them."

When such support is available, it changes lives, adds Austin. "An alum now working in the developing world recently wrote me to see if I could put her in touch with the donor who funded her scholarship, so she could tell them what an impact that support made on her life."

### THREE JOBS TO STAY AHEAD

The hardest part of her job? Counseling an exhausted student who is working three jobs to avoid becoming saddled with debt that would derail career goals. "Students will cry," Austin says. "They will say, 'I don't know how I'm going to do this.'"

In the end, says Austin, it's important to keep in mind that scholarship aid is about more than helping students

fulfill their dreams—it's also about having a direct, measurable long-term impact on the global health environment.

Consider Yvette Roubideaux, MPH '97, who in 2009 became the first female director of the U.S. Indian Health Service, where her goals include addressing chronic diseases and their causes, including diabetes and obesity, in Native Americans. "If we could reduce the obesity problem, that would make a huge dent in health disparities," she said in a 2010 interview. A member of the Rosebud Sioux tribe, Roubideaux had graduated from Harvard Medical School and spent four years in clinical practice when she enrolled at HSPH with support from what was then the Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy.

"We are doing our best to get people into the world to help make it a better, healthier place," says Austin. "It's only going to get better if we have money to help more students."

## FACULTY + PHILANTHROPY = BETTER HEALTH FOR MILLIONS

In 1914, Henry Lee Higginson, founder of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and a leading philanthropist of the day, pledged \$5,000 annually for five years to support the salary of Richard Pearson Strong, an intrepid investigator of tropical diseases and one of Harvard School of Public Health's original faculty members. It may not sound like much—until you consider that \$5,000 in 1914 equals approximately \$117,000 in today's dollars. Moreover, it laid the groundwork for what would become the School's first named chair: The Richard Pearson Strong Professorship, which had its origins in the 1927 offer of \$100,000—more than \$1.3 million in today's dollars—from an anonymous "friend and admirer of Richard P. Strong."

The Strong Professorship was ultimately established as a permanent position in 1938, and since then its occupants have racked up an extraordinary list of accomplishments. The chair's notable incumbents include virologist Thomas

Weller, who shared the 1954 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery of a way to grow polio virus in nerve tissue cultures, making possible the development of the Salk and Sabin polio vaccines. Along with being a brilliant researcher, Weller was also an adroit, tough-minded administrator who, during his 27 years as chair, spearheaded development of the Department of Tropical Health, predecessor to the current Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases.

Today's Richard Pearson Strong Professor of Infectious Diseases, Dyann Wirth, is a renowned tropical disease expert, director of the Harvard Malaria Initiative, and a key leader in Defeating Malaria: From the Genes to the Globe, a University-wide initiative committed to eradicating the life-threatening disease that imperils almost half the world's population and is especially dangerous to children. While global funding shortfalls currently pose



A 100-year legacy of infectious disease milestones—from polio to malaria—started with a \$25,000 gift to fund a single professor.

significant challenges, Wirth and her colleagues from diverse sectors and regions around the world continue to push ahead, building on a decade of progress in combating the disease. “Harvard is the perfect place to stimulate thinking about malaria as a complex but solvable problem,” says Wirth, who chairs the School’s Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases.

### PREVENTING FATAL COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY

While all HSPH faculty must raise funds through research grants from the National Institutes of Health and other sources to sustain their scientific work, endowed professorships such as Wirth’s give faculty members more time to focus on research, teaching, and other activities central to their mission. The professorships leverage the extraordinary talents of people such as Michelle Williams, SM ’88, SD ’91, a pioneering researcher in the area of reproductive health, whose work focuses on potentially fatal pregnancy complications. Williams’ research combines genomics and epidemiological methods to pinpoint risk factors, diagnostic markers, treatments, and prevention for disorders

such as gestational diabetes and preeclampsia, which contribute to maternal and infant mortality.

As the School’s first Stephen B. Kay Family Professor of Public Health, Williams continues her cutting-edge research while also serving as chair of the Department of Epidemiology. “I hope that her work can save lives,” says Stephen Kay, AB ’56, MBA ’58, who established the endowed professorship with the simple but profound goal of alleviating sickness and reducing deaths.

### YOUNG HEALTH POLICY INNOVATORS

Along with supporting the work of established experts, endowed professorships can also create priceless opportunities for younger researchers—as the C. Boyden Gray Associate Professorship of Health Policy and Law did in 2007 for then-junior-professor Michelle Mello, whose scholarly agenda spans the worlds of law, ethics, and public health. The annual support gave Mello the time and freedom to delve into “morally complex” policy and legal issues in the public health arena, including those related to the medical malpractice system, medical errors and patient safety, research ethics, and pharmaceutical regulations. She is now a full professor of law and public health.

To the man who funded the professorship, Mello was a perfect choice. “They couldn’t have picked a better person,” says Harvard College alumnus C. Boyden Gray, AB ’64, whose impressive résumé includes stints as Ambassador to the European Union and service as White House counsel to President George H.W. Bush.

For all their critical importance, endowed professorships remain in short supply at HSPH. Today, fewer than 40 percent of senior professorships, and just over a quarter of all faculty positions, are endowed—a marked contrast to the University’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences, where two-thirds of tenured professorships are endowed. Looking ahead, the School hopes to change this, aiming to endow at least one junior and one full professorship in each of its nine departments. ❖



Left to right: Stephen B. Kay; Michelle Williams, chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Stephen B. Kay Family Professor of Public Health; and HSPH Dean Julio Frenk

# THE CAMPAIGN FOR HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Harvard School of Public Health has set an ambitious goal of raising \$450 million by 2018. Launched on the occasion of the School's centennial, the Campaign is designed to build on 100 years of scientific discovery and real-world impact. "True to the nature of the School," observed Campaign co-chair Jonathan S. Lavine, MBA '92, "this Campaign is focused not just on a set of internal institutional priorities, but on how the School can make a difference in the world."

The Campaign, announced formally in October 2013, will focus on advancing research, building infrastructure, and supporting the work of students and faculty to address four urgent global health threats:

**OLD AND NEW PANDEMICS:** developing tools to reverse killer diseases, from AIDS and malaria to diabetes and asthma

**HARMFUL PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS:** preventing pollution, promoting healthier lifestyles and communities

**POVERTY AND HUMANITARIAN CRISES:** advancing health as a human right

**FAILING HEALTH SYSTEMS:** leading change, changing leaders

"We will transform the Harvard School of Public Health, but more important, equip the School for even greater impact over the next 100 years," said Lavine.

The School's Campaign is part of the five-year, \$6.5 billion University-wide Harvard Campaign. For HSPH, the October announcement marked the end of a two-year "quiet phase," during which the School raised \$167 million for such critical goals as student financial aid, endowed professorships, and research programs.

"I believe that Harvard School of Public Health succeeds so often because people here are not rigid in their thinking," said Lavine at the centennial gala and Campaign launch event in October.



“Instead, they allow the nature of the complex, life-and-death problems they deal with to shape their approach to finding solutions. These problems demand solutions that cross boundaries, break some rules, and go beyond the conventional. They also demand a kind of stubborn optimism.”

Co-chairs Jonathan Lavine and Jeannie Lavine, AB '88, MBA '92, are joined by Richard L. Menschel, MBA '59, and Ronay Menschel as honorary co-chairs of the Campaign for Harvard School of Public Health.

## CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

(as of December 16, 2013)

Jonathan S. Lavine, MBA '92,  
Co-Chair

Jeannie Bachelor Lavine, AB '88,  
MBA '92, Co-Chair

Richard Menschel, MBA '59  
Honorary Co-Chair

Ronay Menschel, Honorary Co-Chair

Katherine States Burke, AB '79

Gerald Chan, SM '75, SD '79

Mike M. Donatelli, AB '79, JD '81

Timothy Johnson, MPH '76

Stephen Kay, AB '56, MBA'58

Matthew McLennan

Monika McLennan

Kristin Williams Mugford, AB '89,  
MBA '93

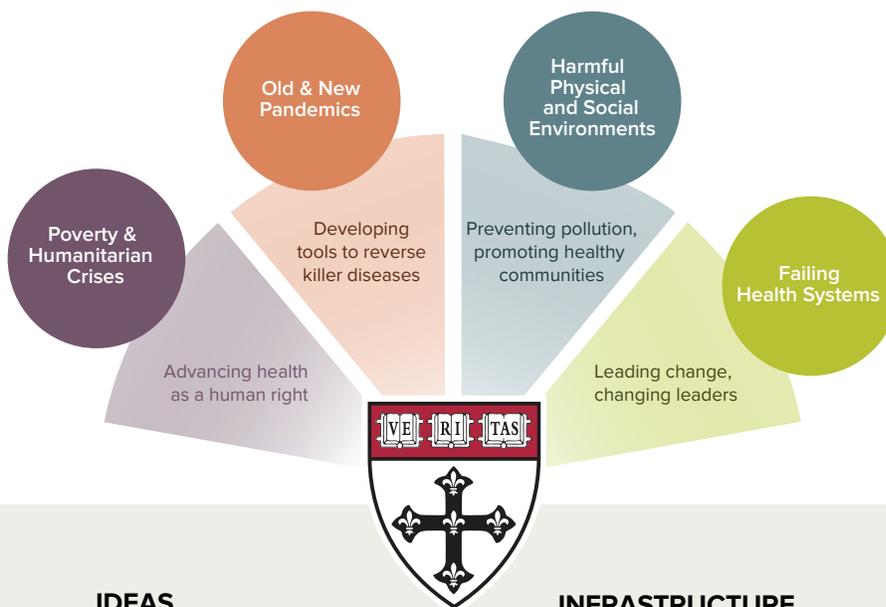
Roslyn Payne, MBA '70

Deborah Rose, SM '75

Kate W. Sedgwick, MPH '10

Katherine Vogelheim

## DISCOVERING AND PROMOTING SOLUTIONS TO FOUR MAJOR GLOBAL HEALTH THREATS.



**IDEAS**  
\$274 MILLION

*Educational transformation  
Dean's Fund for Innovation  
Research Initiatives*

**INFRASTRUCTURE**  
\$52 MILLION

*Big data & analytical tools  
State-of-the-art facilities*

**PEOPLE**  
\$124 MILLION

*Endowed professorships  
Scholars & scholarships*



# *Gift Report*

Our supporter lists—including a complete list of alumni donors to the School—are available online at [hsph.harvard.edu/campaign/honor-roll-of-donors/](https://hsph.harvard.edu/campaign/honor-roll-of-donors/)

# A Century of Good Fortune

For Harvard School of Public Health, which this past October joyously celebrated its centennial and launched a \$450 million fundraising campaign, the past 100 years have been a period of momentous change, preeminent achievement—and remarkable generosity.



Ellie Starr

This issue of *Harvard Public Health* is devoted in part to the history of philanthropy at the School. The stories you've read here show how small money can have a big impact, through a multiplier effect. Without these gifts—both large and small, institutional and individual—HSPH faculty, students, and alumni never could have made the global impact that continues to this day. Countless lives have been saved, illnesses averted, human possibilities expanded.

This tradition of largesse continues. In FY 2013, we received more than \$63 million in gifts. Among our most generous supporters this year have been Richard L. Menschel, MBA '59, and Ronay Menschel, who contributed \$12.5 million to the Transforming Public Health Education Initiative Fund, which will support the development of innovative materials, technologies, and teaching models. The Menschels also contributed \$2.5 million to Ariadne Labs—a joint initiative of HSPH and Brigham and Women's Hospital, led by Atul Gawande, MD '94, MPH '99, professor of health policy and management, focused on boosting health systems performance in the U.S. and globally through such improvements as simple checklists.

Another generous supporter, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, contributed two major grants in FY 13. One, totaling more than \$7.7 million, helps support genomics-based diagnostics for the elimination and eradication of the malaria parasite, a program under the leadership of Dyann Wirth, chair of the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases. A second Gates Foundation grant of nearly \$5 million is aimed at improving outcomes in Ethiopia's primary care service delivery, an effort headed by the School's Peter Berman, professor of the practice of global health systems and economics.

To all our thoughtful supporters—now and over the years to come, as we strive to achieve our Campaign goals—I offer my deepest gratitude. Because of your enlightened generosity, the world is a healthier place.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellie Starr". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Ellie Starr**  
Vice Dean for External Relations

# Centennial Medal & Next Generation Award Ceremony

October 24, 2013



Before a standing-room-only audience, HSPH Dean Julio Frenk presented Centennial Medals to former U.S. President Bill Clinton; Jim Yong Kim, MD '91, PhD '93, president of the World Bank Group; and Gro Harlem Brundtland, MPH '65, former prime minister of Norway and former director-general of the World Health Organization. Chelsea Clinton, vice chair of the Clinton Foundation, received the inaugural Next Generation Award.



From left, former president Bill Clinton; former WHO director-general Gro Harlem Brundtland, MPH '65; World Bank president Jim Yong Kim, MD '91, PhD '93; Clinton Foundation vice chair Chelsea Clinton; Dean Julio Frenk.

Kent Dayton, Genevieve de Manto, Josh Levine, Tony Rinaldo

Video highlights of Centennial celebrations and Campaign launch events can be found at [hspH.me/celebration-videos](http://hspH.me/celebration-videos)

**“IF IN EVERY . . . AREA OF OUR COMMON LIFE WE CAN LOOK AT THE FACTS, SEE THE HUMANITY BEHIND IT, AND ESTABLISH NETWORKS OF COOPERATION, ALL THE WORLD’S PROBLEMS ARE EASILY WITHIN OUR REACH.” —*Bill Clinton***



Bill Clinton with HSPH Campaign co-chairs Jonathan Lavine, MBA '92, and Jeannie Lavine, AB '88, MBA '92.

**“TO MAKE CHANGE, YOU MUST HAVE SOME FUNDAMENTAL DISSATISFACTION. . . . YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY QUALIFIED TO DO THAT. WE HAVEN'T SUCCUMBED YET, IN GENERAL, TO CYNICISM OR INERTIA OR PATIENCE.”**

**—*Chelsea Clinton***



Left, HSPH Dean Julio Frenk and Chelsea Clinton, recipient of the Harvard School of Public Health Next Generation Award (above).

“PLEASE DO YOURSELF  
THE FAVOR OF TACKLING  
AT SOME POINT IN YOUR  
LIFE—AND THE SOONER,  
THE BETTER—THE MOST  
DIFFICULT, SEEMINGLY  
INTRACTABLE PROBLEM  
YOU CAN FIND.”

—*Jim Yong Kim,*  
*MD '91, PhD '93*



Harvard School of Public Health Centennial Medal

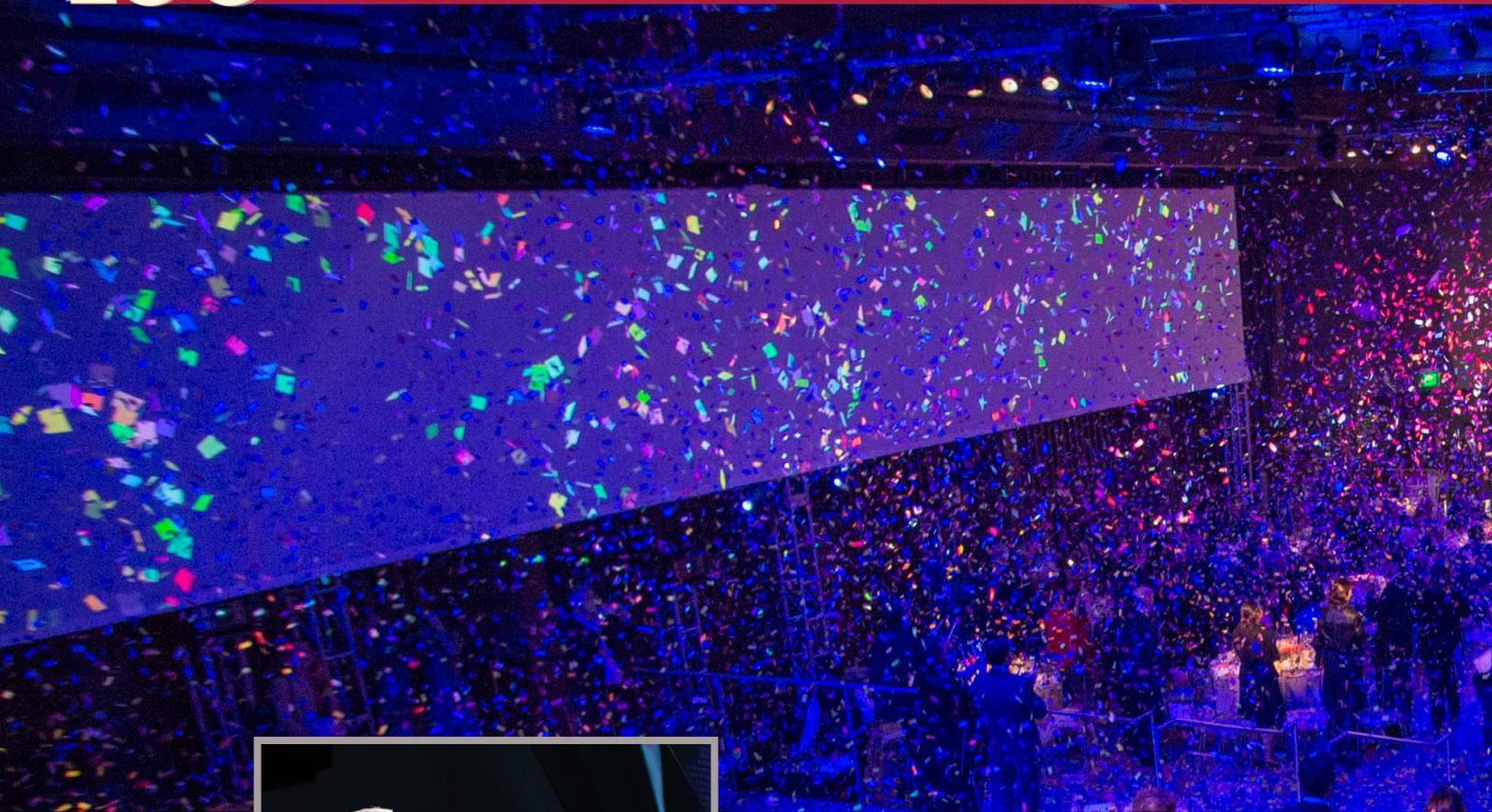
“GLOBAL HEALTH IS LINKED TO HUMAN RIGHTS. IT’S LINKED TO EDUCATION ...  
IT’S ALSO LINKED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS THAT WE ARE CREATING  
IN THE WAY WE ARE DEALING, AS HUMAN BEINGS, WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH  
THE PLANET.”

—*Gro Harlem Brundtland, MPH '65*



Top left: Paul Farmer, MD '90, PhD '90, co-founder of Partners in Health; Rwanda Minister of Health Agnes Binagwaho; Board of Dean's Advisors (BDA) member Christy Turlington Burns. Top right: BDA members Matthew and Monika McLennan. Center row, from left: BDA member Gerald Chan, SM '75, SD '79 with James Stevens Simmons Professor of Radiobiology, *Emeritus* John B. Little; Chair of the Department of Genetics and Complex Diseases Gökhan Hotamisligil, PhD '94, with Massachusetts Senator Edward Markey; William Crozier, MBA '63, and Nutrition Round Table member Ronald Curhan, MBA '57, DBA '71. Bottom row, from left: Mollye Block, and Sumner Feldberg, AB '45, MBA '49, and Esther Feldberg. Below right: Afghanistan Minister of Public Health Suraya Dalil, MPH '05; Leeda Rashid, MPH '09; Campaign Committee and BDA member Roslyn B. Payne, MBA '70.





“EACH OF YOU HAS FACED THAT DEFINING CHOICE BETWEEN CARING AND INDIFFERENCE—AND YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO CARE. BEYOND THAT, YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO FOCUS YOUR EFFORTS ON SCIENCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH, THE MOST ENLIGHTENED AND LASTING WAYS OF MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE. FINALLY, YOU HAVE CHOSEN HARVARD—BECAUSE IT IS THE BEST PLACE TO INVEST IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION TO DEAL WITH THE LARGEST PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD. THIS IS THE CHAIN OF CHOICE THAT BRINGS YOU HERE, NOW. AND THIS IS THE CHAIN OF CHOICE THAT WILL IMPROVE HEALTH FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE.

—Julio Frenk

Josh Levine, Tony Rinaldo

Video highlights of this event can be found at [hsph.me/celebration-videos](https://hsph.me/celebration-videos)



# Centennial Gala & Campaign Launch

October 24, 2013

In the celebration of the century, more than 300 guests gathered at Boston's Revere Hotel to toast Harvard School of Public Health's 100th birthday. The Campaign for HSPH was launched as the sellout crowd was treated to video, visuals, and notable speakers outlining the four urgent global health threats that the Campaign will tackle: old and new pandemics, harmful physical and social environments, poverty and humanitarian crises, and failing health systems.

After greetings from Harvard president Drew Faust, renowned public health advocates introduced the Campaign themes. Among the speakers were World Bank president Jim Yong Kim, MD '91, PhD '93; Gates Foundation co-chairs Bill and Melinda Gates (on video); maternal health advocate Christy Turlington Burns; ABC News medical editor Timothy Johnson, MPH '76; and HSPH doctoral student Shaniece Criss, SD '15. Dean Frenk introduced Jonathan Lavine, MBA '92, who made an impassioned case for public health and who co-chairs the Campaign with his wife Jeannie Lavine, AB '88, MBA '92. Lavine also announced the Campaign goal of \$450 million, of which \$167 million has already been raised.

Guests also celebrated a century of past accomplishments and enjoyed video birthday greetings for the School from Elton John, chef Jamie Oliver, U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, and U2's Bono—who, with guitarist The Edge, sang a birthday song specially penned for the occasion. Capping the night's festivities was a shower of confetti.



**“THIS SCHOOL AND SO MANY OF ITS FACULTY NOT ONLY UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGES WOMEN AND GIRLS FACE BRINGING NEW LIFE INTO THE WORLD, THEY ALSO HAVE THE SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THEM—AND DO, EACH AND EVERY DAY.”**

**—Christy Turlington Burns**

Emily Cuccarese, Kent Dayton, Josh Levine, Tony Rinaldo



“HAVING SEEN HEALTH DISPARITIES IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD, I HAVE A DEEP-SEATED DESIRE TO ENABLE CHANGE THROUGH RESEARCH, POLICY, AND MEDIA. AFTER MY FIRST CLASS, I REALIZED THAT I AM BEING TRAINED TO DEVELOP MASS-SCALE INTERVENTIONS THAT CAN SHIFT A NATION.”

—*Shaniece Criss*  
*SD '15*



“MY BOSS—‘THE ARCH,’ BISHOP DESMOND TUTU—HE TALKS ABOUT *UBUNTU*, WHICH IS AN EXTRAORDINARY SWAHILI WORD: I AM BECAUSE WE ARE. . . . THE SCHOOL IS SUCH A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF *UBUNTU*, WITH ITS SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIAL DETERMINATION TO EVER BETTER OUR UNDERSTANDING OF PUBLIC HEALTH, AND ON TOP OF THAT, TO FIGHT FOR THE HEALTH RIGHTS OF EVERY PERSON ON THIS PLANET.” —*Bono*

“I BELIEVE THAT HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH SUCCEEDS SO OFTEN IN ITS AMBITIONS BECAUSE PEOPLE HERE ARE NOT RIGID IN THEIR THINKING. INSTEAD, THEY ALLOW THE NATURE OF THE COMPLEX, LIFE-AND-DEATH PROBLEMS THEY DEAL WITH TO SHAPE THEIR APPROACH TO FINDING SOLUTIONS.”

—Jonathan Lavine, MBA '92  
Co-Chair, The Campaign  
for Harvard School of  
Public Health



Center left: Leadership Council members Fred Orkin, MD '68, SM '01, and Susan Orkin and Kathleen Ruddy. Center right: Susan Helliwell, Leadership Council member John Anthony Ross, Karl Wientz, MBA '96, and Teryn Weintz. Above left: Chris Heuwing with Leadership Council member Holly Hayes. Above right: BDA member Katie Vogelheim, John Hansen, AB '81, MBA '85, and Cynthia McClintock, AB '82, MBA '86.

Emily Cuocarese, Kent Dayton, Genevieve de Manio, Josh Levine, Tony Rinaldo

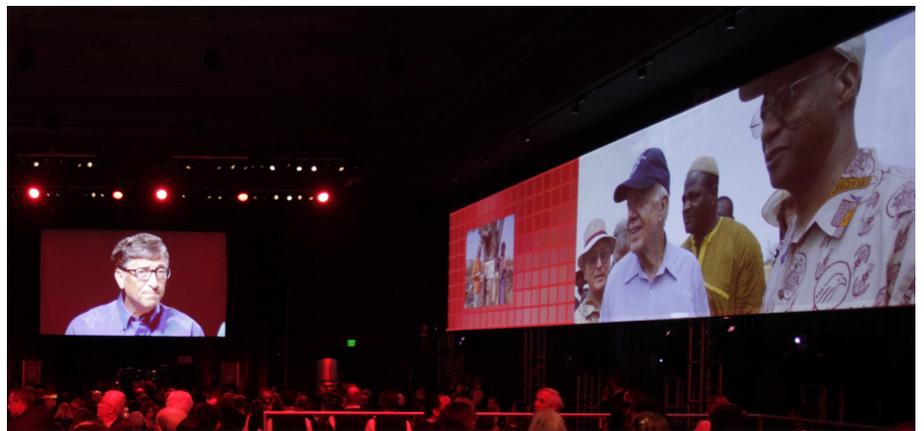


“THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE THE EMBODIMENT OF WHAT I HAVE COME TO THINK OF AS ‘RIGOROUS HUMANITARIANISM.’ RIGOROUS: EVIDENCE-BASED, KNOWLEDGE-BASED, RESEARCH-BASED. AND HUMANITARIANISM: COMPASSION AT WORK TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN CONDITION, HEAD AND HEART JOINED.”

—*Drew Gilpin Faust*  
*President, Harvard University*

“BY SUPPORTING PEOPLE AT HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, WE CAN HELP STOP KILLER PANDEMICS. WE CAN DEVELOP NEW DRUGS AND FIND WAYS TO FORECAST, TRACK, AND STOP DISEASES BEFORE THEY EVER EVEN TAKE HOLD.”

—*Bill and Melinda Gates*



Harvard Campaign Co-Chair Paul Finnegan, AB '75, 'MBA '82, left, and Leadership Council member Carl Stern, AB '68.



“HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF EFFORTS TO HELP PEOPLE IDENTIFY AND CHANGE INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIORS, AND TO ENCOURAGE COMMUNITIES AND GOVERNMENTS TO CREATE A CULTURE AND PUBLIC POLICIES THAT ENCOURAGE HEALTHIER LIVING.”

—*Timothy Johnson*  
*MPH '76*



At left, Campaign for Harvard School of Public Health co-chairs Jonathan Lavine, MBA '92, and Jeannie Bachelor Lavine, AB '88, MBA '92; Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust; and Dean Julio Frenk.



Above left: Kathy Burke, Campaign Committee BDA member. Above right: Leadership Council Executive Committee member Barrie Damson, AB '56, (left) with his Harvard College roommate, Robert Bowman. At right: Gala performers Rhythm of the Universe.



Emily Cuccarese, Kent Dayton, Genevieve de Manto, Josh Levine, Tony Rinaldo

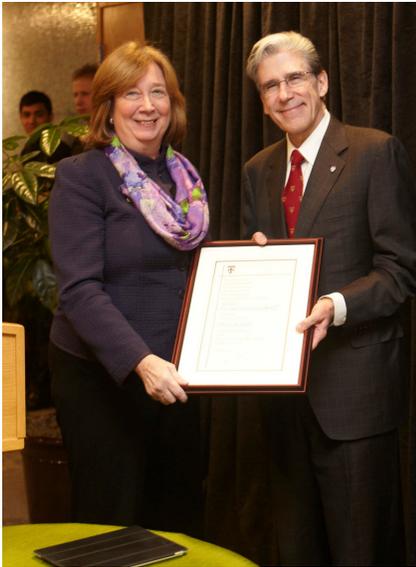


Clockwise from top left: Leadership Council Members Florence Koplow, MPA '95, and Mary Revelle Paci; Campaign Committee and BDA member Stephen Kay, AB '56, MBA '58, and Barry Bloom, former HSPH dean and Joan L. and Julius H. Jacobson Professor of Public Health; BDA member Matthew McLennan; Kevin Starr, director, The Mulago Foundation; Countess Albina du Boisrouvray; Campaign Committee and Leadership Council member Deborah Rose, SM '75, and Chander Kapasi, MPH '75; Humayun "Hank" Chaudhry, SM '01, and Nazli Chaudhry.



# Centennial Leadership Summit

October 25, 2013



HSPH hosted members of its Leadership Council and Centennial Gala attendees for its Centennial Leadership Summit, which examined the most pressing public health challenges that are unfolding as the School embarks on its second century. Before a packed auditorium, five ministerial-level public health leaders spoke about why they chose public health and what they would most like to see achieved in the years to come. Panelists included Gro Harlem Brundtland, MPH '65, former Prime Minister of Norway and former Director-General of the World Health Organization; Suraya Dalil, MPH '05, Minister of Public Health of Afghanistan; Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Kelechi Ohiri, MPH '02, SM '03, Senior Adviser, Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria; and Pradit Sintavanarong, MPH '89, Minister of Public Health of Thailand. The lively discussion was moderated by Harvey Fineberg, AB '67, MD '71, MPP '72, PhD '80, president of the Institute of Medicine and former dean of HSPH.



Earlier in the day, Dean Julio Frenk addressed the history and future of public health. Jonathan Lavine, MBA '92, co-chair of the Campaign for HSPH, discussed the impact of HSPH research. Nancy Lukitsh, MBA '80 was honored with the 2013 Volunteer Leadership Award for her service to the School.



Top: Volunteer Leadership Awardee Nancy Lukitsh, MBA '80, with Dean Julio Frenk.

Center left: Gro Harlem Brundtland, MPH '65, former Prime Minister of Norway and former Director-General of the World Health Organization; Pradit Sintavanarong, MPH '89, Minister of Public Health of Thailand.

Center right: Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Suraya Dalil, MPH '05, Minister of Public Health of Afghanistan; and Dean Julio Frenk.

Bottom: Attendees at the Centennial Leadership Summit.



Far left: Panel moderator Harvey V. Fineberg, AB '67, MD '71, MPP '72, PhD '80; left: Kelechi Ohiri, MPH '02, SM '03, Senior Adviser, Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria



Past and current winners of the Volunteer Leadership Award (left to right): Mary Revelle Paci (2009); Nancy Lukitsh, MBA '80 (2013); Roslyn Payne, MBA '70 (2010); Lilian Cheung, SM '75, SD '78, and Lee Chin, SM '75, SD '79 (2012); and Mitchell Dong, AB '75 (2006).

# School-wide Celebration

October 25, 2013

Hundreds of HSPH faculty, staff, and students turned Kresge cafeteria into a party hall for the finale of the School's two-day centennial celebration. The festivities included the unveiling of a time capsule that will be placed in the wall of the School's FXB Building, not to be opened until 2063. Dean Julio Frenk offered a letter to the School's future Dean, and School revelers added dozens of their own messages and memorabilia.



Former HSPH dean Harvey V. Fineberg (1984–1997), current dean Julio Frenk, and former dean Barry R. Bloom (1998–2008).

# Alumni Centennial Weekend

November 1-4, 2013

More than 300 Harvard School of Public Health alumni, students, faculty, and guests, from a dozen countries and 29 U.S. states, came back to campus to celebrate Alumni Weekend on November 1-4. More alumni than ever returned to the festivities in the School's Centennial year, as the weekend also coincided with the American Public Health Association (APHA)'s annual meeting taking place in Boston.

The Alumni Association honored three individuals, chosen by their peers to receive the 2013 Alumni Award of Merit—the highest honor presented to an alumna/us: Marc Schenker, MPH '80, Debra Silverman, SD '81, and Eiji Yano, MPH '84. Additional alumni awards, which recognize achievements in various arenas of public health and at various stages in public health careers, were presented over lunch. The recipients were Kelechi Ohiri, MPH '02, SM '03 (Emerging Public Health Professional Award), Adam Finkel, AB '79, MPP '84, SD '87 (Leadership in Public Health Practice Award), and Royce Ellen Clifford, MPH '06, and Akudo Anyanwu Ikemba, MPH '03 (Public Health Innovator Award). See story on the Award winners on page 8.



Incoming Alumni Council President Anthony Dias, MPH '04



Above, left to right: Linda Langford SM '94, SD '98; David Hemenway, AB '66, PhD '74, director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center; Alice Hausman, MPH '85. Right, left to right: Joel Altstein and Nathan Zielonka, SM '75.





Top row, from left: Neil Numark, SM '83, and Barry Dorn, SM '04. Victoria Seligman, MPH '13; German Orrego, SD '16; Adebayo Owoeye, MPH '13; Naoaki Ichiara, MPH '13. Bottom row, from left: Cecilia Gerard, SM '09; Laura Kozek; Lina Nerlander, MPH '08; Hanine Estephan, SD '11. Anna Gosline, SM '10, and Tola Ladejobi, MPH '09.

# Second Century Symposium: Transforming Public Health Education

November 1, 2013

At Harvard School of Public Health's Second Century Symposium, held as part of the School's centennial celebration, Dean Julio Frenk unveiled a new vision for public health education. "The idea is to achieve a harmonious balance between online, on-site, and in-field approaches," said Frenk. The all-day event drew some 500 participants from more than 100 colleges and universities in 17 countries, including the deans of each of the top six schools of public health in the United States.



Video highlights of the Second Century Symposium can be found at [hsph.me/second-century-symposium](http://hsph.me/second-century-symposium)

# Fellowship Celebration

## April 10, 2013

The second annual HSPH Fellowship Celebration recognized individuals and organizations that have made gifts of \$10,000 or more to student aid in the past year, and provided them with an opportunity to meet the students who benefit from their generous contributions. The featured speaker was Mitchell L. Dong, AB '75, who along with his wife, Robin, established the Mitchell L. Dong and Robin LaFoley Dong Scholarship in 2000. The student speaker, Mary Mwanyika-Sando, MPH '13 and a recipient of the Carson Scholarship, said that while "attending Harvard meant leaving behind my beloved husband and two young children in Tanzania, I knew that it would be worth it."



Above: Adeoye Olukotun, MPH '83, and Adebayo Owoeye, MPH '13, Wanda Lane Buck Fellow.



Left: Standing, left to right, Board of Dean's Advisors (BDA) member Howard Stevenson, MBA '65, DBA '89; Dong Scholar Paul Mwai, SM '14; BDA member Antonio Garza; Dong scholar Jennifer Atlas, SM '14; Carson Scholar Mary Mwanyika-Sando, MPH '13; seated, left to right: Mitchell Dong, AB '75; Dean Julio Frenk; Felicia Knaul, AM '92, PhD '95; Fredericka Stevenson.



Julie E. Henry Fund for Maternal and Child Health recipient Lauren Bailey, SM '13, and Leadership Council member Bayard Henry.



Mary E. Wilson and Harvey V. Fineberg Fellow in Infectious Diseases Phillip Salvatore, SM '14, with Mary E. Wilson, adjunct associate professor of global health and population.

Video highlights of the Fellowship Celebration can be found at [hsph.me/2013-fellowship-slideshow](http://hsph.me/2013-fellowship-slideshow)

# Commencement

May 30, 2013

Addressing graduates at the 2013 Commencement Ceremony, Dean Julio Frenk spoke of the “impeccable preparation” that led to an “extraordinary example of crisis response” after the Boston Marathon bombings the month before. “Whether your goal is to combat infectious diseases, reform health systems, or respond to emergencies,” he said, “preparation is essential to success.” At the ceremony, held in Kresge courtyard, 558 degrees were awarded to graduates from 74 countries and 30 U.S. states, more than 56 percent of whom were women. The Commencement address was delivered by Larry Brilliant, president and CEO of the Skoll Global Threats Fund. Candy Liang, the student speaker, received an MPH in health policy and management.



In his Commencement address, Larry Brilliant (above), president and CEO of the Skoll Global Threats Fund, urged graduates to “end pandemics in your lifetimes.” Student speaker Candy Liang (left) plans to work on improving public health through innovation and entrepreneurship.



A slideshow of Commencement can be found at [hsph.me/2013-commencement-slideshow](http://hsph.me/2013-commencement-slideshow)

# China Trip

January, 2013

In a weeklong trip to Shanghai, Beijing, and Hong Kong, Dean Julio Frenk strengthened HSPH's existing ties in China, connected with health sector leaders, and met with some 150 alumni and other supporters of the School. “More and more,” he said, “research is demonstrating that good health is not only a consequence of, but also a condition for, sustained and sustainable economic growth.”



# SUPPORTERS OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The Campaign for Harvard School of Public Health is a historic effort to transform HSPH and achieve sweeping results in the wider world. Focused on turning back four major threats to public health around the globe—old and new pandemics, harmful physical and social environments, poverty and humanitarian crises, and failing health systems—the Campaign will support the people, ideas, and infrastructure HSPH needs to build on its 100 years of success in translating research into world-changing influence and impact. The list below gratefully acknowledges those who had given \$1 million or more to support the Campaign as of December 1, 2013.

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# SUPPORTERS OF THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AND CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

Harvard School of Public Health's Centennial Celebration and Campaign Launch—our event of the century—was a joyous celebration of the School's hundred-year legacy and its bright prospects for the future. The list below recognizes individuals and organizations who contributed to the event by purchasing event support packages or tickets to attend the evening's festivities.

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Individual donors provide critical support towards HSPH's mission of promoting powerful ideas for a healthier world. Gifts of all levels from our alumni and friends provide crucial support for student scholarships, faculty research initiatives, innovations in educational strategies, equipment purchases, the renovation and upgrade of our facilities, and more. The following list recognizes individuals who made contributions of \$250 or more during fiscal year 2013.

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“Our commitment to Harvard School of Public Health is closely linked to the four years John headed the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a U.S. foreign-aid agency dedicated to fighting global poverty through sustainable economic growth within the framework of good government. This experience drove home the critical importance of disciplined rigor and tangible results, and we saw both at HSPH.

“There are many worthy causes, but we were in search of an organization that would have a significant and lasting impact on the health and well-being of people around the world, especially places where we have lived. As we acquainted ourselves with the work that HSPH is doing globally, it became obvious that the School represented our best way to make a constructive and meaningful contribution.

“The particular pathway we have chosen to accomplish this goal is through providing funding for talented students from around the world to pursue their educations. We want to set them free to pursue dreams that would otherwise be impossible for financial reasons.”

—John and Irene Danilovich, members of the HSPH Leadership Council,  
donors of the endowed Danilovich Family Fellowship

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“Investments in public health are very efficient because we eliminate disease before it happens. It would be very difficult to find any other cause where a relatively small amount of support can have such a broad impact. I am especially impressed with the School’s work on finding ways to contain health costs. When we make health systems more efficient, we free up resources to help many more people.

“The School’s goals and mission are aligned with my personal goals and my personal values, which is why I became a donor. We want to make life better. If you see this as part of your own personal mission, then the School of Public Health is one of the best possible places to put your support.”

—Fair H. Wang, SM '92, Chair,  
Department of Anesthesiology,  
Eden Medical Center, Castro Valley,  
California; member, HSPH  
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“Everyone should be able to enjoy healthy, prosperous, vibrant communities and neighborhoods. Plus, when communities are strong, businesses are strong. It all cycles together. We can’t have a strong economy without a healthy population.

“This is why we are thrilled to be collaborating with Harvard School of Public Health—an organization so clearly in the forefront of finding ways to integrate health into the larger concept of corporate social responsibility and sustainability. I don’t know of any group doing as much in this area and doing it so well. Through our support of the Center for Health and the Global Environment, Wells Fargo is helping to develop a clearer understanding of alternative energy sources—including its relative costs and best practices designed to protect human health. This is directly related to energy lending, an important aspect of our business.

“We are also very excited about groundbreaking research on the worldwide declines in honeybee colonies. This is a hugely important issue since bees are necessary to pollinate crops, and a massive loss of honeybees is likely to result in billions of dollars in agricultural losses. Again, this research is directly tied to our business goals and the economy, as Wells Fargo is a large agricultural lender, and our agricultural customers rely heavily on bees. We’ve funded a number of studies to understand colony collapse disorder and what’s causing it, with the goal of helping to prevent this potential disaster from unfolding.

“When we think about human health, we are taking a proactive stance and focusing on long-term impact. We can’t rely on Band-Aids. Prevention is the smart way to go.”

“For seven years, we have been losing honeybee populations at an alarming rate, but until 2012, no one could say why. That’s when we published a paper tracing this loss to a group of pesticides called neonicotinoids. As a result, the European Union took action to ban agricultural use of those pesticides for a two-year period, beginning on December 1, 2013, in hopes of sparking the resurgence of honeybee populations.

“Why is this so important? The future of global agriculture—and our food supply—hinges on our ability to address such issues. Approximately one-third of the foods we commonly consume—apples, pears, blueberries, strawberries and so on—requires pollination, and honeybees happen to be the most effective pollinator for agricultural production. Not to mention other crops such as almonds and, of course, honey and other products we get more directly from honeybees.

“We were extraordinarily fortunate to have Wells Fargo Foundation fund our initial research, which explored why pesticides don’t kill honeybees right away, but rather, over the winter season, the colony disappears. The gifts we receive from corporations and foundations are timely and critical to our work—especially in light of the significant drop in government funding over the past decade.”

—Chensheng (Alex) Lu, Associate Professor of Environmental Exposure Biology,  
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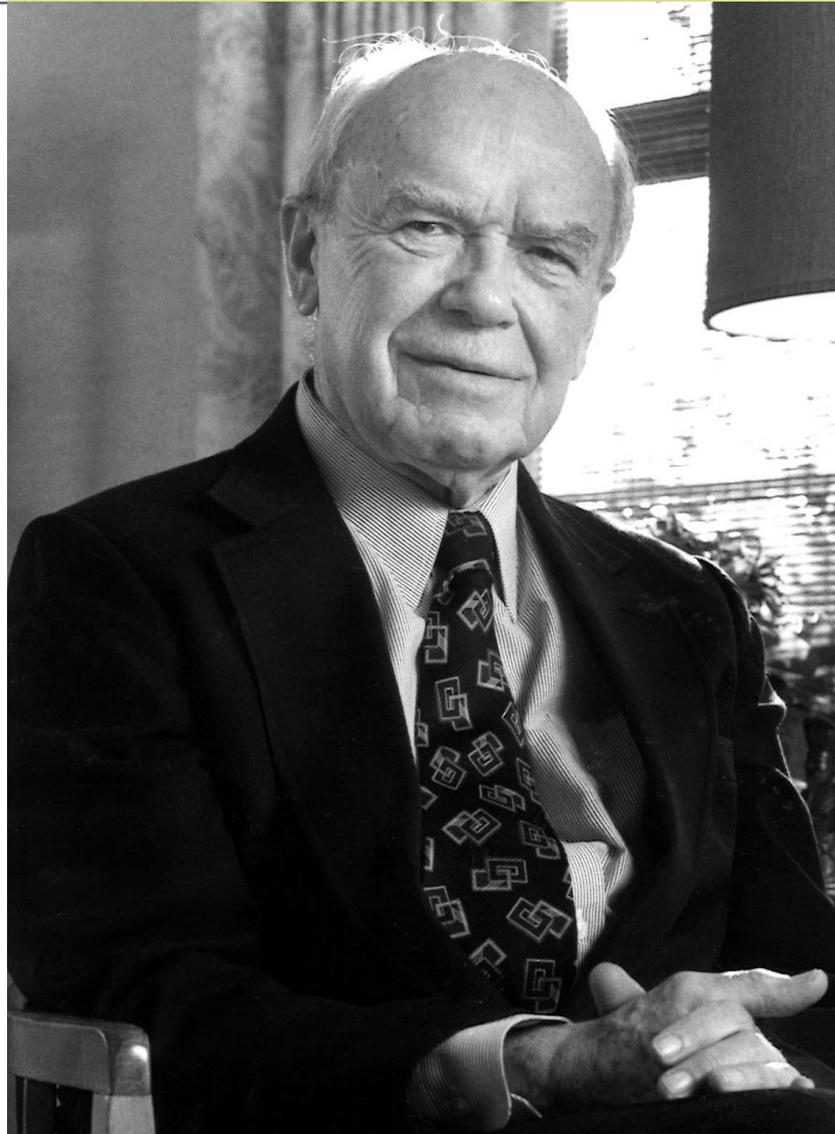
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## DONALD F. HORNIG 1920–2013

D

Donald Hornig's remarkable career spanned more than half a century. A science adviser to three U.S. presidents, he was a key figure in the Manhattan Project, the top-secret effort to build an atomic bomb during World War II, taught chemistry at Brown and Princeton universities and served as president of Brown before joining the faculty of Harvard School of Public Health in 1977.

Hornig's love for Harvard dated back to his arrival as an undergraduate on a Harvard College National Scholarship, a program created by University President James E. Conant "to enable young men of outstanding ability and promise to come to Harvard, no matter what their financial circumstances may be." That support changed his life.

"He grew up in Milwaukee, where his father was a carpenter and housebuilder, and his mother was a seamstress," said his daughter Joanna Hornig Fox, AB '68, "They lost almost everything in the Great Depression, but Harvard opened up the world for him."

At HSPH, Hornig was Professor of Chemistry from 1977 to 1990, serving as chair of the Department of Environmental Science and Physiology from 1988 through 1990. He was also founding director of the Interdisciplinary Programs in Health, which produced a distinguished cadre of multidisciplinary environmental scientists and brought together multiple faculties at Harvard.

When Hornig died on January 21, 2013 at the age of 92, *The New York Times* recalled his historic role "baby-sitting" the world's first atomic bomb at the request of Manhattan Project Director J. Robert Oppenheimer, who had become nervous about leaving the bomb alone in a small shed at the top of a 100-foot-tall steel tower. Hornig was "the last man to leave and the last to see the weapon before it changed human history," the *Times* recounted. He was also the designer of a novel firing unit that was essential to the bomb's detonation.

Hornig's deep commitment to Harvard was reflected in his decision to designate charitable contributions made in his memory to both HSPH and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences through a plan available to him as a member of the board of directors at Westinghouse Electric Company, now CBS Corporation. A fund created in his honor in the Department of Environmental Health, spearheaded by his dear friend and colleague Joseph Brain, SM '62, SM '63, SD '66, Cecil K. and Philip Drinker Professor of Environmental Physiology, further celebrates his life and contributions.

"Harvard School of Public Health brought together so many of my father's interests—from the environment to stopping the nuclear arms race," said Fox. "Harvard was my father's lighthouse, and HSPH was a fitting finale to an adventuresome career."

## 1913 SOCIETY

The 1913 Society honors individuals who have made a life income gift or bequest provision to the School. The 1913 Society, in addition to commemorating the year the School was founded, recognizes the vital role our supporters have played over the past century and the role they play today in ensuring our continued success.

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	Joan Smilow and Joel E. Smilow	
	Sandi Snegireff and Sergei L. Snegireff	

# M

“My father, Leonid Snegireff, MD, earned both his master’s degree (in 1939) and doctorate (in 1942) at the School of Public Health, and he later became a professor there. He was one of the first scientists to link lung cancer and cigarette smoking, publishing a paper on the topic in the early 1950s. At the time, this was very new, and there was obvious opposition to his findings. But he had the courage of his convictions and went about his business studying links between cancer, chemicals, and radiation.

“I have always wanted to honor my father at HSPH, and this gift is my way of doing that. Public health is tremendously underfunded, and yet it makes an enormous difference in global well-being. We are extremely blessed in this country, and I think it is important that those of us who live in a country that is blessed give back.”

—Sergei Snegireff

“As Sergei and I talked about his father’s legacy, I came to a much greater understanding of how critical public health is to the entire world. I sometimes think it should be called something other than ‘public health,’ because people often think of public health as being limited to initiatives such as free vaccines. In fact, it is so much more than that—it touches every aspect of our lives. All of us need to be educated regarding what public health is, so that we can more fully appreciate its benefits.”

—Sandi Snegireff

*Sergei and Sandi Snegireff’s planned gift will establish the Leonid Sergius Snegireff Fellowship in honor of Sergei’s father*



“I became passionate about maternal health during my obstetrics and gynecology rotation at Muhimbili National Hospital, the largest hospital in Tanzania. Seeing mothers suffering and even dying due to preventable pregnancy complications was heartbreaking. Why should women just die like that? I thought of the families they left behind, of their spouses and other children. This is why I decided to change my focus from individual patient care to the population level—to public health.

“I’ll never forget how I felt when I received my acceptance letter to Harvard School of Public Health. It was a dream come true. Even though attending Harvard meant leaving behind my beloved husband and two young children in Tanzania, I knew that it would be worth it. What I worried about was how I would pay for my tuition and living expenses. Without financial aid, I truly could not be here.

“I came to HSPH not just for myself but also for the millions of Tanzanians who are eager to see improvements in health for everyone. I am so very grateful to the donors whose gifts make it possible for students like me to do more to improve the lives of some of the world’s most vulnerable people.”



—Mary Mwanyika-Sando, MPH '13,  
Carson Scholar and Maternal & Child Health  
Services Coordinator, Management and  
Development for Health, Tanzania

## NAMED FINANCIAL AID FUNDS AT HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Financial aid for students remains the greatest fundraising priority for Harvard School of Public Health. The School is extremely grateful to our donors who have established and contributed to the following named fellowships and financial aid funds, which serve as leadership examples for student financial support. Funds created in fiscal year 2013 are highlighted in bold.

Helen Thayer Adams Scholarship

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Benjamin M. Banks Fellowship

Berkowitz Fellowship in Public Health Nutrition

Barry R. and Irene Tilenius Bloom Fellowship

Joseph D. Brain Fellowship in Environmental Health

Thorley D. Briggs Scholarship

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### **Danilovich Family Fellowship**

Dillon Family Fellowship in Population and  
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Dillon Family Fellowship in Population and  
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Mitchell L. Dong and Robin LaFoley Dong Scholarship

Endowment Fund for Education of Physicians from Taiwan

Myron E. Essex Fellowship for Students from Africa

Sumner L. Feldberg Fellowship

The Benjamin Greely Ferris, Jr. Fellowship in  
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Harvey V. Fineberg Fellowship in Cancer Prevention

Mary E. Wilson and Harvey V. Fineberg Education Fund

Mary E. Wilson and Harvey V. Fineberg  
Fellowship in Infectious Diseases

Melvin W. First Fellowship

Glickenhau Financial Aid Fund

Horace W. Goldsmith Fellowship

George Gund Endowment Fund

Lewis W. Hackett Scholarship

Julie E. Henry Student Support Fund for  
Maternal and Child Health

Hesed Africa Scholarship

HSPH DC Alumni Chapter Scholarship

Vasilios Stavros Lagakos Fellowship in Biostatistics

*“Research support and scholarship aid is essential if we are to fulfill our mission, both now and in the decades to come.*

— Gökhan Hotamisligil

Leadership Incubator Fund  
A.G. Leventis Fellowship for Greek Cypriot Students  
A.G. Leventis Fellowship for Nigerian Students  
Bernard Lown Fund in Cardiovascular Health  
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Dr. Charles F. Wilinsky Award Fund  
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Herbert S. Winokur, Jr. Fellowship in Public Health

M

“My lab is looking for the ‘soft spots’ in human design—the physical vulnerabilities that make us susceptible to common and complex diseases. In particular, we are exploring why chronic non-communicable diseases emerge in clusters. For example, someone who becomes obese is also more likely to develop diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease, and cancer.

“More broadly, we are seeking to better understand how the body responds to environmental factors, a necessary step towards improved population health. We focus on systems that control metabolism—how the body deals with surpluses or deficiencies in calories and nutrients. We consider the requirements for keeping an organism healthy in light of changing exposures to, and composition of, food, energy, and nutrients, as well as other environmental stresses.

“Those who successfully adapt remain healthy. Those who fail to adapt develop chronic diseases. This is the true ‘bottom line’ of public health.

“Research support and scholarship aid is essential if we are to fulfill our mission, both now and in the decades to come. Our students are the future, yet most could not afford to be here without fellowship support—and many promising students, especially those from other countries, are unable to enroll because of funding shortfalls. This is a tragic waste of talent—which is why student aid is the School’s number one funding priority.”



—Gökhan Hotamisligil, PhD '94, James Stevens  
Simmons Professor of Genetics and Metabolism and  
Chair, Department of Genetics and Complex Diseases

## FACULTY, STAFF, AND FACULTY *EMERITI*

We thank all members of our HSPH community for their work to make a healthier world. The following list recognizes our faculty and staff who made gifts to support the School in fiscal year 2013.

---

Anonymous (3)	Robert J. Glynn, SM '81, SD '85	Laurie S. Pascal, MPH '95
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Roberta Gianfortoni	Jennifer Musso	Guocheng Yuan
		Ellen M. Zane *

\* individuals who have made a gift for five or more consecutive years



“It is so important for the School to have flexible money to invest in new ideas, but money that comes without strings attached is hard to come by. I want to help with that.

“When you write a new proposal, you obviously can’t use funds that have come from other grants. You need a little pot of money from which you can draw to leverage key priorities. For example, we spent about \$30,000 on development of a proposal that, in 2011, led to an almost \$14 million grant from the Gates Foundation for the Maternal Health Task Force. In this way, with relatively little money, we managed to leverage a very large project.

“We also use flexible funds to open opportunities to students. For instance, we are now supporting a doctoral student’s participation in a family planning conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This trip will significantly increase the visibility of our work, and it will also be a wonderful career step for her. These additional opportunities cost so little compared to what they bring—in this case, a wonderful champion for global reproductive health.

“I truly believe in the mission of this School, and I want my colleagues to have the flexibility to advance their amazing portfolios. I know how limited our unrestricted resources are, and—in a very, very modest way—I want to help overcome some of these challenges.”

—Ana Langer,  
Director of the Women and Health Initiative



**A** “After serving on a volunteer alumni advisory council at the School, I came to appreciate how much HSPH depends on alumni support. Having been fortunate enough to enjoy some success in starting my own clinics, I wanted to give back. This is why I accepted an invitation to join the School’s Leadership Council.

“Many donors give to a specific cause, such as a program or a professorship, but I have always given unrestricted gifts. Gifts of this type fuel creative and innovative new programs. They also help defray expenses for students in need.

“If we trust the School—and I do—I believe we need to give its leaders the flexibility they need to accomplish their goals. Knowing that I am helping in this way has been very satisfying.”

—James (Jim) Manganello, MPH '80  
member of the HSPH Leadership  
Council

## VOLUNTEERS

The School is tremendously grateful to our many volunteers who, in partnership with faculty members and staff, are helping to advance the field of public health. We thank the following individuals for their commitment to HSPH and their service as volunteers during the 2013 fiscal year.

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# A

“As a doctoral student in the 1970s, I became fascinated with ways of melding technology with public health, and that interest has stayed with me. While I went on to a career in technology, I remained passionate about public health, and ten years ago was delighted to become a founding member of the HSPH Leadership Council. Over the years, my connection to the School has become very much a family commitment, with my wife, Paula, having a particular interest in women and health.

“What’s stepped up my involvement in recent years is the HarvardX initiative, which has allowed the School to offer global online classes in fields ranging from biostatistics and epidemiology to climate change. Taken together, they add up to far more than the sum of their parts, enabling the School to bring public health knowledge to India, China, and many other places around the world.



“The HarvardX initiative is outstanding on three levels: vision, mission, and people. The vision is to use technology to advance public health worldwide. The mission is to expand the availability of public health education, which HarvardX does through reducing costs, vastly increasing the number of students reached, and improving student experience. The people include Dean Frenk and Dean for Academic Affairs David Hunter—both absolutely stellar champions of the use of these technologies.

“The School is tremendously well positioned to advance the good of the world through HarvardX. I can obviously pick and choose in deciding where to get involved. But when that vision-mission-people triumvirate lights up, how can you not support that?”

—Steve Sneddon, SM '77, SD '79  
and Paula Sneddon,  
members of the HSPH Leadership  
Council’s Executive Committee

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Laurent H. Adamowicz  
Jody Adams



# A

“As the first director of the Harvard PhD Program in Health Policy, which includes six Schools, my admiration for the School of Public Health has grown. The Department of Nutrition, under Professor Walter Willett’s leadership, has become a top priority of mine. The Department’s research agenda and strong emphasis on training doctoral students are both exemplary. I have a deep appreciation for the critical importance of financial aid in attracting the best and the brightest students, and enabling them to complete the program in a timely fashion.

“I am pleased that my husband and parents, Muriel and David Pokross, joined me in establishing a multigenerational endowment for doctoral student aid in the Department of Nutrition, which we will continue to support. We sincerely believe that these students will foster a ripple effect worldwide, as they graduate and go on to influence many others.”

—Joan Curhan, former Director of Harvard PhD Program in Health Policy and Harvard College Secondary Field in Global Health and Health Policy and Chair of the HSPH Nutrition Round Table Steering Committee

“While working in the supermarket industry, I learned that countries where the population is most in need of improved nutrition often suffer from the worst food distribution problems. As a professor of marketing, I became interested in how these populations could be better served.

“We have focused on HSPH because its students, especially those from other countries, really need the assistance. The School truly is proficient in its use of gift monies, and donors can have great impact with their support.”

—Ronald Curhan, MBA '57, DBA '71, Professor *Emeritus*, Marketing Department, School of Management, Boston University and member of the HSPH Nutrition Round Table

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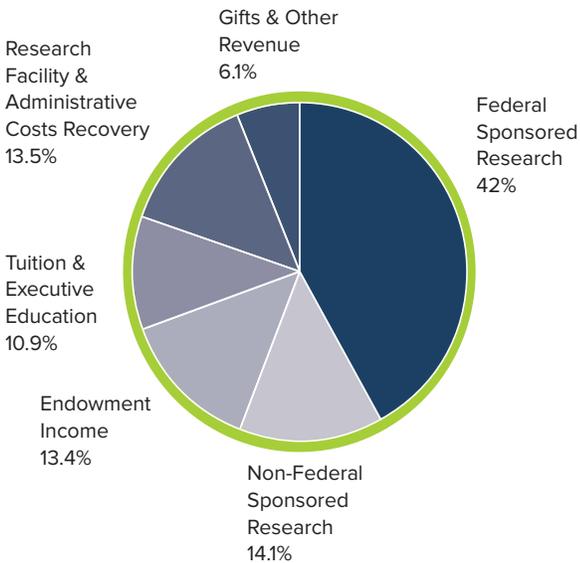
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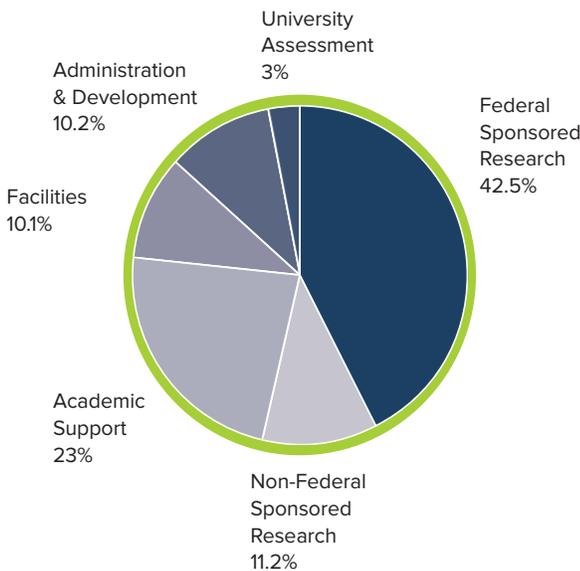
## *Fiscal Year 2013 Financial Highlights July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013*

### FISCAL YEAR 2013 Operating Revenue



Harvard School of Public Health saw marked improvement in financial performance in fiscal year 2013, reversing the recent trend of declining annual financial results. Year-over-year revenue growth of 5%—compared to just 1% growth in expenses—was a key factor in this favorable performance. Total revenues came to \$344 million. Non-federally sponsored revenue performed particularly well and the School’s sponsored research pipeline remains strong, with the number of proposals submitted in fiscal year 2013 and their total dollar value reaching record levels. Total sponsored support grew slightly, despite a small decrease in federal sponsored revenue caused by the wrap-up of two major programs: the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Other major revenue categories increased, combining with successful efforts in expense management, revenue diversification, and improved operational efficiencies to put the School on the path to long-term financial stability.

### FISCAL YEAR 2013 Operating Expenses



### FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

In FY13, the Campaign for Harvard School of Public Health was the major focus of fundraising activity. The School raised \$63.3 million in new gifts, grants, and pledges, growing the Campaign nucleus fund to \$155.4 million by the end of the fiscal year. Gifts from 1,405 HSPH graduates brought the alumni giving rate to 13%. Gifts to financial aid totaled \$2.7 million and 477 new donors joined the ranks of HSPH supporters in FY13.

As she collects data on changing fuel consumption and pollution trends in the Himalayas, Powers is also gathering anecdotes about the social impact of the solar cooker. For example, its novelty has rearranged the traditional division of labor within the family. “When I visit the villages,” Powers says, “some of the women come running up to me and say, ‘I can’t believe it, my husband actually is cooking!’”

#### ENDURING HARDSHIP

The success of Powers’ project has not come without personal cost. While working in Qinqhai, she contracted a multiparasite infection that completely debilitated her, with pain, fever, vomiting, skin rashes, and delirium. She credits her HSPH advisers for saving her life. They went to great lengths not only to locate her—no easy feat in such an isolated area—but also to arrange for evacuation to a hospital

in Hong Kong, where she spent two and a half months. All the while, she continued typing out ideas for her solar cooker, using the hand that was not hooked up to an intravenous drip.

Jack Spengler still worries about Powers returning to high altitudes to continue her work. But he knows that the same qualities that put her own health at risk are those that make her such a promising force for public health. “Some students are just handed data sets and told, ‘Analyze them,’” Spengler says. “Catlin decided to take her project to a remote area of the world, endure incredible hardships, and overcome them.”

#### CHANGING OUR FUEL HABITS

The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves estimates that 4 million people in the developing world die each year from smoke exposure to fuels like yak dung, wood, and crop residue. Powers says those popula-

tions are trying to change their fuel habits, but she fears they could move in the wrong direction.

“We live in a moment in history when millions of families are transitioning from traditional fuels to modern fuels like coal,” Powers says. “This transition could be disastrous for people and the earth—or it could be an opportunity to produce clean, convenient renewable energy available on a mass scale.”

That’s where her work comes in. “I would love our products to be not only symbols of transition towards a better future in developing nations,” she says. “I also would love to see them adopted by people in developed nations, who are still searching for ways to live in a sustainable way.”

*Karen D. Brown, an award-winning radio and print journalist based in Western Massachusetts, specializes in health issues.*

#### SECRETS OF SOUND HEALTH continued from page 17

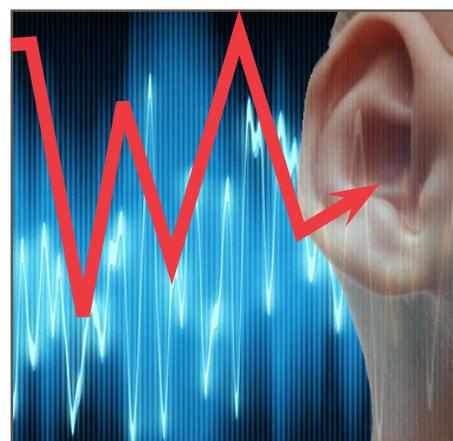
Dominici’s practical suggestions: alter airplane design to dampen engine noise; soundproof houses and other buildings near airports; reroute existing or future runways away from residential areas; and monitor the cardiovascular health of elderly residents who live near airports.

The policy implications of Dominici’s work would seem to extend to environmental noise more broadly. But making that leap isn’t easy. For one thing, it’s hard to assess whether a common and pervasive environmental exposure like noise contributes to disease, because there can be widespread confounding factors, such as smoking, alcohol, diet, age, or preexisting illness.

“In environmental policy, there’s an interesting dilemma,” Dominici says. “You have to figure out the right culprit, because people are exposed to many things at once. If I don’t isolate the specific source of the noise—if I just conclude that noise in general is bad for you—then the results won’t be translated into policy. The automobile industry would say, ‘It’s not my fault.’ The music industry would say, ‘It’s not my fault.’”

The hurdles to action, she adds, are political. “Environmental studies try to narrowly isolate one environmental exposure from another. Because to change policy, you must be able to point your finger at exactly what is making people sick.”

—Madeline Drexler is editor of Harvard Public Health.





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## In Memoriam: James H. Steele, MPH '42

James H. Steele, MPH '42—who is often referred to as “the father of veterinary public health”—died at age 100 on November 10, 2013.

Over a career during which dozens of emerging diseases came to light, Steele laid the groundwork for much of our understanding of how such infections jump from animals to people.

The lone veterinarian in a class of physicians at HSPH, Steele founded in 1945 the first veterinary public health program at the U.S. Public Health Service, where he served for 26 years. In 1971, after retiring from the Public Health Service, he joined the faculty of the University of Texas School of Public Health, where he served as professor *emeritus* until his death.

Steele became the nation's first assistant surgeon general for veterinary affairs in 1968 and deputy assistant secretary for health and human services in 1970. He advised the World Health Organization on veterinary public health for more than 50 years.

During a storied career, Steele pioneered work leading to development of a safe, effective rabies vaccine and spearheaded interventions that contained and prevented such infections as brucellosis and salmonellosis.

While a student at HSPH, Steele was on the verge of leaving when then-Dean Cecil Drinker came to the rescue with much-needed financial support. Steele repaid that investment with decades of support to student aid at HSPH and in the scores of young scientists he mentored.

“Human and animal health are inextricably linked,” Steele observed. “They always have been. They always will be.” Steele's obituary in *The New York Times* quoted Craig N. Carter, a veterinarian who studied under Steele and later wrote a biography of him, on Steele's influence in the field: “What would things be like if there had never been a Jim Steele?”

*James Steele was a loyal supporter of the School, who gave regularly to the HSPH Scholarship Fund for more than four decades. To make a gift in Steele's honor, please visit [hsph.me/give-now](https://hsph.me/give-now) and be sure to enter “In honor of Jim Steele” in the field marked “Comments/Other Designation.”*



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