



# SPH NEWSLETTER

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## International Symposium Examines Links between Nutrition and Economic Development

The American University of Armenia School of Public Health (AUA SPH) hosted a two-day international symposium on May 26-27, 2014 entitled “Nutrition as a Key to Economic Development: The Case for Armenia,” in which over 180 health professionals, program planners, and policy makers attended to increase their awareness on malnutrition in Armenia today.

The event was organized and sponsored by the AUA School of Public Health, the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR), and the World Vision Armenia. The co-sponsors of the event including the Jinishian Memorial Foundation, the Armenian Medical Fund, the American Armenian Health Professionals Organization and the JHM Charitable Foundation. The event held five sessions which covered childhood malnutrition, current assessments in childhood nutrition in Armenia, current nutrition interventions in Armenia, nutrition and non-communicable diseases, nutrition education, training, and capacity, and clinical issues in nutrition.



Speakers and Participants of the Symposium

Dr. Kim Hekimian from the Columbia University Institute of Human Nutrition and the AUA School of Public Health opened the International Symposium by

introducing the organizers, sponsors and her colleagues from the Columbia University. The Head of the Mother and Child Health Agency of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia, Dr. Karine Saribekyan, offered welcoming remarks on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

Attendees of the event learned about the current status of the “double burden” of malnutrition globally and in Armenia, the causes and consequences of under- and over-nutrition in Armenia, nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive policies and interventions relevant to Armenia’s current situation, the role of nutrition and lifestyle in communicable and non-communicable diseases, gaps in surveillance, data, training, and other areas to be addressed in further initiatives, and recommendations for interventions, capacity-building, and inter-sectoral partnerships for a nutrition action plan for Armenia. The presentations and videos from the symposium are available at <http://ns2014.aua.am/>.



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## SHARING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY PUBLICATIONS

▲ Giloyan, A., Harutyunyan T., Petrosyan V. Visual impairment and depression among socially vulnerable older adults in Armenia. *Aging & Mental Health* 2014, June 5:1-7 [Epub ahead of print].

▲ Rao K, Petrosyan V, Araujo EC, McIntyre D. Progress towards universal health coverage in BRICS: translating economic growth into better health. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2014; 92:429–435.

▲ Petrosyan, V and Anderson G.F. "Health Care Systems." *Bioethics*. Ed. Bruce Jennings. 4th ed. Vol. 3. Farmington Hills, MI: Macmillan Reference USA, 2014. P.1490-1496.

▲ Demirchyan A, Petrosyan D, Armenian HK. Rate and Predictors of Postpartum Depression in a 22-year Follow-up of a Cohort of Earthquake Survivors in Armenia. *Archives of Women's Mental Health* 2014; 17(3):229-237.



Drs. Greg Connolly and Narine Movsisyan

▲ Movsisyan NK, Connolly GN. Measuring Armenia's progress on the Tobacco Control Scale: an evaluation of tobacco control in an economy in transition, 2005–2009. *BMJ Open* 2014; 4: e004410.

▲ Harutyunyan A, Armenian H, Petrosyan V. Interbirth Interval and History of Previous Preeclampsia: a Case-Control Study among Multiparous Women. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. 2013; 13: 244.

▲ Harutyunyan A, Movsisyan N, Petrosyan V, Petrosyan D, Stillman F. Reducing Children's Exposure to Secondhand Smoke at Home: A Randomized Trial. *Pediatrics*. 2013; 132(6):1071-1080.

▲ Sahakyan Y, Thompson ME, Abrahamyan L. Sex differences in long-term outcomes of patients with percutaneous coronary intervention: the Armenian experience. *Healthcare in Low Resource Settings*. Published: 2013-09-24.

▲ Demirchyan A, Khachadourian V, Armenian H, Petrosyan V. Short and long term determinants of incident multimorbidity in a cohort of 1988 earthquake survivors in Armenia. *International Journal for Equity in Health* 2013, 12:68.

▲ Hovhannisyan L., Demirchyan A., Petrosyan V. Estimated Prevalence and Predictors of Undernutrition among Children Aged 5-17 Months in Yerevan, Armenia. *Public Health Nutrition*, first view published online on May 14, 2013.

▲ Narine K. Movsisyan, Varduhi Petrosyan, Arusyak Harutyunyan, Diana Petrosyan, Armen Muradyan and Frances A. Stillman. Smoking behavior, attitudes, and cessation counseling among healthcare professionals in Armenia. *BMC Public Health*, 2012; 12:1028.

▲ Demirchyan A, Petrosyan V, Thompson ME. Gender differences in predictors of self-rated health in Armenia: a population-based study of an economy in transition. *International Journal for Equity in Health* 2012; 11:67.

▲ Aghabekyan S, Thompson ME, Abrahamyan L. Medication Noncompliance and Patient Satisfaction Following Percutaneous Coronary Intervention. *Journal of Interventional Cardiology* 2012, Vol. 25, No. 5: 469-475.

▲ Yenokyan G, Armenian H. Triggers for Attacks in Familial Mediterranean Fever: Application of the Case-Crossover Design. *American Journal of Epidemiology* 2012 May 15;175(10):1054-1061.

▲ Thompson, M., Harutyunyan, T., Dorian, A. First Aid Training Course for Primary Health Care Providers in Nagorno Karabagh: Assessing Knowledge Retention. *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine* 2012, 6, 509-514.



## CONFERENCES

### 6th European Public Health Conference. Brussels, Belgium. November 13 – 16, 2013

▲ Khachadourian V, Armenian HK, Demirchyan A, Goenjian A. Loss and psychosocial factors as determinants of quality of life among survivors of the 1988 Armenian earthquake, a 23-year follow-up study [oral presentation].

▲ Demirchyan A, Petrosyan D, Armenian HK. Nested case-control study of predictors of postpartum depression in a long-term cohort of earthquake survivors, Armenia, 1990-2012 [oral presentation].

▲ Grigoryan R, Petrosyan V, Martirosyan H, Truzyan N, Crape B, Melkomian M D, Koshkakaryan M. Risk factors for developing drug-resistant tuberculosis from regular tuberculosis in Armenia: a case-control study, 2012 [oral presentation].

▲ Harutyunyan A, Armenian H, Petrosyan V. Interbirth interval and history of previous preeclampsia among multiparous women: a case-control study [moderated poster presentation].

▲ Movsisyan NK, Harutyunyan A, Petrosyan D, Petrosyan V, Stillman F. Making hospitals smoke-free: a demonstration project in Armenia [moderated poster presentation].

▲ Giloyan A, Yenokyan G, Amirkhanyan Y. Patients' knowledge about coronary artery disease risk factors after coronary artery bypass surgery and adherence to medication and lifestyle in Armenia [moderated poster presentation].

▲ Giloyan A, Harutyunyan T, Petrosyan V. The prevalence of and major risk factors associated with diabetic retinopathy in Gegharkunik region of Armenia, 2012 [poster].

### 6th European Conference on Tobacco or Health. Towards a Tobacco-Free Europe and World: Research and Policy Direction. Istanbul, Turkey. March 26-29, 2014

▲ Movsisyan NK. Cigarette smoking among 15-49 year old men: evidence from the 2005 and 2010 Armenia Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) [moderated poster presentation].

▲ Harutyunyan A, Movsisyan NK, Petrosyan V, Jilozian A, Bakhshyan A, Avetian L, Sookiasian PV. Tobacco advertisement, promotion and sponsorship in Armenia [moderated poster presentation].



Drs. Anahit Demirchyan, Ruzanna Grigoryan, Arusyak Harutyunyan, Vahe Khachadourian

## PUBLIC HEALTH SEMINAR SERIES

**The Next Phase: The Age for Building Health:** April 30, 2014, Dr. Haroutune K. Armenian, presented his thoughts and ideas on the next phase – the Age for Building Health during the public health seminar series. He spoke about three approaches to health: Curative, Preventive, and Promotive or Salutogenesis = Building or Generating Health and emphasized that these approaches should be implemented in parallel rather than in sequential phases.



Dr. Haroutune Armenian

**Impact of the Global Economy on Community Health: Cases of Toxic Tanneries and Metal Mining:** The AUA School of Public Health organized a seminar series on the impact of the global economy on the health of communities exemplified by toxic tanneries in Bangladesh and heavy metal poisoning worldwide. On April 14, Dr. Margrit von Braun provided a presentation “Toxic Tanneries” and on April 15, Dr. Ian von Lindern provided a presentation “Escalating Community Metals Poisoning Due to Changes in the Global Economy.”



Dr. Ian von Lindern

**Reflections of 20 Years of Public Health at AUA:** March 20, 2014, Dr. Michael Thompson presented a seminar on “Reflections of 20 Years of Public Health at AUA: Parallels between Quality Assurance in Healthcare and Accreditation in Public Health Education”. During the session he presented parallels in purpose, language, and evolution between hospital quality assurance and the accreditation of public health training, drawing linkages to the ongoing mission and efforts of the AUA School of Public Health.



Dr. Michael Thompson

## LATEST NEWS



Workshop Participants

**European Union (EU) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Partnership Program: “Improving Capacities to Eliminate and Prevent Recurrence of Obsolete Pesticides as a Model for Tackling Unused Hazardous Chemicals in the Former Soviet Union.”:** On April 22-23, the AUA School of Public Health hosted a technical review workshop which focused on the Rapid Environmental Assessment protocol to evaluate contaminated sites.

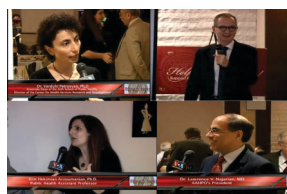
The workshop brought together experts from the Blacksmith Institute, the EU, the FAO, representatives from the Ministries of Health, Emergency Situations, Nature Protection and Agriculture, NGOs, and investigators from the AUA School of Public Health.



Historic MPH Leadership

**AUA School of Public Health Extends Affiliation Agreement with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health:** The American University of Armenia School of Public Health renewed its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH) (Baltimore, Maryland, USA) for another five years. The affiliation MOU facilitates the collaboration between the JHSPH and the AUA SPH to sustain, develop, and advance the MPH Program and the CHSR, to facilitate collaborative

work in research, education, and training, and to facilitate the JHSPH faculty to teach in the AUA MPH Program.



Drs. Varduhi Petrosyan and Kim Hekimian

**Pressing Public Health Issues in Armenia: a Presentation in New York:** The Armenian Medical Fund (AMF) and the American Armenian Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO) organized a joint event in New York City at Byblos Restaurant on November 1, 2013. The AMF and AAHPO invited Dr. Varduhi Petrosyan, the Associate Dean of the AUA School of Public Health, to provide a presentation on Tuberculosis and Other Pressing Public Health Issues in Armenia. The joint event brought together 65 professionals.

## MPH ALUMNI SUCCESSES



Neeraj Kishore Pandey

**Neeraj Kishore Pandey, MPH (2011)** was competitively selected for the position of Program Officer at JHPIEGO (an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University). JHPIEGO has been involved in projects to save the lives of women and families worldwide.



Diana Petrosyan

**Diana Petrosyan, MPH (2009)** was competitively selected for the position of Global Fund Voluntary Pooled Procurement Client Account Manager in I+solutions –an independent, international, not-for-profit organization in the Netherlands.



Sumit Kumar Bansal

**Sumit Kumar Bansal, MPH (2011)** was competitively selected to be the Surveillance Medical Officer at the World Health Organization's Country Office for India in the National Polio Surveillance Project.



Irina Papieva

**Irina Papieva, MPH (2005)** was competitively selected for the position of Technical Officer for Health Systems in the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Regional Office in the Country Office for India.

## To learn more

about the School of Public Health please contact: Phone: (+374 60) 61 25 92, Fax: (+374 60) 61 25 66, or E-mail: , 40 Marshal Baghramian Avenue Yerevan 0019, Republic of Armenia