

# PHPM The Liaison

November 2009

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## Administrative Staff

Anne Stemwedel  
*Administrator*

Mark Derby  
*Admin Coordinator/Grant  
Assistant*

Gloria Harrison  
*Administrative Coordinator  
& Newsletter Editor*

Curtis Winn  
*Office Assistant*

Stephanie Horace  
*Administrative Assistant*

*For a hardcopy of The  
Liaison, contact Gloria  
Harrison in the PHPM  
Administrative Office:  
harrisog@oshu.edu*

### **Awards:**

**Yiyi Chen**, “The Use of Testing Confidence Value for Transitional Decisions of Single-Arm Phase II Oncology Trials”, OCTRI Pilot Project Funding

**Thuan Nguyen**, “Fence Methods in Genetic Applications”, OCTRI Pilot Project Funding

Congratulations to Thuan and Yiyi for submitting successful applications to receive pilot project funding in biostatistics, bioinformatics and research design from the Oregon Clinical & Translational Research Institute (OCTRI) and the Knight Cancer Institute!

### **Submissions:**

**Dongseok Choi**, R21 National Eye Institute, “Predicting transcript factors in response to TNF or IL-1 treatment on TM cells”

*Please notify Mark Derby at 4-0181 or by email at [derbym@ohsu.edu](mailto:derbym@ohsu.edu) if you intend to apply for a grant .*



### **Willi Horner-Johnson is on a roll!**

On October 31, 2009, Willi received the New Investigator award at the annual meeting of the International Society for Quality of Life Research. The ISQOL New Investigator Award recognizes the best overall oral presentation made by an investigator in the early stages of their career in HRQOL research.

On November 9th, Willi received the 2009 New Investigator Award from the Disability Section of the American Public Health Association. This award recognizes a newer investigator who demonstrates evidence of a promising career in public health research in the area of health and wellness for people with disabilities.

## MPH Program News

**Please note that the PHPM Education Office will be closed from 12/25 through 1/3.** Any urgent administrative matters pertaining to our administrative programs should be brought to Tree's or Stephanie's attention prior to this time.

## Publications

- Yiyi Chen**, Brian J. Smith (2009) Adaptive group sequential design for phase II clinical trials: A Bayesian decision theoretic approach. *Statistics in Medicine* 28(27): 3347-3362.
- Riley, K, Rieckmann T, Edmundson E**, Ford J, **McCarty D**, Sustaining organizational change in substance abuse treatment agencies, *Qualitative Health Research*, in review
- Riley K, Edmundson E**, Ford J, Gustafson, D, **McCarty D**, Coaching to Improve Substance Abuse Treatment, *Consulting Psychology Journal: Practice and Research*, in review
- Rieckmann T, Edmundson E**, Ford J, Henderson S, **Fussell H, Riley K**, Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment: Organizational Change and Quality of Care, *Journal of Addiction and Offender Counseling*, in review
- Riley K**, and Lambert, W., Exit Interviews as a Strategy for Continuous Quality Improvement in a Master of Public Health Program, *American Journal of Public Health*, in review
- Watkins AS, Kempen JH, **Choi D**, Liesegang TL, Pujari SS, Newcomb C, Nussenblatt RB, Rosenbaum JT, Thorne JE, Foster CS, Jabs DA, Levy-Clarke GA, Suhler EB, Smith JR. Ocular disease in patients with ANCA-positive vasculitis.. *Journal of Ocular Biology, Diseases and Informatics* (accepted)

## Travel/Presentations

- McCarty, D., Rieckmann, T.**, Roman, P., Schmidt, L., Svikis, D., Kinnaman, J., Henderson, S., Abraham, A., Chalk, M., Molfenter, T., Capoccia, V. Implementing medication assisted treatment: The Advancing Recovery program. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA: November 10, 2009.

## Dr. Don Austin Testifies in Cancer Trials

As you may be aware, Dr. Don Austin has been testifying in trials where women have been suing several drug companies because their prescription hormone products cause breast cancer. There have been some sizable awards recently and because of that there is a news item (sponsored by some of the plaintiff's lawyers) that explains the issues (see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aB8t59giJY>). Dr. Austin's testimony has addressed whether the drug companies' hormone product is a cause of breast cancer, a topic also addressed in the last 2 years' Epi III classes (who unanimously concluded that it was a cause). You can see from the video that this is a public health issue, since the drug company has been misleading the prescribing doctors, with the result that many physicians believe the risk of cancer from continued use of the hormone therapy is trivial. It's one way Dr. Austin feels he can help bring about a change in the marketing of a drug which has caused an estimated 200,000 cases of breast cancer in the US over recent years. For more information, please contact Don Austin at [austind@ohsu.edu](mailto:austind@ohsu.edu).

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As you may know, **the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Cancer Information Service (CIS) Partnership Program will end January 14, 2010**. As we have talked about the work that we have collaborated on in the Northwest Region over time, we recognize that much of it would not have been possible without the knowledge and experience of our partners.

I wanted to take this opportunity, on behalf of the NCI's CIS-Northwest Region to acknowledge Tom Becker and his commitment and dedication to decreasing health disparities and improving the lives of those affected by cancer. His support for the CIS has made a profound impact on the cancer burden in our region. We will be eternally grateful for his willingness to partner with us and work together toward a common goal, winning the war against cancer.

Sincerely,

Alissa Green, MPH, CHES  
NCI's CIS Partnership Program-Northwest Region Staff

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## Staff and Job Changes in PHPM

**Julia Sonka** has recently joined our department as a Research Assistant II in Philippe Thuillier's lab. She earned a B.S. in Biology from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and has since worked in both laboratory and administrative aspects of research. Julia felt immediately at home in Portland and the collaborative environment at OHSU.

**Haritha Chava** also joined Philippe's lab in the capacity of Volunteer Intern.

**Kaebah Orme** is a newly hired Research Assistant II and will be working with the newly funded CDC Preventive Research Center under Tom Becker, and the DHHS HEY - Youth Empowerment Project under Bill Lambert. After five years of southern living in Atlanta, GA, Kaebah Orme has recently relocated to Portland, OR and is enjoying getting to know the beautiful Northwest. Kaebah received her B.A. in psychology from Macalester College in 2003 and her M.P.H. from Emory University in 2006. Her public health interests include increasing health care access to Native populations and other underserved communities. Outside of her work and educational endeavors, Kaebah enjoys running, camping, and chasing her two dogs around the dog park.

Dennis McCarty was recently award a ARRA grant through the University of Miami and NIDA. As part of this award, three Pacific University Grad Students under the direction of Holly Fussell and Barbara Campbell will be hired to complete work on the project. **Welcome, Mark, Elspeth and Julija!**

### Job changes:

Congratulations to **Anne Stemwedel**, who, in Early October, finally officially became our department's Administrator. No more "interim" in her title!

**Ana Hilde** was recently promoted to a Research Associate. Great job, Ana!

Congratulations to **Tosha Zaback** who was also recently promoted to Research Associate.

Congratulations also to **Caitlin Rasplica**, who recently went from being an intern to an official member of our Research Staff! Welcome (officially), Caitlin!

**Joanne Weidemann** was promoted to Research Associate in October. Way to go, Joanne!

## White Elephant/Potluck



This year's annual White Elephant Gift Exchange and Potluck will be held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Friday, December 18, 2009. There is a sign up sheet for the potluck on the front reception desk as well.



If you've never participated in a white elephant gift exchange before, you can get a general idea of what it entails by visiting this link:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White\\_elephant\\_gift\\_exchange](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_elephant_gift_exchange)

## Holiday Giving



HumanSolutions

Marisa Gholson and Lynn Kunkel have, once again, volunteered to lead this year's Holiday Giving. This year, PHPM will be collecting items for Human Solutions, a Homeless Families Warming Center in SE Portland. Within the next few weeks, a box will be put out in the PHPM front office and you can bring in toiletries, linens, and other supplies. Please see back page of this newsletter for more information.

**To learn more about Human Solutions, visit:**

<http://www.humansolutions.org/>





# PHPM Holiday Giving 2009!

This year our efforts will benefit **Human Solutions' Homeless Families Warming Center**, which provides a safe place to sleep for local families who are homeless. In addition, families are able to access housing, employment, and other social services that can aid them to end their homelessness. The Warming Center is open every day from 7pm-7am and is located on NE 81<sup>st</sup> Ave in Portland.

Homelessness is a serious problem in Portland and state-wide. According to a recent report by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Oregon has the highest per capita rate of homelessness in the nation*. The 2009 One Night Homeless Count identified *over 4,800 homeless individuals within Multnomah County*.

## How can you help?

The Warming Center is in constant need of:

- Pillows
- Blankets
- Sheets
- Pillowcases
- Moses Baskets
- Coats for all ages
- New scarves, hats, mittens, gloves
- Socks for all ages
- Strollers
- Backpacks
- New toiletries
- New towels
- Latex gloves
- First Aid supplies
- Toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates and bowls
- Plastic cups and eating utensils
- Disinfecting wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Instant and canned soups
- Breakfast cereals
- Gift cards for pizza places
- Hot cocoa mix
- Coffee grounds, sugar, creamer
- Tea

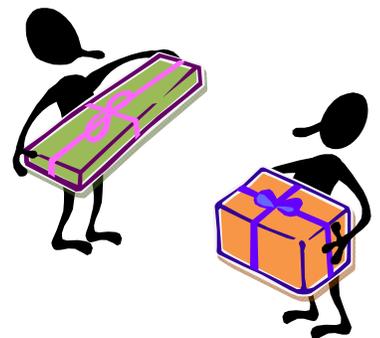
Items can be dropped off in the lovely decorated box in the PHPM main office (CB 669) and monetary donations can be given to Gloria Harrison (also in CB 669). Checks can be made out to: "Human Solutions".

**Please donate your items by Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Thank you in advance for your generosity!**

### Questions?

Please contact Marisa Gholson ([gholsonm@ohsu.edu](mailto:gholsonm@ohsu.edu) or 4-3165) or Lynn Kunkel ([kunkell@ohsu.edu](mailto:kunkell@ohsu.edu) or 4-2562)





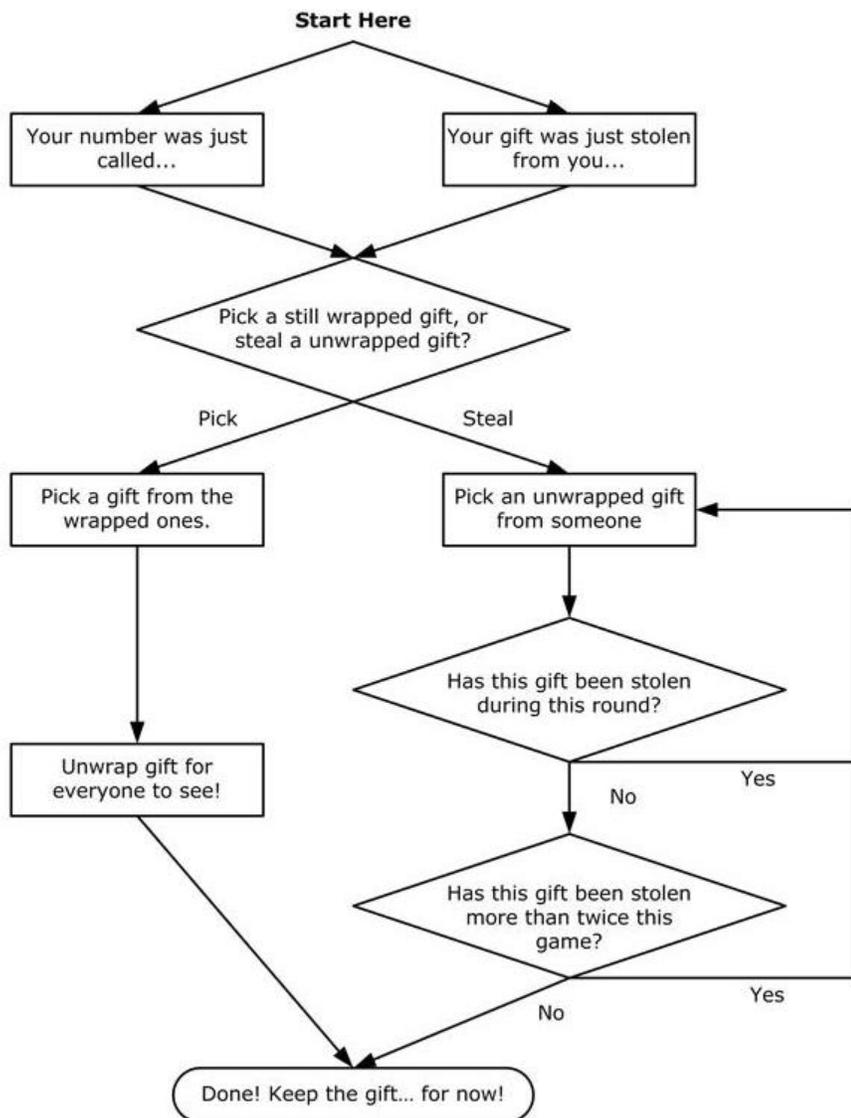
# White Elephant Gift Exchange and Potluck

## Friday, December 18, 2009

### 11:30AM—1:00PM

### PHPM Conference Room—CSB679

#### HOW TO PLAY



#### THE GIFTS:

1. The gift should be valued as close to \$15.00 as is reasonable.
2. The gift should be something someone would actually want or use. It should be in new or good condition.
3. The gift should be wrapped or in an envelope before arriving to the party. Gift bags are OK only if a wrapped item is inside.
4. As guests arrive to the party, the gifts should be placed in an area where few people can see who brought which gift. All efforts should be made to hide who brought which gift.

**A sign-up sheet for the potluck has been placed in the PHPM front office—CSB669. Or, contact Gloria Harrison by email: [harrisog@ohsu.edu](mailto:harrisog@ohsu.edu)**