It is indeed a pleasure to write an introduction for the inaugural issue of the FHS Newsletter.

As we have "built this airplane while flying it" over the past few years, we have commented frequently on the need to get better acquainted with each other. In an effort not to overburden faculty, staff and "administrators", we have delayed the introduction of the normal forms of communication like seminars and newsletters. However, we have suffered somewhat as a result, because in a very complex interdisciplinary Faculty like ours, we have a particular need to learn about and appreciate the activities of our colleagues.

This Newsletter will not solve the problem entirely, but it is a step towards improving communication and understanding. It will be evident in the following pages that we are an extraordinary group of faculty, staff and students. Celebrating our collective achievements will be one function that this Newsletter will serve, and communicating these achievements to our colleagues outside FHS at SFU, and across the BC population and public health landscape will be equally important. Early issues of Newsletters always suffer a bit from gaps in information so we should not interpret any omissions here as anything more than a lack of familiarity with the process. Undoubtedly, there are individual achievements of faculty, staff and students over the past year that have not been reported in this issue. Future issues will be more comprehensive and representative, and we should strive to ensure that all of our achievements are reported. We are still very young and inexperienced in "institutional" years, but we are already producing in important ways.

I look forward to the unfolding story of our Faculty that this Newsletter will document, and join with you in celebrating the achievements of our colleagues documented herein.

People News

Welcome to the following new faculty and staff members who have joined us since September 1, 2008:

- Kate Bassil (asst. professor)
- Sarah Fielden – Spring '09 Sessional Instructor for HSCI 401
- Benedikt Fischer (professor)
- Nancy Hall – Spring '09 Sessional Instructor for HSCI 830
- Angela Kaida – Spring '09 Sessional Instructor for HSCI 130 & HSCI 212
- Mark Lechner – Senior Teaching Lab Lecturer
- Frank Lee (asst. professor)
- Rob Lorway (asst. professor)
- Cari Miller (asst. professor)
- Ralph Pantophlet (asst. professor)
- Denise Zabkiewicz (asst. professor)
- Lingling Zhang (lab technician)
- Denise Zabkiewicz and Benedikt Fischer, who have joined the Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health & Addiction (CARMHA) (Fall 2008).
Kudos (Awards & Recognition)

Arun Chockalingam was invited to be a reviewer to the Scientific Review Committee of NHLBI's "GH Activities in Developing Countries to Combat Non-Communicable CV and Pulmonary Diseases" and to be a member of the US National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine International Task Force on "CVD in Developing Countries".

Laurie Goldsmith received a Citation of Merit for a review for Canadian Medical Association Journal (April 2008).

Laurie Goldsmith was invited to become a member of the steering committee for a feasibility assessment for a Centre for Excellence in Primary Care in BC.

Michel Joffres received the Robert Beamish Award at the recent Canadian Cardiovascular Congress, presented to the first author of an original research article published during the preceding three years in The Canadian Journal of Cardiology and judged to have the greatest (potential) impact on cardiovascular medicine.

Emily Kendall (MPH program) received the Pacific Graduate Entrance Scholarship and Special Graduate entrance Scholarship (Fall 2008).

Thiha Maung Maung (MPH program) received a CIHR Professional Master’s Award (Fall 2008).

Teaching and Program News

Immunology and Infectious Disease Journal Club

Organized by post doctoral fellow Dr. Nienke van Houten, this journal club is for any faculty, graduate and undergraduates with interest in the topic.

Coming Up:
- Jan. 15, 2009—Jonathan Choi (MBB)
- Jan. 29, 2009—Nienke van Houten (FHS)
- Feb. 12, 2009—Lisa Craig (MBB)

The AIDS Awareness Network (AAN) was founded in September 2008 by Master of Public Health students at the Simon Fraser University. AAN is aimed at engaging students in meaningful activities that develop professional skills and bring real benefits to society and to those affected by HIV/AIDS. The AAN has started a volunteer pool where students are sent to local community-based health organizations to volunteer, lend support in various forms and gain valuable experience in the process. To contact, email: aids.awareness.network@gmail.com

The first ‘Summer Institute in Addiction & Public Health’ was held at SFU Vancouver (2008) and organized by Drs. J. Somers and B. Fischer.

The first ‘CARMHA Rounds’ - monthly talks by prominent speakers on a wide range of topics relevant to mental health and addiction. Organized by Dr. J. Somers, this program is held at SFU Vancou-
Ralph Pantophlet was officially appointed to Editorial Board of the Journal of Virology (Jan 2009-2011) (JVI). His recent publication, “The HIV-1 envelope spike of primary viruses can suppress antibody access to variable regions” was also selected by the JVI editorial board for inclusion in “Spotlight,” a feature in JVI that highlights research articles of significant interest from the current issue.

Ellen Randall (MPH program) received a CIHR Professional Master's Award (Fall 2008)

Ashley White (MPH Program) received a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Junior Graduate Studentship Award and SSHRC CGS Masters Scholarship.


Erikson, Susan Concluded a 10-year research project on the politics of prenatal technology use in Germany. During this final stage of research, she conducted research of the German health regulatory and policy-making body, the Bundesauschuss. She was the first researcher, German or non-German, to be allowed access to observe and study the bureaucratic processes of this regulatory body. (Feb. 2008).

Susan also commenced her research on the political economy of women’s reproductive health in post-conflict Sierra Leone with a fact-finding preliminary trip to Freetown, Bo, Makeni, Kenema, and Panguma. (June-July, 2008)

Goldner, Elliot is partnering with Coast Mental Health, a non-profit community agency providing services to people with severe mental health and substance use problems.


Morrow, Marina (PI) Goldner, Malcoe, Goldsmith,et al. Centre for Research on Gender and Social Disparities in Mental Health and Addictions. CIHR Letter of Intent Approved with Development Funds ($10,000, November 2008).


Kudos (cont.)


Erikson, Susan (2008) "Wer sucht, der findet: Die Überproduktion von Risiko: Deutsche Ultraschallpraxis in der Schwangerschaft." ("Seek and Ye Shall Find' The Overproduction of Risk: German Prenatal Ultrasound Praxis") Da stimmt doch was nicht..., Margaretha Kurmann, ed. Düsseldorf: Bundesverband für Körper- und Mehrfachbehinderte e.V.


Fischer, B. Drug Policy and the Public Good (book project - to be published by Oxford U Press in early 2009)


Hayden, Mary, Christopher Uejio, Kathleen Walker, Frank Ramberg, Rafael Moreno, Linda O. Mears, Cecilia Rosales, Mercedes Garmenos, Emily Zielinski-Gutierrez, and Craig R. Janes Human and Environmental Factors in the Distribution of Aedes aegypti along the Arizona/Mexico Border. Ecohealth (forthcoming).


**FHS in the Community**

**Erikson, S.** (keynote speaker) March 2008 International conference (Dresden), *Logik, Praxis und Folgen vorgeburtlicher Diagnostik* (Logic, Practice, and Consequences of Prenatal Diagnosis). Her presentation addressed prenatal diagnostic technology use in Germany (presented in German).

**Erikson, S.** was a guest lecturer (Feb. 2008) at the Center for Maternal Health Research at the University of Osnabrück in Germany, where she presented research project data to her former colleagues and their graduate students. Prof. Erikson was a DAAD research fellow at the Center in 2006.


**Goldner, E.** – Served on the jury for the Institute for Health Economics Conference at the University of Calgary, which created national recommendations for a public health approach to depression. **Dan Bilsker of CARMHA** was also invited to lead the conference discussion of supported self-management approaches.

**Goldner, E.** – Chair, 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Canadian Academy of Psychiatric Epidemiology hosted by CARMHA at SFU Vancouver.

**Goldsmith LJ (2008).** Placing the cost-effectiveness of policy interventions in a policy context. Invited talk at the Think Tank on Cost-Effectiveness of Interventions for Prevention of Obesity, CIHR Institute on Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes, Toronto, ON, April 23, 2008.


**Malcoe LH** (Session Chair). Intersectionality in the global context. International workshop: Intersectionality from Theory to Practice: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue, Institute for Critical Studies in Gender and Health, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, April 18, 2008.


**FHS in the News**


**Fischer, B.** “First smoking, now the BlackBerry - Obama has to kick the ‘CrackBerry’ habit”, Canadian Press, Nov. 17, 2008


**Waddell, C.** “Raising a child with a mental illness” and “Children of Darkness” in Globe and Mail, Nov. 22, 2008 (part of the Globe’s series on Mental Health Crisis in Canada).