Public Policy & Environmental Health

Faculty: Alexander, Kuntz, Mandel, Osterholm, Valapour*, Virnig

Jeffrey H. Mandel, MD, MPH* Associate Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology of Environmental & Occupational Lung Diseases. My research focuses on the epidemiology of exposure-disease relationships in workers. I am the P.I. for four current studies including a general cohort mortality investigation of 46,000 miners, case-control studies of the above exposures and their association to 1600 cases of lung cancer and 80 malignant mesotheliomas and a cross-sectional investigation of the above exposures and non-malignant respiratory disease in 1200 current and former miners. These studies are done in collaboration with Dr. David Perlman (Assistant Professor, PACCS Division), Drs Alexander and Connett, and a T32 MSTP trainee.

Karen Kuntz, DSc*, Professor, Health Policy & Management Medical Decision & Policy Making. I use simulation modeling and statistical analysis of large data sets to study trends in disease incidence and mortality and to help in medical decision making and in establishing public policies. Specific areas of my interest relevant to the Lung Biology T32 are asthma policy modeling, and cost-effectiveness of screening and treatments for lung cancer (based on my prior work on colorectal and breast cancer). The effects of disparities in screening and treatment in cancer is another interest.

Beth Virnig, PhD,* Professor, Health Policy & Management; Associate Dean for Research, SPH Utilization of Health Care Services. I use large databases to examine several areas important for pulmonary and critical care medicine. Specifically I am interested in differences in end of life care between managed care and fee for service settings. I also am interested in lung cancer – analyzing surveillance methods and examining the efficacy of interventions.

Bruce Alexander, PhD, Professor, Environmental Health Sciences Long Term Outcomes from Environmental Chemical and Physical Hazards. I am interested in occupation and environmental epidemiology with emphasis on determinants of cancer, respiratory disease, traumatic injury, biomarkers and global health. Previously I looked at the long term consequences of occupational and environmental disease and injury. Recently I have been involved in the Northern Minnesota Taconite worker study with Drs. Mandel, Connett and Perlman. I supervise a MD-PhD student, Christine Lambert, supported by the Lung Biology T32 in her thesis work based on this project.

Michael Osterholm, PhD, MPH,* Professor, Environmental Health Sciences, Director, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy Health Policies and Preparedness for Influenza Pandemics and Biosecurity. I am interested in public policy and preparedness for threats including bioterrorism, pandemic influenza and food-borne disease. I am excited to interact and train individuals with pulmonary and critical care clinical backgrounds, as they are potentially on the front lines for both policies and care for a great variety of public health hazards.

Maryam Valapour, MD, MPP** Assistant Professor of Medicine and Bio-Ethics. Transplantation Public Policy and Bio-Ethics. My background includes formal training in Bio-Ethics at Johns Hopkins which complements the Public Policy degree obtained as part of my K23 award. A goal of my research is to understand the process of living donor transplants, including the informed consent component and the outcomes for recipients and donors. This
understanding will inform public and UNOS policies. I also serve as the lead pulmonologist for the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients and am involved in helping shape lung transplantation policy based on this data.