WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE?

• A branch of medicine concerned with the health of populations

• Health promotion, disease prevention, and health protection through interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral partnerships

• Using population health knowledge and skills to maintain and improve health of the community

• Implementation and evaluation of health programs to address community health issues

• Development of healthy public policy
CAREER PATHS IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

1. Practice of public health at local, regional, national, or international levels
2. Planning and administration of health services in institutions or in government
3. Community-oriented clinical practice with emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention
4. Assessment and control of occupational and environmental health problems
5. Teaching and research
REWARDS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

• Positively impact populations by working “upstream” to prevent disease, promote and protect health
• Dynamic and topical: always something new!
• Work/life balance
PUBLIC HEALTH

DISEASE PREVENTION
RISK ASSESSMENT
OUTBREAKS
EPIDEMICS
SURVEILLANCE
HEALTH PROMOTION
RESEARCH
Example - REGIONAL

- Dr. Patricia Daly
- **Chief Medical Health Officer**
- Vancouver Coastal Health

As Chief Medical Health Officer, Dr. Daly manages different public health issues by advising health professionals and the public.
Dr. Trevor Corneil
**Medical Director, Urban Primary Care**
**Vancouver Coastal Health**

As physician at Three Bridges Community Health Centre, Dr. Corneil is involved in primary care of vulnerable populations. He is also involved in research through UBC’s Department of Family Practice.
Example - PROVINCIAL

- Dr. Perry Kendall
- Provincial Health Officer
- Office of the Provincial Health Officer, Ministry of Health

As Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Kendall provides independent advice and reports on health issues to the provincial government and all British Columbians.
Example - PROVINCIAL

- Dr. Bonnie Henry
- Director, Public Health Emergency Management
- BC Centre for Disease Control

As Director of Public Health Emergency Management, Dr. Henry is responsible for dealing with public health emergencies. In 2003 she was one of the leads in the response to the SARS outbreak in Toronto.
Dr. Marcus Lem
Director, Health Protection
First Nations and Inuit Health, Health Canada

As Director of Health Protection, Dr. Lem oversees projects related to health protection of First Nations people in British Columbia.
Example - INTERNATIONAL

• Dr. Annalee Yassi
• Canada Research Chair, UBC SPPH
• Global Health and Capacity Building

Dr. Yassi conducts local and international health research to empower workforces and communities regarding their health determinants.
Example - INTERNATIONAL/PROVINCIAL/REGIONAL

- Dr. David Moore
- **Research Scientist**, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS
- **Director**, Public Health and Preventive Medicine Residency Program, SPPH, UBC
- **Clinical Associate**, Immunodeficiency Clinic, St. Paul’s Hospital

Involved in HIV research in BC and Uganda, HIV primary care, and academic administration.
Entry as an R1 from medical school

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<td>Introductory Rotation</td>
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<td>Family Practice</td>
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<td>Occupational Health</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>First Nations Inuit Health</td>
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**Residents not wishing to be certified in Family Practice may complete only one year of basic clinical training**
Entry as an R3 for Family Medicine graduates

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<td>BC Centre for Disease Control</td>
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### TRAINING SITES

#### CORE TRAINING SITES

- Health Authorities:
  - Vancouver Coastal Health
  - Fraser Health Authority
  - Interior Health Authority
  - Northern Health Authority
  - Vancouver Island Health Authority
- BC Centre for Disease Control
- First Nations and Inuit Health, Health Canada
- WorkSafe BC
- School of Population and Public Health, UBC

#### ELECTIVE TRAINING SITES

- Office of the Provincial Health Officer in Victoria
- BC Cancer Agency
- BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS
- Institute of Health Promotion Research
- Injury Prevention Research Centre
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Canadian International Development Agency
Electives for Medical Students are available with UBC Public Health and Preventive Medicine, many at the core and elective sites, such as:

- BC Centre for Disease Control
- BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS
- Health Authorities - Vancouver Coastal, Fraser, Interior, Vancouver Island
- First Nations and Inuit Health
WHAT DO RESIDENTS LEARN?

• Methods of Population Health Assessment
  – Epidemiology and Biostatistics
• Approaches to dealing with social/ behavioural/ economic determinants of population health
  – Developing healthy public policies
• Communicable Disease Prevention and Control
• Approaches to prevention of Chronic Disease and Injury
• Environmental and Occupational Health
• Program planning, implementation and evaluation
• Health care management and administration
WHAT DO RESIDENTS DO?

• Work with Public Health specialists
• Monitor health of populations
  – Routine data collection systems
  – Specialized research studies
• Monitor systems already in place to protect public health and act to address gaps in protection
  – Outbreaks of communicable diseases
  – Planning for emergencies
  – Investigate potential disease clusters
WHAT ELSE DO RESIDENTS DO?

- Assist in development of new programs
  - Health promotion activities
- Participate in advocacy activities
  - Health Officer’s Council
  - Public Health Association of BC
  - Union of BC Municipalities
- Work on public policy proposals
  - Office of the Provincial Health Officer
Residents on tour of the Capilano Watershed
Residents at their annual retreat
Residents during media training
CONCLUSIONS

• Public Health & Preventive Medicine training offers many opportunities for interesting careers.
• Can be involved in individual patient care, as well as important policy discussions, which affect entire populations.

• For more info about our program see www.spph.ubc.ca under “Academic Programs/Residency”.