

Baffling Disappearance Of CDC Epidemiologist Remains Unsolved After More Than One Month

As noted last month in our Notes on People feature and widely reported in the media, CDC epidemiologist Tim Cunningham has been reported missing for over a month now. The case is baffling his family, friends, and investigators because Cunningham disappeared without a clue. The police have characterized the case as very unusual because his wallet, mobile phone, credit cards, keys, automobile, and even his much loved dog were all found in the home.

On the last day he was seen, it was widely reported based on police statements that Cunningham had met with his supervisor that morning after being passed over for a promotion. He subsequently said he was ill and left work early. He has not been seen since.

According to acting CDC director Anne Schuchat, "There has been news coverage that Commander Cunningham recently did not receive a promotion. As many of his colleagues in the USPHS have pointed out, this information is incorrect. In fact, he received an early promotion / exceptional proficiency promotion to Commander effective July 1, 2017, in recognition of his exemplary performance in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). Over and above any of his assignments at CDC, his early promotion within the USPHS reflects his excellence as an officer and an employee."

According to USA Today, the Atlanta police department is "...standing by

- Missing continues on page 2

College Factual Ranks Top 20 Colleges For Public Health Majors

The 2018 rankings of colleges for public health majors have been published by College Factual, a college ranking service. It ranks majors at schools based on overall college quality, accreditation, relatedness of the majors at the school,

percentage of students majoring in the area, and graduate earnings.

Commenting on their No. 2 ranking, Elahe Nezami, a dean at the

- College cont'd on page 2

In This Issue

**-3-
5 Challenges Facing Public Health**

**-4-
Epi Limerick Contest**

**-6-
Notes on People**

**-7-
Near Term Epidemiology Event Calendar**

**-10-
Marketplace**

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its statements, saying the information
came directly from the CDC. This
conflicting information makes the
already mysterious missing person
case even more confusing."

Below are additional facts about the
case as reported by various media
sources.

- He called in sick in the two
workdays before his Feb 12
disappearance
- His home was locked but two
windows had been left open
- He sent a text to his mother
very early in the morning on
the day he disappeared while
her phone was turned to silent
- His father said that some
exchanges with his son via
phone as well as text on the
day before he disappeared
raised concern.
- Two days before disappearing,
he asked a neighbor to have
his phone number deleted
from the neighbor's wife's
phone.

A reward of at least \$20,000 has now
been announced for information on
the disappearance. Anyone with
information about Cunningham is
asked to call the Atlanta Police
Homicide/Missing Persons Unit at
404-546-4235. ■

University of Southern California said
"It is gratifying to be recognized for
continuing excellence in undergraduate
public health education at the Keck
School. Our faculty, staff, and
administration work together to ensure
students are prepared to respond to
real-world health challenges, and this
accolade highlights these efforts..."

To view the full list of Top 100 rankings
and/or learn more about the ranking
methodology, visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/ycd8m4ws>

The colleges ranked as having the top 20
public health majors for 2018 are:

College	Score
1. University of California, Berkeley – Berkeley CA	10
2. University of Southern California – Los Angeles CA	9.9
3. Georgetown University – Washington DC	9.8
4. Johns Hopkins University – Baltimore MD	9.7
5. University of Washington – Seattle – Seattle WA	9.6
6. Brown University – Providence RI	9.5
7. Rutgers University – New Brunswick NJ	9.4
8. George Washington University – Washington DC	9.3
9. University of Massachusetts – Amherst MA	9.2
10. University of Florida – Gainesville FL	9.1
11. Indiana University – Bloomington IN	9.0
12. University of Georgia – Athens GA	8.9

Health Officers Report Identifies Five Major Challenges Facing US Public Health

Stating that “Our nation’s public health capacity is functional, but fragile”, and “Health threats are increasing, not decreasing”, a report by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) has identified five priority issues facing health departments nationwide. They are:

1. Addressing the opioid crisis and preventing substance misuse and addiction. More than 60,000 deaths occurred in 2016 alone, and that represents more than 100 deaths every day. According to the report, “we will not treat our way out of this emergency” and “preventing addiction is the best way to end our nation’s current epidemic.”

2. Reducing illnesses and deaths from preventable chronic diseases. According to the report, “for every dollar, the United States spends 97 cents on healthcare delivery and 3 cents on prevention and public health.”

3. Preventing infectious disease outbreaks. The importance of infectious diseases is illustrated by the increases in rates of sexually transmitted diseases, healthcare associated infections, and other diseases such as hepatitis C which affects 2-4 million persons.

4. Managing public health emergencies. The report notes that 2017 was the costliest year on record for weather-related disasters, and there is an ever evolving list of public health threats that must be addressed to manage the consequences of national emergencies to help save lives.

Funding for preparedness related work has declined almost one-third since 2002 for these activities.

5. Protecting drinking water from environmental health threats. This is about maintaining a water supply that is among the safest in the world. Resources are needed to bolster the protection of these supplies from threats from multiple sources.

According to Michael Fraser, ASTHO executive director, “the top five issues identified by state and territorial health officers represent some of today’s greatest threats to public health nationwide. However, if we act now, they also present tremendous opportunities to protect and promote health.”

Invisible Public Health Benefits

The ASTHO report highlights many public health activities whose benefits often go unappreciated by Americans because the targeted diseases are prevented from occurring in the first place. These “invisible benefits” include those associated with screening all newborn babies to identify life-threatening genetic illnesses, immunizations against vaccine-preventable diseases, clean water protecting against water-borne diseases (safe water), prevention of food-borne illnesses (safe foods), and public health laws such as those to prevent injuries of many kinds and those which create smoke-free workplaces.

To access the report, visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/ydg3zaxr>

“...we will not treat our way out of this emergency...”

“...2017 was the costliest year on record for weather-related disasters...”

More Amusing Entries Received In Limerick Contest

Chances of Winning \$300 Are Still Good

Submit Now Before March 30 Deadline

We have received more entries in our limerick contest announced in January. The idea behind our limerick contest is to write the definition of a common word in epidemiology which weaves a joke into an accurate description of the word's meaning.

Readers are encouraged to create a humorous limerick definition for any epidemiology related word of their choice. Some entries have been submitted without indicating clearly which word is being defined, so please provide that information. Sometimes the word or phrase being defined is obvious, but not always.

A limerick, according to Dictionary.com is a kind of humorous verse of five lines, in which the first, second, and fifth lines rhyme with each other, and the third and fourth lines, which are shorter, form a rhymed couplet.

The definition judged to be the most clever, humorous, and still accurate will receive a \$300 prize. The deadline for submitting entries to epimon@aol.com is March 30, 2018. All entries must be original and not obtained from other published sources. Each entry should provide the word being defined in the limerick.

The following are additional samples of the limericks we have received so far. These are some of the contest limericks you have to beat to win!

Intervention

Consider the term "intervention,"
The opposite of inattention:
In short, what you do
Once you've processed the clue,
While avoiding a show of pretension.

IBS Disease

A woman with "ibs" can't control it;
She stays off her bed lest she soil it.
So to take all the guess
Out of gastric distress,
She spends all her days on the toilet.

Health

My doc declared smoking is barred:
I should stop or my lungs will be scarred.
Then he said with a wheeze
"The solution's a breeze...
It's just the commitment that's hard."

Confounding!

Extra! Extra! Of coffee beware!
Causing a huge pancreas cancer scare!
But what of smoking cigs,
Often paired with java swigs?
The real culprit confounded, no fair!

Untitled

When P values have shown you
lubricity
You may suffer from heteroscedasticity
If your rho is too large
Say 'GEE' and take charge,
And that should restore your felicity!

*"Thanks for
organizing this fun
contest."*

*KL
University
of Utah*

Epidemiology

There once was a Science called
Epidemiology
Statistical results, they make no
apology
The distribution and determinants
Ever changing, never permanent
Then followed the trends and looked to
defend
All random outcomes through
information bias.

Epidemic

It's more than expected given the
past
It's rife, it's grim, everyone's aghast
The egg salad is to blame
Picnics won't be the same
Let's just hope this one ends fast.

TB

A world free of TB is our mission
It's a disease that's the worst of
conditions
We won't ever stop
Til we can shout from rooftops:
"No more need for Red Snapper
physicians!"

Untitled

We Epis are often called gumshoes
Tho' cocktail parties will sometimes
confuse
At the mention of skin
We just have to grin
And creepy rash diagnoses refuse.

Untitled

Disease can spread fast and furious
Explanations are often times spurious
Surveillance in action
Can give us the traction
To find answers for those who are
curious.

-College cont'd from page 4

College	Score
13. University of Maryland – College Park MD	8.8
14. University of Texas at Austin – Austin TX	8.7
15. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – Chapel Hill NC	8.6
16. George Mason University – Fairfax VA	8.5
17. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign – Champaign IL	8.4
18. University of Utah – Salt Lake City UT	8.3
19. University of Arizona – Tucson AZ	8.2
20. Santa Clara University – Santa Clara CA	8.1

*"It's just the
commitment
that's hard."*

*"Let's just hope
this one ends
fast."*

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Notes on People



Died: Walter W Holland, of prostate cancer on February 9, 2018 at age 88. Holland was a UK epidemiologist described by the Lancet as a pioneer health services researcher. He was active in the International Epidemiological Association for many years. According to Professor Alistair McGuire of the Department of Health Policy at the London School of Economics, "he put the study of avoidable mortality on the map". The Lancet has published a remembrance at: <https://tinyurl.com/ycmjfmo5>



Running for Office: Eric L Ding, an epidemiologist, nutrition scientist, and health economist, for representative in Pennsylvania's 10th congressional district which includes the city of Harrisburg. Ding told the Harvard Crimson he will advocate for affordable health care and bring evidence-based policy back to Washington. He told Roll Call, "I think the message that Donald Trump has been dismantling all these different public opportunity and safety nets will really resonate with voters....And I'm actually here to solve the opioid epidemic ... I'm an epidemiologist. This is what I do."



Appointed: Victoria M Gammino, as Chief Science Officer for Radiant Earth, a leader in open Earth imagery for the global development community. A former CDC epidemiologist, Gammino will lead global health research projects, help to improve access to geospatial data, and strengthen public-private partnerships in the global health community. "We aim to expand geospatial infrastructure to countries and institutions that lack it most, yet require it to fulfill their global health and development missions," she said.

Profiled: Miranda Jones, assistant professor in epidemiology, Lorraine Dean, assistant professor in epidemiology, Gregory Kirk, professor in epidemiology, Tania Poteat, assistant professor in epidemiology, Avonne Connor, assistant professor of epidemiology, and Anne Rositch, assistant professor in epidemiology in the spring 2018 issue of Hopkins Bloomberg Public Health. The six epidemiologists are seeking to eliminate disparities in cancer incidence and outcomes. To read the profiles, visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/y7aptd3x>



Near Term Epidemiology Event Calendar

Every December The Epidemiology Monitor dedicates that issue to a calendar of events for the upcoming year. However that often means we don't have full information for events later in the year. Thus an online copy exists on our website that is updated regularly. This year we will print upcoming events in the Monitor monthly. To view the full year please go to: <http://www.epimonitor.net/Events>

April 2018

April 4-7 <https://tinyurl.com/y8hk87kn>

Conference: 19th Congress of the Section of Epidemiology & Social Psychiatry at the EPA / European Psychiatric Association / Vienna, Austria

April 9-13 <https://tinyurl.com/y7abae5>

Short Course: Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases / Erasmus MC / Rotterdam, The Netherlands

April 9-13 <https://tinyurl.com/ybe5ufry>

Short Course: Global Issues in Non-Communicable Diseases / London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine / London, England

April 9-13 <https://tinyurl.com/yd9saktq>

Short Course: Repeated Measurements / Erasmus MC / Rotterdam, The Netherlands

April 10-12 <https://tinyurl.com/y859ozmh>

Conference: 2018 Epidemiology & Lab Capacity for Infectious Diseases Grantees Meeting / CDC (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention) / Atlanta, GA

April 11 <https://tinyurl.com/ybjq34lj>

Webinar: Cancer in Incarcerated Populations / National Cancer Institute / Online

April 12 <https://tinyurl.com/ya2n224s>

Conference: 2018 Annual Meeting of the NIHR of HPRU / NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) Health Protection Research Unit / Oxfordshire, England

April 12 <https://tinyurl.com/ycr6ruq7>

Short Course: Multiple Imputation for Missing Data / University of Bristol / Bristol, England

April 13 <https://tinyurl.com/ybd6hrbz>

Short Course: Advanced Multiple Imputation for Missing Data / University of Bristol / Bristol, England

April 14-18 <https://tinyurl.com/y7tlyc5s>

Conference: AACR 2018 / American Association for Cancer Research / Chicago, IL

April 16-19 <https://tinyurl.com/y76xs3ed>

Conference: Epidemic Intelligence Service 2018 Conference / CDC (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention) / Atlanta, GA

April 18-20 <http://sheaspring.org/>

Conference: SHEA Spring 2018 / The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America / Portland, OR

April 21-24 <https://tinyurl.com/y727ocvk>

Conference: ISPE Mid-Year Conference 2018 / International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology / Toronto, Canada

April 21-24 <https://www.edeg2018.com/>

Conference: EDEG 2018 / European Diabetes Epidemiology Group / Elsinore, Denmark

Near Term Epidemiology Event Calendar *continued*

April 23-27 <https://tinyurl.com/ya5gn5cx>

Conference: International 2018 Convention / World Federation of Public Health Associations / La Habana, Cuba

April 24-26 <https://tinyurl.com/yc5b4uqf>

Conference: 35th Annual Oregon Epidemiologists Meeting / OREPI (Oregon Epidemiologists) / Sunriver, OR

April 26-27 <https://tinyurl.com/y7b5kwtv>

Conference: 2018 Health Datapalooza / Academy Health / Washington, DC

April 29 - May 4 <https://tinyurl.com/jghhyv2>

Conference: 2018 HEI Conference / Health Effects International / Chicago, IL

April 29 - May 4 <http://icoh2018.org/wp/>

Conference: ICOH (International Commission on Occupational Health) 2018 / Multiple Sponsors / New York, NY

May 2018

May 2-4 <https://tinyurl.com/y9gxryms>

Conference: 2018 Conference / World Psychiatric Association - Epidemiology & Public Health Section / New York, NY

May 3-4 <https://tinyurl.com/y7a82nvm>

Conference: 2018 WREN Conference / Western Regional Epidemiology Network / Ashland, OR

May 8-10 <https://tinyurl.com/y83hz87a>

Short Course: Epigenic Epidemiology / University of Bristol / Bristol, England

May 11 <https://tinyurl.com/yc6lvcxl>

Short Course: Advanced Epigenic Epidemiology / University of Bristol / Bristol, England

May 12-23 <https://tinyurl.com/y874fnht>

Short Course: Epidemiology & Statistics for Mental Health Research / University College London / London, England

May 14-18 <https://tinyurl.com/ml96d49>

Short Course: Public Health Surveillance / Emory University - Rollins School of Public Health / Atlanta, GA

May 14-18 <https://tinyurl.com/yayfeluc>

Short Course: Cancer Epidemiology / Erasmus MC / Rotterdam, The Netherlands

May 16-18 <https://tinyurl.com/y8lxn9vb>

Conference: 10th Regional Scientific Conference / TEPHINET (Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network) / Cartagena, Columbia

To add your event to our calendar or place an ad for your event please go to
<http://epimonitor.net/Post-an-Event.htm>

Full year online calendar
<http://epimonitor.net/Events.htm>

Printable 2018 Calendar
<https://tinyurl.com/y95pm5n>

Near Term Epidemiology Event Calendar *continued*

May 20-23 <https://tinyurl.com/yaerhuhk>

Conference: 39th Annual Meeting / Society for Clinical Trials / Portland, OR

May 21-24 <https://tinyurl.com/gowea7x>

Conference: WHO World Health Assembly / World Health Organization / Geneva, Switzerland

May 21 - June 8 <https://tinyurl.com/y8s7ej7k>

Summer Program: Summer Public Health Institute / University of Minnesota / Minneapolis, MN

May 23-24 <https://tinyurl.com/ycejzfy0>

Short Course: Cardiovascular Epidemiology / Erasmus MC / Rotterdam, The Netherlands

May 23-26 <https://tinyurl.com/y76ah6wp>

Conference: Preventive Medicine 2018 / American College of Preventive Medicine / Chicago, IL

May 28- June 1 <https://tinyurl.com/y8nlfdh6>

Summer Program: Summer School in Health Statistics / McGill University / Montreal, Canada

May 28 - June 1 <https://tinyurl.com/ybqngqhs>

Conference: 44th Annual Conference / Kettil Bruun Society / Chiang Mai, Thailand

May 29 - June 1 <https://tinyurl.com/yb3qvq5y>

Conference: 26th Annual Conference / Society for Prevention Research / Washington, DC

May 31 - June 1 <https://tinyurl.com/yb3qvq5y>

Conference: 4th International Molecular Pathological Epidemiology Meeting / Multiple Sponsors / Boston, MA

May 31 & June 1 <https://tinyurl.com/y8tqaw7n>

Short Course: Introduction to Epidemiology & Study Design / University of Bern / Bern, Switzerland

May - TBA <https://tinyurl.com/y8wbpg83>

Short Course: Psychiatric Epidemiology / Erasmus MC / Rotterdam, The Netherlands

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The Department of Research and Evaluation is seeking research project managers and senior research project managers interested in managing medium to large scale epidemiologic research studies. To apply for these open positions, please visit see the Kaiser Permanente job website: <http://www.kaiserpermanentejobs.org/jobs.aspx> and search using one of the following job numbers in the keyword field:

554489 - Research Project Manager positions **676590** - Research Project Manager/Senior Research Project Manager - Vaccine Safety and Effectiveness Research The Research Project Manager/Senior Research Project Manager will provide support to studies conducted by the KPSC Center for Vaccine Safety and Effectiveness Research. Studies may include Phase IV vaccine postmarketing studies, studies of vaccine safety or effectiveness, epidemiologic studies of vaccine preventable diseases, and vaccine coverage and compliance studies. Please also email your CV to <mailto:allan.slatkin@kp.org>.

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Julia Jones Matthews
Department of Public Health

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Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

CANCER EPIDEMIOLOGIST FACULTY POSITION

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, New York

Applications are invited for a faculty appointment in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. We seek a colleague who will build a program of independent research in cancer epidemiology in a multidisciplinary collaborative environment located in a major academic cancer center.

The MSK environment encourages and provides unparalleled opportunities for fostering multi-disciplinary collaborations with clinicians, geneticists, pathologists, biostatisticians, cancer biologists and others involved in cancer research as well as patient care. Our large patient population, coupled with the extensive core facilities and distinguished research tradition provides exciting opportunities and a dynamic environment for the creation of an independent research program in epidemiology. Unique features of the institution include access to considerable numbers of rare cancer types, patients with double malignancies or other known genetic syndromes, and rapid access to large populations of patients with more common types of cancer. There are also numerous opportunities to build upon and expand existing on-going epidemiologic investigations.

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Medical School

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Faculty Position at the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team – Health Equity

The Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team on American Indian and Rural Health Equity (MK-MDT) is recruiting a social epidemiologist or equivalent researcher to join our dynamic and growing core of faculty investigators and staff. The MK-MDT researches the synergistic occurrence of diabetes and dementia in Indigenous and rural populations using a social determinants of health lens. MK-MDT faculty investigators work in an interdisciplinary team science research environment.

This is a tenure-track academic appointment at the rank of associate professor [or professor] to the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth Campus. Rank and salary commensurate with experience. The successful candidate will be appointed as a faculty investigator and physically located with the MK-MDT, with academic home in the Department of Family Medicine and Biobehavioral Health.

Duties and responsibilities of the position include: developing and implementing applied research on Indigenous (e.g., American Indian/Alaska Native/First Nations) and rural health disparities in dementia and diabetes, as aligned with the strategic goals of the MK/MDT and the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus; in close collaboration with community partners, develop and conduct interdisciplinary dementia and diabetes health disparities research among rural populations, including rural Indigenous, other rural ethnic minority, and rural majority populations of all ages groups; participate in collaborative interdisciplinary team science with MK-MDT faculty, including active contributions to community engagement, workshops, and funding applications; and, contribute to teaching and service in the Department of Family Medicine and Biobehavioral Health on the Duluth campus and its mission in rural and Indigenous health.

Required qualifications: PhD in Epidemiology or equivalent; track record in high impact epidemiological or equivalent research with an emphasis on health equity; background or interests in, and a willingness to adhere to principles of Indigenous data sovereignty; knowledge and experience in one or more of the following areas: chronic disease, syndemics, multi-causative disease pathways, rural or Indigenous health; history of external funding from NIH or equivalent sources; strong record of peer reviewed publication in one or more of the following areas: diabetes, dementia, rural, or Indigenous health; experience with and/or valuing of quantitative, qualitative and mix-method research design.

Preferred qualifications: Indigenous lived experience, as well as demonstrated experience working with Indigenous peoples, cultures and communities; Experience and demonstrated interest in work with interdisciplinary research teams; Experience with or interest in small populations research and small samples analyses; Proven track record of success in NIH grant awards or equivalent in rural and/or Indigenous health; strong biostatistics knowledge base and the ability to apply epidemiological tools and skills to programs of research that are collaboratively prioritized by the MK-MDT Investigator team; interest/proficiency in promising and state of the art techniques in small and hidden populations research and in small samples analyses (for example, respondent driven sampling or Bayesian analysis).

The mission of the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team is to support an environment of Team Science to conduct community-based participatory action research on diabetes and dementia in Native American and rural communities with the aim of achieving health equity. The vision is to advance the boundaries of health equity research to create innovative interventions to support healthy aging in Native American and Rural populations.

TO APPLY:

Applications must be submitted online at <https://humanresources.umn.edu/jobs>. Follow the "External Faculty and Staff Applicants" link and search by job posting "322777." To be considered for this position, please click the Apply button and follow the instructions. You will have the opportunity to complete an online application for the position and attach a cover letter and resume. Additional documents may be attached after application by accessing your "My Activities" page and uploading documents there. Completed applications will be evaluated starting April 30, 2018 and will continue until the position is filled. Top candidates will be invited for a seminar/interview as a component of the selection process. Questions concerning the online application process should be directed to Ms. Tracy Kemp at tkemp1@d.umn.edu.

To request an accommodation during the application process, please e-mail employ@umn.edu or call (612) 624-UOHR (8647).

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