Dear members of the Health and Medical Geography Specialty Group,

The year 2020 will be a turning point in our discipline as civil unrest, climate change, racial injustice, widening economic disparities, geopolitical re-alignments, and the COVID-19 pandemic all touch every aspect of our core mission as a specialty group. Racial injustice in policing is still killing many more Black Americans than White Americans. The COVID-19 pandemic is a grand natural experiment that has profoundly impacted the spatial arrangements of how individuals, jurisdictions, societies, and nations interact with one another. The climate crisis continues to produce more frequent and powerful hurricanes, wildfires, and other extreme weather events.

The collective content of our work may be heavily tilted towards these topics for the next several years, but this international forum for disseminating research on health and wellbeing, disease, illness, spatial epidemiology, disease ecology, population health, ethnomedicine and non-western understandings of health and medicine, spatial aspects of healthcare delivery, and healthcare policy and political economy will continue to thrive. While all disciplines naturally evolve alongside the times, the strength of our disciplinary perspective will be affirmed as we continue to seek understanding about how these and other topics affect patterns of health and well-being across the surface of the earth.

In any case, we’ll see you virtually in 2021 and in person in New York in 2022.

Sincerely,

HMGSG 2020–21 Board
Melinda S. Meade Distinguished Scholarship Award in Health and Medical Geography
Susan Elliott—University of Waterloo, Canada

Emerging Scholar Award in Health and Medical Geography
Colleen Reid—University of Colorado Boulder
Jerry Shannon—University of Georgia

Jacques May Thesis Prize
Ph.D. level: Yoo Min Park—University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Master’s level: Elaina Gonsoroski—Florida State University

Peter Gould Student Paper Award
Lirong Kou—University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Melinda S. Meade Travel Awards
Fikriyah Winata—University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Lirong Kou—University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Shelby Loft—The University of British Columbia

Health Data Visualization Contest
GeoDS Lab @ UW-Madison (led by Dr. Song Gao) and the CGIS Group at UMD (Junchuan Fan, Yao Li, Zhiyue Xia, Hai Lan, Guimin Zhu, Jeffery Sauer, Zheng Liu)

Health Data Visualization Winner
Map submitted by GeoDS Lab@UW-Madison (2020)
Awards & Grants

Jessica Finlay
- National Institute on Aging Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (F32 Postdoctoral Fellowship): ENHANCE: Developing a Clinical Geography Tool to Intervene in Cognitive Decline through Neighborhood Design
- University of Michigan 2020 Outstanding Postdoctoral Fellow Award

Kevin Matthews
- National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Most Influential Publication Award for "Racial and ethnic estimates of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in the United States (2015-2060) in adults aged 65 years" Alzheimer's and Dementia, 2019

Trang VoPham
- K01 Career Development Award from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Grant number K01 DK125612

Marynia Kolak
- Principal Investigator, the U.S. COVID Atlas Project (uscovidatlas.org), "Extending the U.S. COVID-19 Atlas to Assist Vulnerable Communities Detect and Respond to COVID-19 Hotspots funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- J. Warren Nystrom Award for Recent Dissertation, American Association of Geographers

*Awards and grants are self-reported by HMGSG members*
Perspectives from Scholars in the Geographies of Aging, 4/7/2021, 8:00AM - 9:15AM (PDT), Room* 35

Utilizing Collaboration to Address the Complexities of Drinking Water, 4/7/2021, 9:35AM - 10:50AM (PDT), Room 44

Health and Medical Geography Peter Gould Award Finalists, 4/7/2021, 1:30 PM-2:45 PM (PDT), Room 48

Emerging Scholar Award in Health and Medical Geography, 4/7/2021, 4:40 PM-5:55 PM (PDT), Room 22

Integrated Knowledge Translation for Health and Wellbeing in Health Geography, 4/8/2021, 8:00AM - 9:15AM (PDT), Room 20

From Theory to Practice: Addressing Evidence Gaps and Applications of the Drinking Water Disparities Framework, 4/8/2021, 9:35AM - 10:50AM (PDT), Room 44

Geospatial Health Symposium 1: Environmental Health, 4/8/2021, 11:10AM - 12:25PM (PDT), Room 8

Geospatial Health Symposium 2: Vulnerability and Accessibility, 4/8/2021, 1:30PM - 2:45PM (PDT), Room 8

Geospatial Health Symposium 3: Modeling & Visualization, 4/8/2021, 3:05PM - 4:20PM (PDT), Room 8

Geospatial Health Symposium 4: Health Behaviors, 4/8/2021, 4:40PM - 5:55PM (PDT), Room 8

Geospatial Health Symposium 5: Mapping and Analyzing the Impacts of COVID-19 Outbreak in Neighborhoods I, 4/9/2021, 8:00AM - 9:15AM (PDT), Room 8


Geospatial Health Symposium 6: Healthy Aging & Coping during the Coronavirus Pandemic, 4/9/2021, 11:10AM - 12:25PM (PDT), Room 8

Geospatial Health Symposium 7: Intersectionality, GIScience, & Public Health, 4/9/2021, 1:30PM - 2:45PM (PDT), Room 8

Geospatial Health Symposium 8: Geography and Substance Use 1, 4/9/2021, 3:05PM - 4:20PM (PDT), Room 8

Lockdown Urbanism: Determinants and Impacts of COVID-19 on Business and Socioeconomic Development, 4/9/2021, 4:40PM - 5:55PM (PDT), Room 5

Geospatial Health Symposium 9: Geography and Substance Use 2, 4/9/2021, 4:40PM - 5:55PM (PDT), Room 8

Health and Medical Geography Specialty Group Business Meeting, 4/9/2021, 6:15PM - 7:30PM (PDT), Room 8

Geospatial Health Symposium 10: Infectious Diseases in Asia: Linking the Geography of Eco-Health, Environment- Ecology, and Epidemiology, 4/10/2021, 8:00AM - 9:15AM (PDT), Room 8

Geospatial Health Symposium 11: Land Use/Land Cover and Human Health, 4/10/2021, 9:35AM - 10:50AM (PDT), Virtual 8

Melinda S. Meade Distinguished Scholar Award in Health and Medical Geography, 4/10/2021, 11:10AM - 12:25PM (PDT), Room 19

Geospatial Health Symposium 13: Advances in Computational Approaches for Geospatial Health Applications - Environmental Health, 4/10/2021, 1:30PM - 2:45PM (PDT), Room 8


“Being fat is not a disease but a sign of good living”: The Political Economy of Overweight and Obesity in Nigeria Tolulope Osayomi Ghana Journal of Geography 12 (1), 99-114, 2020


• Cao, Y., Stewart, K., et al. (2020) Using socially-sensed data to infer ZIP level characteristics for the spatiotemporal analysis of drug-related health problems in Maryland, Health & Place, Vol. 63, May 2020


*All listed publications are self-reported by HMGSG members

Any questions or concern regarding the Spring 2021 Newsletter, please contact Fikriyah Winata (fwinata2@illinois.edu)