

CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESEARCH



L-R: Ruth Link Gelles, Amanda Kudis, Heidi Moline

The Emory Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center (Emory PERRC) constantly strives to train new investigators in public health systems and emergency preparedness and response research. *To illustrate, we include here the brief stories of three recent graduates.*

In May of 2010, Amanda Kudis, Ruth Link-Gelles and Heidi Moline graduated from the Rollins School of Public Health with Master of Public Health degrees in Epidemiology after serving as graduate research assistants for the Emory PERRC. Under the guidance of **Ruth Berkelman**, MD (Emory PERRC Principal Investigator), **Ellen Whitney**, MPH (Emory PERRC Associate Director) and **Allison Chamberlain**, MS (Senior Research Project Coordinator), they each made significant contributions to the Emory PERRC's research and are now using the knowledge they gained from the experience in their careers.

Amanda Kudis worked with the Emory Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center on their Public Health Preparedness Immunization Project. In addition to the Emory PERRC

Immunization Project, Amanda has worked with the Community Partners Project by creating a series of maps that depict universities, their characteristics and their response to surrounding disasters. Amanda has accepted a Senior Analyst position at the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in their Public Health Preparedness Division. She will be working with the Advanced Practice Centers to help ensure they reach their goal to create public health preparedness tools suitable for local health departments across the nation.

Ruth Link-Gelles started working with the Emory PERRC in September 2009 on a project looking at H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccination practices of obstetricians in the United States. The aim of the project was to understand the reasons that obstetricians would or would not recommend and provide such vaccines to their patients given the increased risk to pregnant women. Since February, Ruth has been working as an epidemiologist in the Respiratory Diseases Branch at CDC. She is currently coordinating a post-licensure effectiveness study for a pneumococcal vaccine released in March as well as conducting surveillance for invasive pneumococcal disease in the United States.

Heidi Moline joined the Emory PERRC team in October 2008 working with the Core and providing support across all research projects. Her work included cataloging public health disasters in the United States, researching and analyzing ESF-8 functions during public health emergencies and developing data-sharing guidelines and response surveys for use across all Emory PERRC projects. Heidi

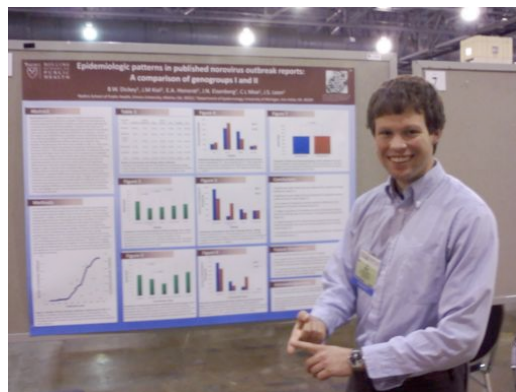
is currently working as an Emergency Preparedness Specialist for Prepara where she is responsible for developing and maintaining public health content for client consultation before, during and after public health emergencies.

STUDENT NEWS



L-R: **Katie Mues (GLEPI '10)**, Lilian Perez (GH '10), and Otávio César (Brazilian medical student), working in Vespasiano, Brazil.

- **Katie Mues, GLEPI '10**, will be presenting a poster of her work exploring community perceptions of the Family Health Program in Vespasiano, Brazil at the 2010 Global Health Council Conference in Washington D.C. She was chosen as a New Investigator in Global Health.
- **Katie Mues, GLEPI '10**, Joana Carolina Resende Paula, Otávio César dos Santos, José Antonio Ferreira, Juan Leon. Community Perceptions of Brazil's Family Health Program. Poster presentation: 2010 Global Health Council Conference. New Investigators in Global Health Program. June 15, 2010.



Benjamin Dickey (Epi '10)

- Graduating epidemiology MPH student **Benjamin Dickey (Epi '10)** presented his poster entitled "Epidemiologic patterns in published norovirus outbreak reports: A comparison of genogroups I and II" at this year's APHA conference in Philadelphia. Benjamin was also inducted into the Delta Omega public health honor society, received a Who's Who Among America's Colleges and Universities award, and received a Global Health Institute Scholar Award for representing RSPH at the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico.
- **Dickey BW**, Kiel J, Honorat E, **Leon JS**, Eisenberg J, **Moe C**. (2009) Epidemiologic Patterns in Published Norovirus Outbreak Reports: A Comparison of Genogroups I and II. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

There were 4 (GL)EPI students who were honored at the Public Health in Action Awards Reception honoring Outstanding Practicum and Adjunct Faculty. Congratulations to the following students:

- **Christine Khosropour (Epi '10)** with Reena Chudgar (GH):