

## Water Institute at UNC launched in October

THE WATER INSTITUTE AT UNC (<http://waterinstitute.unc.edu>), housed in UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, was launched Oct. 25 during UNC's conference, "Water and Health: Where Science Meets Policy." The conference, co-sponsored by the new institute and the UNC Institute



Dr. Jamie Bartram

for the Environment, attracted more than 350 attendees. Experts from more than 50 countries provided a wide range of perspectives on drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and water resources.

UNC has longstanding expertise in the areas of water, policy and health, with many faculty members engaged in associated research and recognized as international leaders. The Water Institute was established by the School to leverage this broad, interdisciplinary experience.

"The Water Institute at UNC brings together individuals and institutions from diverse disciplines and empowers them to work together to tackle critical global issues in water and health," says Jamie Bartram, PhD, Institute director and professor of environmental sciences and engineering.



Dr. Rebecca Fry

## ESE's Fry honored as 'outstanding young researcher'

REBECCA FRY, PHD, assistant professor of environmental sciences and engineering, has received two prestigious awards recognizing her potential to make substantial contributions throughout her career. The honors include the Outstanding New Environmental Scientist (ONES) Award, presented by the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), and selection as a PopTech Science and Public Leadership Fellow. Fry's ONES award includes a \$2.2 million grant to study health effects of prenatal arsenic exposure in newborns in Gomez Palacio, Mexico.

PopTech, a global community of interdisciplinary leaders, each year selects young scientists who work in critical public health areas and provides them with advanced leadership and communications training. Fry also has received support from the University Cancer Research Fund and a Gillings Innovation Lab (see page 28).

## Maternal and Child Health offers online degree

THE SCHOOL'S maternal and child health department will offer an online master's degree program in spring 2011 to complement its established residential training programs. The degree will increase working professionals' access to graduate education focused on improving the health of women, children and families.

Developed with support from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Maternal and Child Health, the new curriculum builds upon an online certificate (MCH Ole!) introduced earlier this year.

## Munroe-Blum speaks at University Day event



Dr. Munroe-Blum

HEATHER MUNROE-BLUM, PHD, principal and vice-chancellor of McGill University in Montreal, gave the keynote address at UNC's University Day celebration Oct. 12. The text of the presentation is available at <http://tinyurl.com/munroe-blum>. Munroe-Blum received a doctorate with distinction in epidemiology from UNC in 1983.



Dr. Melissa Troester (left), Dr. Liza Makowski

## Researchers to study pregnancy, obesity, breast cancer disparities

TWO SCHOOL RESEARCHERS received a five-year, \$2.2 million grant to study how pregnancy and obesity may promote susceptibility to an aggressive subtype of breast cancer more prevalent in young, African-American women.

Melissa Troester, PhD, assistant professor of epidemiology, and Liza Makowski, PhD, assistant professor of nutrition, are principal investigators for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences' Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Program.