Stephen McGarvey – GLOBAL HEALTH

Public Health in the Samoas: Anthropology, Nutrition, and Translational Research

-many people in Samoa still live in the villages and rural settings but in American Samoa its different

-WWII brought better health to Samoa Islands (mortality due to infectious diseases decreased)

-there is changing economy – increasingly modern

-child stunting decreases with economic development and adult obesity increases

-adult obesity, urbanization, tech changes, leisure, mass media growth, food processing

-fast food chains, cars have become dominant

-dietary patterns have shown an increase in calories

-traditional diets (coconuts, rice) are drastically different than the modern diet (soda, chips)

-obesity has now reached to children as well

-the rise in obesity in American Samoa was so sharp but in non American Samoa it is happening only gradually

-is it a genetic thing? Studies say that it is not

-using these studies to help the Samoans decrease their obesity rates