

# Wright Solutions

## Master of Public Health Newsletter

Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine

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### **Congratulations to Karah Harvey**

*In May, Karah will be the first MD/ MPH student to graduate from Wright State. Karah's practice placement was at the Rocking Horse Center in Springfield, Ohio. After graduation, Karah will start a residency in psychiatry at Ohio State University, with plans on becoming a child psychiatrist.*



## From the Director

by Richard Schuster, MD, MMM, FACP

The Wright State MPH Program had another success and major advance this spring in that we are now offering our core courses via video-distance learning to our partners in public health at the Cincinnati Health Department. When the MPH was created, it was with the intent of assuring that the regional needs of public health districts and departments would be met. We had planned to try to serve the Cincinnati area with a distance learning option and are delighted that we have been able to achieve this.

Our faculty and Advisory Board have both agreed that a pure web-based learning option is not as desirable as an interactive learning experience at the graduate student level. When we moved into our new facilities in July 2007, we installed the infrastructure to produce very high quality, real-time video distance learning. Our large conference room – the IVDL – “Interactive Video Distance Learning” room serves as the site for this education. It has three cameras, one to zoom in on the professor and two to “find” and show the students. Microphones are at each student table. When the professor speaks, the camera immediately tracks him or her and can simultaneously show a PowerPoint or hand-written notes on a board. When one of the students wishes to speak, they turn on their desktop microphone and the camera immediately zooms to them so the students at the distant site are seeing the whole classroom and actively participating in the discussion. The professor can continuously see the students at the Cincinnati Health Department. When one of them wishes to speak, the professor and whole class in Dayton can see them. This dynamic, interactive process allows all of our students to be in “one” class and to learn together, without obligating our Cincinnati colleagues to drive to Dayton.

We are delighted that our first two Cincinnati classes have five new students! This is a terrific start. We welcome Kelli Kohake, Kim Toole, Ken Sharkey, Millie Olds, and Kiana Trabue. Two of our current MPH students are attending class in Cincinnati as well - Kathleen Clark and Jennifer Rammel. They are active members of our classes and their spirit and flexibility have been appreciated while we've worked out the bugs and gotten the whole educational experience going. Likewise, we appreciate the leadership from Cincinnati Health Commissioner, Noble Maseru, who has seen to it that this really has happened. Finally, Ginny Volle has been critical to our success in working with Brian Butcher, our Distance Learning Coordinator in getting it all to work.

We continue to see our mission as offering public health education at the graduate level for our region. We are studying opportunities to add other sites to our program to assure that the broad geographic area we are responsible for is fully covered.



WRIGHT STATE  
UNIVERSITY

WSU MPH Special  
Points of Interest

**Did you know?**

- **May is National High Blood Pressure Education Month.**  
Learn more about lowering your blood pressure at [www.nhlbi.gov/hbp](http://www.nhlbi.gov/hbp)
- **Week of May 19 is National Emergency Medical Services Week**
- **Boonshoft School of Medicine graduation will be on Friday, May 30**
- **Week of June 9 is National Men’s Health Week**
- **WSU graduation will be on Saturday, June 14**

For more information on WSU’s Master of Public Health Program visit our Web site at:  
[www.med.wright.edu/mph](http://www.med.wright.edu/mph)

*If you have any questions regarding this newsletter, please contact Brian Butcher at (937) 258-5541 or via e-mail at [brian.butcher@wright.edu](mailto:brian.butcher@wright.edu)*

## Faculty Spotlight

### John McAlearney, Ph.D.



John McAlearney, Ph.D., is an assistant professor with a joint appointment in the Boonshoft School of Medicine and the Raj Soin College of Business at Wright State University. Dr. McAlearney serves as the program director for the Health Care Management Certificate Program and is a health economist in the Center for Global Health Systems, Management, and Policy. Dr. McAlearney is an instructor for the Master of Public Health Program, where he teaches economics of health and health policy. He holds a Ph.D. in health policy with a concentration in health economics from Harvard University. He has more than 18 years experience in the health care and health insurance sectors and has worked for the Ohio Department of Health, the RAND Corporation, the Health Care Financing Administration (now Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), and the Travelers Insurance Company (now United HealthCare).

Dr. McAlearney's professional background and formal training have emphasized a multi-disciplinary approach to health services research supplemented by a broad exposure to many specific areas of health care and policy research. Dr. McAlearney's experience and training qualify him to undertake research or provide assistance in case studies and other qualitative research, program design and evaluation, cost analyses, decision analyses, cost-effectiveness studies, survey design and analyses, economic estimation and modeling, outcomes and quality research and general data analyses. His research focus includes the study of technology adoption, health care applications for geographic information system (GIS), health care costs and global health care system comparisons.

Recently, Dr. McAlearney has worked with foundations to research the economic and health impact of state-level insurance proposals and issues relating to physician recruitment in Cincinnati. He has also worked with other areas at WSU, such as with colleagues from the Nursing Institute and the Center for Urban and Public Affairs (CUPA) on a project that estimated the impact of a potential nursing shortage on west central Ohio. In the classroom, Dr. McAlearney, enjoys teaching a graduate course on Health Economics and Policy to MPH, MBA and Health Care Management Certificate Students.

## Upcoming Center Events.....

**Dr. Hee An Choi** visiting on May 12  
Director of the Anna Howard Shaw Center at the Boston University School of Theology  
Contact Jennifer Webb at 937-258-5557 for more information

**Dr. Masad Barhoum** visiting on May 19  
Director General at the Western Galilee Hospital, Israel  
Contact Pam Mondini at 937-258-5555 for more information

**Graduation Reception / Alumni Mixer** June 3, 5:00—7:00 p.m.  
Fountain area outside 3123 Research Boulevard  
Contact Pam Mondini at 937-258-5555 for more information

## Public Health in Practice by Ken Dahms, JD, MA

MPH Student Andre' Holland is best known for having the good sense to complete the research for his Culminating Experience in Barbados this winter. (He will forever be remembered at the Center for e-mailing back a picture of a warm and tranquil beach scene at the height of the March storm which buried us under a foot of snow!) However, before he left for warmer climes, Andre' also completed a very interesting and rewarding practice placement with Miami Valley Hospital (MVH). With Ms. Mary Beth Barrantine, MVH's Hazard Materials & Safety Officer, serving as his site preceptor, Andre' was tasked with drafting the Disaster Management Plan for Miami Valley South Health Center.

This project required Andre' to become familiar with no less than nine different existing (and very voluminous) emergency plans at MVH and to suggest amendments to each one of these plans based upon what was happening at the new Health Center.

Perhaps even more daunting was the fact that in performing this work, Andre' was required to interact with numerous individuals from different backgrounds (ex. engineers, architects, department heads, doctors, nurses, EMS personnel, etc.) who often had varied and sometimes conflicting interests. In the exit interview, Ms. Barrantine was highly complementary of Andre's ability to work with a diversified group under difficult circumstances to successfully achieve a desired goal. (Andre' modestly indicated that the whole experience had indeed helped him refine his communication skills!)

Space does not permit a detailed recounting of the frustrating (but nonetheless amusing) story of Andre's quest to discover how other health centers around the country handle similar emergency procedures. Suffice it to say that the nature of the information Andre' was requesting and (in Andre's words) "the nation's heightened security awareness re-

garding this type of information" conspired to create a number of highly suspicious people on the other end of the phone line. According to Ms. Barrantine Andre' kept his sense of humor throughout the entire process and she declared his practice placement to be of great value to MVH. As for Andre', he discovered that a health care center, like any other organization, is a compilation of many small independent entities, each working together to allow the facility to operate more smoothly. According to Andre', he hopes to be a part of running a public health system in the future and his practice placement gave him valuable insights toward eventually achieving this goal. With such a positive attitude, Andre can almost be forgiven for wintering in Barbados.

*To discuss your practice placement project or to volunteer to be a practice placement site, please contact Ken Dahms, JD, MA at (937) 258-5555 or ken.dahms@wright.edu.*

## Graduate Notes:

### Boyd Hoddinott (MPH '06)

Ohio EPA published a new guidance document in the Fall of '07 on subsurface flow constructed wetlands (Boyd's culminating project) and referenced his work as one of several people they thanked/quoted.

### Chris Cook (MPH '07)

Chris was elected Vice President of the Ohio Environmental Health Association (OEHA) in April during the Annual Educational Conference in Columbus. The OEHA is a statewide organization for public health sanitariums.

### Sara Rue (MPH '07)

Since graduation Sara has relocated to DC and is a public health analyst with the Dept. of Health and Human Services in the Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA) working on grants for the underserved.

### Jennifer Wentzel (MPH '07)

Jennifer was elected Secretary of the Ohio Environmental Health Association during the same conference where Chris Cook was elected VP. Both Jennifer and Chris will serve two year terms.

### Laurie Phillips (MPH '08)

Laurie will be presenting (poster format) her culminating experience at the Public Health Combined Conference in Columbus in May 2008. She will be promoted effective June 1 to Quality Systems Manager for Life Connection of Ohio, the local organ procurement organization for northwest and west central Ohio. She will be part of the management team over both the Dayton and Toledo offices.

## Culminating Experience Update by Raymond Ten Eyck, MD, MPH

The Winter Quarter was a very productive time for MPH students completing their culminating experience research. Eight students completed their projects, including Karah Harvey, our first Boonshoft Physician Leadership Development Program student to complete the MPH program. As we proceed through the academic year, I am encouraged by the creativity our students have demonstrated and the quality of the work that they have produced.

Jeffrey Webb addressed the very timely topic of infections with drug-resistant bacteria as he looked at the capability of correctional facilities to deal with these infections in prison populations in his study entitled: "Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Prevention and Control Preparedness in Correctional Facilities." Jeff was guided in his research by Dr. Thomas Murphy who served as his guidance chair and Dr. John Czachor who served as his consultant.

Christina Aristides investigated the impact of efforts to improve the rate of breastfeeding in a particularly vulnerable population in her study entitled: "The Influence of the Nurse-Family Partnership Program on Breastfeeding Initiation and Duration in a Population of Young, Low Income, First Time Mothers." Chris completed her comprehensive analysis of the factors that influenced the initiation of breastfeeding with the assistance of her guidance chair, Dr. Sara Paton and her guidance committee consultant, Dr. David Uddin.

Laurie Phillips addressed the unique concern of organ donations in our aging population in her research entitled: "SODA: Seniors for Organ Donation Awareness: Increasing the Enrollment of Senior Citizens (Age 65 Years and Older) in the Ohio Donor Registry." With the assistance of her guidance chair, Dr. Charles

Beauchamp and her committee consultant Ms. Beverly Grunden, Laurie created a very innovative program to educate and increase donors in the senior citizen population.

Phillip Van Atta advanced the status of emergency preparedness in our community with his project entitled: "Water System Preparedness for Pandemic Influenza." Phil created a plan for the City of Dayton as well as a disaster preparedness program template reflecting best practices for water systems around the country. Phil was guided in his research by his committee chair, Dr. Sara Paton and his committee consultant, Dr. Raymond Ten Eyck.

Christopher Eddy addressed another aspect of the emergency preparedness spectrum with his study entitled: "Hospital Disaster Preparedness – Are We Ready?" Using a web-based survey tool and a literature-based survey, Chris identified several opportunities for improvement in hospital planning and preparation activities. With the guidance of his committee chair, Dr. Peter Wong and his committee consultant, Dr. Mark Gebhart, Chris developed several policy recommendations focused on creating a consolidated hospital plan.

Colleen Iungerman investigated the interrelation of two major public health issues, obesity and lack of health insurance, in her project entitled: "A Descriptive Review of the Patient Demographics of Reach Out of Montgomery County." Colleen completed her comprehensive comparison of obesity in the uninsured patients served by Reach Out of Montgomery County to the insured population of Ohio with the guidance of her committee chair, Dr. Cameron Chumlea and her committee consultant, Dr. Sara Paton.

Karah Harvey completed a policy

analysis of various practices designed to meet the unique requirements of children with special needs in her project entitled: "Analysis of the Policy Statement for Medical Home Initiatives for the Care of Children with Special Health Care Needs." Karah completed the research under the guidance of her committee chair, Dr. William Klykylo and her committee consultant, Mr. William Mase. Karah is the first student from the Boonshoft Physician Leadership Development Program to complete the MPH program and she will graduate from the Boonshoft School of Medicine on May 30, 2008.

Pattama Ulrich is our most recent student to present her culminating experience findings. Pattama completed a comprehensive review of mass casualty preparedness in her project entitled: "Management and Best Practices for Mass Casualty Incident Preparedness." She identified the linkages needed between the medical and public health communities in order to develop an effective preparedness plan and provide an optimal response. Under the guidance of her committee chair, Dr. Mark Gebhart and her consultants, Mr. Ken Dahms and Dr. Sara Paton, Pattama designed a new paradigm for the approach to community disaster preparedness.

On behalf of the entire MPH faculty, I would like to congratulate all of these students for their hard work and thank them for their contributions to our program. Our deep gratitude is also extended to the guidance committee members who mentored these students and helped them achieve all of their goals.

*For more info about the MPH Culminating Experience Project, please contact Ray Ten Eyck, MD, MPH at (937) 258-5555 or raymond.teneyck@wright.edu*

## Fun with Essential Services (is that possible?)

Reprinted with permission from the author Liza Corso, Centers for Disease Control

How do we provide public health protection?  
It's the Essential Services that give the direction.  
They describe the roles of the public health system  
There are ten of them and now I will list 'em.

First up is monitor; that's where we assess  
And look at our health stats, from the worst to the best.  
From STDs, cancer, stroke and the flu  
And does every child get his shots before two?

Next, we investigate every threat and disease  
By using surveillance and lab expertise.  
Cause water-, food-, and airborne infections  
Can be better prevented with more rapid detections.

We inform and educate so that we impart  
The wisdom for people to be healthy and smart.  
Like how to eat well and where to look for lumps  
And how to lose weight by getting off your rumps.

In mobilizing many should act as one,  
Because that's how public health can best get done.  
Using coalitions and support that is truly grassroots  
We can leverage our actions in a way that's astute.

We make policy, plan and prioritize  
For how else can we act in a way that's wise?  
We make recycling guidelines and no-smoking bans  
And develop broad health improvement plans.

But we also get tough and so we enforce,  
The health rules and laws that have set the course.  
'Cause who wants rats in their restaurant kitchen  
Or their tattoos done with unclean stitchin'?

In seven, we assure that folks are aware  
Of how to get personal health service and care.  
And it's not just about care for the poor  
Did you see the film "Sicko" by Michael Moore?

Next we address workforce size and skill  
And take time to consider, "are there gaps to fill?"  
We educate and train in ways that inspire  
And develop new staff for when all the boomers retire.

In nine we assess our work and evaluate  
And seek ways in which we can be first-rate.  
We ask clients for feedback and conduct surveys  
We find out what's wrong, or even better, hear praise!

And last but not least, we urge new ideas and thoughts  
And track innovative research, of which there are lots.  
For how can we fight AIDS and stop cancer  
If we don't try new ways to find the answer?

And so health agencies, hospitals, churches and schools  
Should use these national standards and tools.  
Communities, states, and yes, the nation too  
Should follow this framework of what to do.

Because it takes many together to raise the potential  
To conduct all these services which are so essential.  
And now that I've made this boring list fun  
It's time to go out and get them done!

*Thanks to Nancy Terwoord for contributing this fun piece to the newsletter.*

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## IVDL Room in Action!



*Sara Paton, Ph.D., teaches graduate students in the IVDL Room.*

The Center for Global Health Systems, Management, and Policy has an electronic conference room equipped with a state-of-the-art Interactive Video Distance Learning (IVDL) system. Beginning in the spring of 2008, selected Master of Public Health courses are being delivered remotely to the Cincinnati Health Department. The Center hopes to offer these MPH courses at additional remote locations in the future. For more information, please call Brian Butcher at 937-258-5541.



*Students in the Public Health Epidemiology (CMH 623) course use the distance learning site at Cincinnati Health Department.*