

Wright Solutions

Master of Public Health Newsletter

Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine

SUMMER 2007

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Faculty Spotlight: Janet Rickabaugh, PhD**
Page 2
- **MPH Special Points of Interest - Page 2**
- **Public Health in Practice - Page 3**
- **Alumni Spotlight - Page 4**
- **Culminating Experience Projects - Page 4**
- **Health News & Views Part II - Page 5**
- **Upcoming Events - Page 5**

MISSION

To serve as a model community-based interdisciplinary graduate education program for the present and future public health profession's leadership in Southwest Ohio and beyond.

VISION

Public health and health-related professionals of southwestern Ohio will have increased knowledge, competencies, and skills.



From the Director

by Richard Schuster, MD, MMM, FACP

We had a very valuable visit this spring from Ruvie Rogel. Ruvie is the Director of the Israeli International School of Community Emergency Management and a new faculty member of ours at WSU. He spent a week with us conducting workshops, teaching students, working and planning future programs with us. Our relationship began with an introduction and a vision promoted by the Levin Family Foundation. Ruvie's area of expertise relates primarily to the psychological aspects of emergency preparedness and the psychological consequences of a mass event. With funding from the Levin Foundation, a group of WSU faculty and a student went to Israel to learn about their emergency preparedness system; unfortunately, they have had to use it. While we study these issues, they live with them. We returned and have worked for the year trying to improve emergency preparedness here in our region. We offered three workshops conducted by Ruvie, Professor Scott Fraser – our colleague in the WSU School of Professional Psychology, and run by Ken Dahms. Well over 100 public health leaders in Columbus, Cincinnati, and Dayton attended. The workshop focused on helping public health leaders to develop mass media messages in times of crisis that will have an appropriate, desired effect on the population. Rebecca Smolak, a graduate student in the WSU School of Professional Psychology, is now studying the data collected during these workshops as her doctoral dissertation in psychology.

What we've learned over the year is that the US emergency preparedness system is focused almost exclusively on responding to the physical needs of those experiencing a mass or large causality event. The medical care system in the US is designed to evaluate individuals in a public health emergency for physical injury and if none is evident, to send them away. In Israel, during a mass causality event (be it war or a terrorist event) approximately 70% of all individuals presenting for medical evaluation have psychological trauma, not physical trauma. In the US we must learn more about the psychological issues of emergency preparedness. We must develop ways to triage individuals who present for care and to effectively treat those with emotional injury. As Ruvie taught us in the lecture he gave on terrorism, it is the psychological injuries that are the real hallmark of terrorism, not the physical injuries.

We hope that our relationship with the Israeli International School of Community Emergency Management will expand with collaborative research, student exchanges, and a return by Ruvie to teach next year. Emergency preparedness in the US needs a fresh look from the psychological side.

WSU MPH SPECIAL
POINTS OF INTEREST

DID YOU KNOW?

- **This newsletter received a facelift— provide feedback on the design, contents, etc. by emailing Petra Weaver at petra.weaver@wright.edu**
- **On July 16th we were notified by the Council on Education for Public Health that our MPH program has been accredited for 5 Years!**
- **As a result of a grant from the OEEF/ EPA, Sanitarians in Training can take a RS practice test developed by WSU when they click on a link from the WSU MPH Web site.**

For more information on WSU's Master of Public Health Program visit our Web site at:

www.med.wright.edu/mph

If you have any questions regarding this newsletter, please contact Petra Weaver at (937) 258-5547 or via e-mail at petra.weaver@wright.edu

Faculty Spotlight

By Janet Rickabaugh, PhD



Janet Rickabaugh, PhD is an associate professor within the Center for Global Health Systems, Management, and Policy. Dr. Rickabaugh holds a PhD with a concentration in Environmental Engineering from the University of Cincinnati. She was a researcher and faculty member in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Cincinnati for 20 years followed by a dozen years as health commissioner of the Clermont County General Health District. She also served on a number of public health related boards including the State Board of Sanitarian Registration. She retired from public health prior to coming to Wright State University in December, 2005.

Dr. Rickabaugh works part time in the Department of Community Health and served as interim course director for Population Health, Outcome Analysis, and Clinical Prevention, a first year medical school course, during academic year 2006-07. She plans to continue teaching a session on Environmental Health in that class. She also teaches Environmental Health in our Master of Public Health Program.

Dr. Rickabaugh served as principal investigator on a one year grant to create an on-line educational resource for sanitarians from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF). The grant proposal was one that fellow faculty member, William Mase wrote while he was a MPH student at the Ohio State University College of Public Health. The proposal responded to a problem where sanitarians-in-training came from very diverse backgrounds and those taking the test had a passing rate of approximately 35%. The available educational resources were very broad, difficult to acquire, and very expensive. There were no specific on-line resources. Continuation of the poor passing rate would soon impact the number of Registered Sanitarians available to work in Public Health in Ohio.

Dr. Rickabaugh worked with a committee of other faculty, a health commissioner, a MPH alumnae, and a Web site designer to create a free educational Web site to help sanitarians-in-training (SITs) pass the Sanitarian Registration examination. This Web site for sanitarian education was made available to SITs in June, 2007. Use of the Web site and exam results will be monitored during the coming months.

Public Health in Practice

by Ken Dahms, JD, MA

Sometimes it is surprising what great practice placement experiences you can have without ever leaving “home”. Jennifer Wentzel, a sanitarian supervisor with the Public Health—Dayton & Montgomery County, is an excellent case in point. Jennifer completed her MPH practice placement requirement entirely within the friendly confines of the Public Health, yet managed to have three entirely different and unique experiences. (The Practice Placement Guidelines permit in-career students to complete their practice placement within their primary place of employment. However, the activities “must be beyond the students’ regular scope of work-related duties”.) Since Jennifer’s main focus is in public health administration and management, she chose practice placement experiences that would further her knowledge in these areas.

Jennifer’s first stop was in the subject area of “risk communication” and she had the good fortune to study with a true expert in this field. Bill Wharton is the long-time Public Information Officer for the Public

Health and is a recognized expert in all aspects of health communication. (It may have helped things that Bill was also Jennifer’s site preceptor for her practice placement.) During her time with Bill, Jennifer attended several meetings that focused on communication, with the highlight being participation in a training course taught by Bill himself. This training course included a mock press conference with podium, lights, camera, and “hostile” questions from aggressive members of the press. Talk about pressure!!

Keeping with her “administration and management” theme, Jennifer’s second learning experience was with Jordan Barnhart, the Public Health’s financial and budgeting expert. According to Jennifer “Jordan gave me a thorough overview of how a budget works. . . and explained to me how levy moneys are distributed”. Jennifer, by her own admission, did not know much about this area in the beginning, but acquired a large knowledge base in the time she spent with Jordan.

Jennifer’s third and final learning experience was actually the result of taking advantage of an opportunity that arose while she was finishing the other two areas of her practice placement. It just so happened that the Public Health was involved in a strategic planning process that required input from its employees. Jennifer was named to one of the employee committees and had the opportunity to do a great deal of research and to supply valuable input into an important part of the strategic planning process.

Jennifer’s practice placement goes to prove that you can learn a lot and have a number of interesting practice placement experiences without ever leaving the “office”. Congratulations Jennifer!

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

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

On May 14th at the Ohio Public Health Combined Conference, WSU MPH students took home 4 of the 6 student awards. They are as follows.

1st place Poster -- Lorena Royer, MPH, RN (2006 MPH Graduate)

3rd place Poster -- Betsy Lilian Cote, MD, MPH (2006 MPH Graduate)

1st place Oral Presentation -- Alison Aldrich, MSI, MPH (2006 MPH Graduate)

3rd place Oral Presentation -- Melissa Howell, MPH, MS, MBA, RN (2007 MPH Graduate)

ALSO

MPH Graduate (2006) Col. Mygleetus Wright, MD, MPH had her culminating experience (research article) published in the June issue of *Military Medicine* (172, 6:644, 2007)

Alumni Recognized for Excellence

by Alison Aldrich, MSI, MPH

Wright State's MPH program was well represented at the Ohio Public Health Combined Conference, held May 14 – 16 at the Marriott North in Columbus. Recent Wright State MPH graduates took home four of the six awards given to student presenters.

Alison Aldrich and Melissa Howell delivered oral presentations based on their culminating experience projects. Alison's presentation was titled "Household Preparedness for Pandemic Influenza in Families with Pre-school-Aged Children" and won the award for best student presentation. Melissa's presentation, "A Quality Assurance Initiative for Emergency Medical Services," was also well received, earning her third place in

the oral presentation competition.

Lorena Royer and Betsy Liliana Cote prepared poster presentations. Lorena's poster was titled "Identification of Modifiable Factors Associated with Low Birth Weight Infants" and won the award for best poster. Lorena will take her poster to the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. this November. Lili's poster, "Retrospective Comparative Analysis of the Socio-demographic Characteristics of Pregnant Abortion-Minded Clients versus Pregnant Non-Abortion-Minded Clients in a Crisis Pregnancy Center in Montgomery County, Ohio" was awarded third prize.

Congratulations to these alumni, to their academic advisors Dr. Marietta Langlois (Alison), Dr. Mark Gebhart (Melissa), and Dr. Sara Paton (Lorena and Lili), and to everyone who contributed to the success of these research projects.

If you are a current MPH student or are otherwise engaged in public health research, consider submitting a proposal to share your work at next year's Ohio Public Health Combined Conference. Attending the conference is a great way to network with other public health professionals from across the state.

Culminating Experience Projects

by Ray Ten Eyck, MD, MPH

Three of our MPH students participated in the June graduation. These newest graduates include Melissa Howell, Sara Rue, and Amie Schroeder. Each of these students did a great job in their culminating experience research projects that spanned a wide variety of Public Health topics.

Melissa Howell addressed the issue of prehospital health care in her project entitled: Public Health Considerations of a Quality Improvement Initiative for Emergency Medical Services. Melissa's research provided a prototype quality assurance program for emergency medical services systems in order to "reduce the burden of death and disability from accidental injury and improve access to care." Dr. Mark Gebhart served as Melissa's guidance committee chair and Dr. Marietta Langlois served as the consultant on her guidance committee.

Sara Rue's project focused on international public health concerns in a study entitled: International Aid: Reducing the Burden of the Top Three Infectious Diseases in Sub-Saharan Africa. She evaluated the efforts being made by developed countries to address malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa and derived a list of recommendations to improve the impact of these programs. Sara was guided in her efforts by Dr. Richard Schuster and Dr. Erie Sase serving as her guidance committee chair and consultant respectively.

Amie Schroeder's project focused on a special aspect of disaster response planning in her study entitled: Evidenced-Based Companion and Service Animal Preparedness Recommendations. Amie's research culminated in a model emergency response plan for pets consisting of nine key components developed from a literature-

based synthesis of the unique problems and considerations involved with pet evacuation. She is applying her findings to a document that will be incorporated into the Miami County disaster response plan. Amie's guidance committee chair was Dr. Raymond Ten Eyck and Dr. Emily Dudley (SOM Research Affairs) served as her consultant.

The MPH faculty congratulates all of these students on completion of their culminating experience and with it the MPH program. A special thanks is extended to all of the guidance committee members for sharing their time, expertise and dedication.

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.

Health News & Views

by Nancy Terwoord, RN, BS, CPHQ

In the last newsletter, I shared with you the background of Dr. Alvin Jackson, the new Medical Director for ODH. This time I want to share what I learned about some of his priorities for us in Ohio.

His platform for ODH is quality health care, patient education and disease prevention. He believes in universal health care and has stated the fact that we are the richest country in the world and do not have universal health care “a travesty”.

In his talk at the minority health awareness dinner in Canton in April this year, Dr. Jackson shared his “top ten list”...he has highlighted 10 behaviors that begin with the individual and can help reduce health disparities among minority populations.

They are:

Exercise - “there is an obesity epidemic in our young people, and obesity leads to Type II diabetes. If we don’t make changes, this generation won’t live as long as their parents.”

Weight - “we eat ourselves literally to death”...we need to eat in moderation.”

Tobacco use - “If you are smoking, you need to stop. It is the number 1 preventable situation in American health.”

Substance abuse - “That includes alcohol. Do you know there is a connection between alcohol and domestic abuse, car crashes, you name it?”

Responsible sexual behavior - “We’re having way too many kids who are not planned and not wanted. On top of that, the STD epidemic is part of it too.”

Mental Health - “There is a direct relationship between chronic disease and mental health. God designed the body in such a great way. If the mind is out of balance, the body is out of balance”

Injury & violence - “Guns and young males are killing each other. If you have weapons, you must protect them from kids.”

Environmental quality - “Whether it is pollution from cars or you live by a dump, it makes a difference in health. Think about it.”

Immunizations - “Since vaccines became available, they made a difference in public health. Yet we as a nation are not immunized as we should be. If we were, we could prevent many hospitalizations.”

Access to health care - You are lucky here in Canton to have a community health center. It will not turn anyone away.”

As Dr. Jackson said in his speech that night, “*We have system that is broken and needs to be fixed. We’re going to start the revolution in Ohio.*” Dr. Alvin Jackson - sounds like we have a medical director who had been in the trenches, knows what we need and hopefully can lead us there to get it for our citizens. As a supporter of public health, we need your help as this can not do this alone.

Are you on board?

Upcoming Events.....

Open House for the Center for Global Health Systems, Management, & Policy

3123 Research Blvd., Suite 200, Kettering, OH 45420-4006

October 8, 2007 from 12-4 p.m.—RSVP (937) 258-5555

3rd Center Faculty Symposium Series & Gathering

October 8, 2007 at the Center from 4-6 p.m.

Topic: The Boonshoft Physician Leadership Development Program Experience

Open to All Center and MPH Faculty and Invited Guests

For more information contact Pam Mondini at (937) 258-5555

Deadline for Spring MPH Admissions is November 1, 2007

Contact Petra Weaver at (937) 258-5547 for more information.

WSU MPH Student Winners at the 2007 Ohio Public Health Combined Conference



1st place Oral Presentation -- Alison Aldrich, MSI, MPH (pictured on the right)
3rd place Oral Presentation -- Melissa Howell, MPH, MS, MBA, RN (pictured on the left)



1st place Poster -- Lorena Royer, MPH, RN (pictured on the right)
3rd place Poster -- Betsy Lilian Cote, MD, MPH (pictured on the left)