

Wright Solutions

Master of Public Health Newsletter

Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine

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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

Two floors below the ground, in a room with air filtration capability and behind a thick wall, lay the city of Haifa's (Israel) command and control center. It was here that Montgomery County Health Commissioner Jim Gross, Assistant Director of Public Health Service Ken Dahms, and I learned the real story of what happens when a thousand rockets rained down on a city about the size of Dayton. The city of Haifa hosted us to offer whatever "lessons learned" that would be of value to us in planning and preparing for future public health emergencies back home. We learned that approximately a third of the population evacuated the city during the 2006 war with Lebanon and, interestingly, somehow those who remained were able to maintain all essential functions of the city. Over 95% of key personnel came in daily for work. As rockets landed, the mayor of Haifa was on the radio and TV continuously informing the public of the rocket attacks. In spite of what was effectively a war on a civilian, urban population, panic did not occur. A sophisticated geographic information system (GIS) allowed the command center to put the coordinates of each rocket attack into their GIS and identify exactly who lived within a specified distance of the rocket strike. The GIS in Haifa contains critical demographic and health information about the citizens. For example, when a rocket landed, citizens with particular disabilities who resided within a certain distance of the hit were identified immediately so that special assistance could be quickly offered.

Ten of us went to Israel to study emergency preparedness with funds provided by a grant from the Levin Family Foundation. We divided ourselves into three teams so as to better learn the successes and failures that occurred during the one month war in July 2006 when approximately 4,000 rockets were fired into Israel. Jim Gross led the community preparedness team consisting of Jim, Ken Dahms, and myself. Ray Ten Eyck led a team including Barbara Schuster and Katie Imhof – Boonshoft Physician Leadership Development Program (MD/MPH) student. Dr. Ten Eyck's team focused its efforts on the 800 bed Western Galilee Hospital in Naharia, Israel. The hospital was targeted for attack during the war and received a direct rocket hit on its northern side. The Western Galilee leadership had anticipated this risk a few years before and built an underground hospital facility that was able to serve as a protected area during the war. The staff executed an evacuation of the most at risk 200 patients into the underground area within one hour! Of the 1,800 patients presenting to the emergency department for trauma related to the war, approximately 2/3 were diagnosed and treated for psychological trauma .

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WRIGHT STATE
UNIVERSITY

**WSU MPH SPECIAL
POINTS OF INTEREST**

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Two MPH courses are expected to be offered via video conferencing at the Cincinnati Health Department Spring Quarter. Contact Bill Mase for more information.**
- **Visiting professor Ruvie Rogel, Co-CEO of the Community Stress Prevention Center, Tel Hai College, Israel, will be with us from April 6-11. He will be teaching in the Terrorism & the Effects on Public Health course as well as conducting statewide work-shops for first responders.**
- **Congratulations to Karah Harvey who will be our first MD/MPH student to graduate this Spring!**

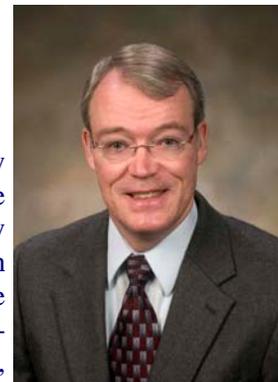
For more information on WSU's Master of Public Health Program visit our Web site at:

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

James Ebert, MD, MBA, FAAP



Dr. James Ebert is an associate professor of community medicine, and associate professor of pediatrics in the Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University (WSU). He also serves as the lipid clinic lead physician at Dayton Children's Medical Center. Dr. Ebert is the director of the Boonshoft Physician Leadership Development Program in the Center for Global Health Systems, Management, and Policy and is also the director of the public health management concentration in the Master of Public Health Program at WSU. Dr. Ebert has served on the clinical faculty of the WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine for 18 years. He is the course director for two courses – Strategic Leadership in Health Care and Health Systems Communications, and teaches in two other courses – Economics of Health and Health Policy and Health Systems Management. He earned his undergraduate degree in Economics at The Ohio State University and graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He holds the Graduate Certificate in Health Care Management from WSU (2004), has done advanced course work in operations research and biostatistics at Case Western Reserve University, and has completed the Carnegie Mellon University program in executive leadership. Dr. Ebert received his MBA from WSU in 2006 and is currently working on his MPH degree from WSU.

The Boonshoft Physician Leadership Development Program was highlighted at the Center's Faculty Symposium held on October 8, 2007. Dr. Ebert provided a brief history of the program, explained the recruitment process, talked about the students (currently 23 MD/MPHs and 14 MD/MBAs) and the curriculum to the Center faculty and guests. Four of the students in the program made presentations to the faculty as well.

Dr. Ebert co-authored "Beyond the Dual Degree: Development of a Five Year Program in Leadership for Medical Undergraduates" along with Dr. Richard Schuster and Dr. Jerry Crites. The article was published in the January 2008 edition of Academic Medicine (Journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges).

The Program will have its first two graduates this spring - Kyle Horton (MD/MBA) and Karah Harvey (MD/MPH). The sixth class is currently being recruited from among this year's applicants to the Boonshoft School of Medicine.



WSU President, Dr. David Hopkins, poses with Drs. Ebert and Schuster prior to the Center's faculty symposium on October 8, 2008

Public Health in Practice

by Ken Dahms, JD, MA

Chris Eddy has always been fascinated with infectious diseases and their sources. As an environmental health sanitarian with the Hamilton County Health District, Chris was already quite familiar with residential-acquired infection which comes from our homes and community-acquired infection which comes from public places outside our homes (such as restaurants, public transportation, hotels, etc.). So it was natural that Chris would jump at the opportunity to learn more about a third major source of infectious diseases – that of hospital-acquired infections (“HAI”). The fact that Chris could fulfill his MPH practice placement requirement at the same time that he was pursuing one of his lifelong passions was simply “icing on the cake”. This unique opportunity arose because Mercy Health Partners in Cincinnati had an immediate need for someone to research and critique their hospital disaster plans and to make recommendations for future planning initiatives. Chris’ interest in this area and his unbounded enthusiasm for the project made him the obvious choice for the job. Dr. Peter Wong, Vice-President for Quality and Clinical Effectiveness for Mercy Health Partners (and a Wright State faculty member), agreed to be Chris’ site preceptor.

To say that this was a complicated, challenging and time-consuming process would be a gross understatement. During the course of his practice placement, Chris reviewed some

200 documents directly related to hospital preparedness. Many of these documents were quite lengthy, many had esoteric titles, and almost all of them were of a highly technical nature – anyone interested in reading the *American Society for Testing and Materials E2413-04 Standard Guide for Hospital Preparedness?* In Chris’ own words, he “learned as much as an individual can learn about infection control and disaster preparedness in a hospital environment without actually being employed in a hospital.” According to Chris, the practice placement made him a “soft expert” on subjects such as infection control techniques in a hospital, pandemic influenza planning and response, and disaster planning and response.

During his sojourn Chris ran across a number of very interesting facts, ideas, and concepts related to hospital disaster preparedness and infectious disease control that should give us pause – for example:

- ◆ In 2002 the Centers for Disease Control estimated that there were in excess of 2 million cases of HAI in United States hospitals; however, some people are convinced that more than half of these cases originate in the community and not in the hospitals.
- ◆ As a result of his research and conversations with Dr. Wong, Chris is absolutely convinced that hospitals must move toward an “all-hazards” approach to dis-

aster planning with pandemic influenza being just one of many pathogens about which hospitals need to be concerned. As one person told Chris, day-to-day infections such as community-acquired MRSA and Noroviruses are more important to infection control than the threat of pandemic influenza.

- ◆ The literature is beginning to question the traditional public health response of “command, control, and vaccinate” – some organizations are even recommending “non-pharmaceutical interventions” for pandemic influenza.
- ◆ Because a pandemic event would likely be of a relatively long duration, the possibility of “social disobedience” to official directives should not be discounted.

According to Chris, everything about his experience was positive. In his estimation he managed to learn more from this experience than he would have in any other forum in a comparable timeframe. Chris indicated he will miss the process and is somewhat sad that it is over. It is safe to say that Mercy Health Partners feels the same way.

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.



The Southwest District of AOHC (Association of Ohio Health Commissioners) presented the MPH program a recognition award on December 7, 2007. The SW District had the award approved by the State AOHC. This is the first time an academic program has received the award. The award reads “In appreciation of the Wright State University School of Medicine Masters of Public Health Program for their support of Public Health in Southwest Ohio—Congratulations on becoming accredited”.

Pictured: Janet Rickabaugh & Bill Mase with Charles Patterson, president of the SW AOHC.

Alumni Update

From the Director—Continued from Page 1



Alison Aldrich (MPH 2006) is the new Technology Outreach Coordinator for the Pacific Northwest Regional Medical Library (Seattle, WA). Her job is

to stay on top of emerging technologies (e.g. blogs, wikis, media-casting, RSS, and whatever is to come) and to assist individuals with putting those technologies to use in their libraries.

Visit Alison's Blog at:

<http://nnlm.gov/pnr/dragonfly/2008/01/08/new-technology-outreach-coordinator/>

Graduate Reception

Below are pictures from the MPH graduate reception held on November 16, 2007.



The third team was led by Dr. Scott Fraser of the WSU School of Professional Psychology (SOPP). The Center for Global Health Systems, the MPH Program, and the SOPP have partnered together to support these research and educational efforts. Dr. Fraser along with two doctoral students, Kristin Galloway and Anna Fedotova, spent the majority of time at Kiryot Shmona, Israel working at the Community Stress Prevention Center (CSPC) with Ruvie Rogel, Co-CEO of the CSPC and instructor in community health in the Boonshoft School of Medicine. They studied techniques used by the CSPC's professionals to treat acute stress reactions during the war. Additionally, they learned how the psychologists at the CSPC worked with first responders to enhance their effectiveness and to understand their own emotions and stresses.

Ruvie Rogel will be in Dayton in April 2008 teaching WUS's



WSU Faculty Team meet with staff at Western Galilee Hospital

MPH students and conducting a series of statewide workshops for first responders, mental and public health professionals, and emergency preparedness officials. Mr. Rogel's focus will be on assisting first responders – in public health, mental health, and emergency services – to understand the psychology of working in an emergency situation. The goal of the workshops will be to enhance understanding of the psychological issues faced by those experiencing the emergency and their own psychological issues as they provide care and assistance to those in need. More information will be provided about the workshops in the near future.

Culminating Experience Projects

by Ray Ten Eyck, MD, MPH

We are thrilled to add three more names to the growing list of graduates of the Wright State University Master of Public Health Program. Domonique Chapa, Marium Husain, and Tiffany Maple all completed their culminating experience projects during the Fall Quarter of 2007 and thus satisfied all of their requirements for graduation. The projects were diverse in nature and covered a spectrum of public health topics. However, they were consistent in their high quality and the benefit provided to our community.

Domonique Chapa addressed the relationship of pediatric respiratory disease to environmental and socioeconomic factors with her project entitled: "Relationship between Pediatric Asthma and Socioeconomic/Urban Factors in Montgomery Co., OH." The findings from her study provided information that can help plan future geographically targeted asthma interventions for our communities. Domonique was guided in her research by Dr. Daniel Johnson who

served as her committee chair and Mr. William Mase who served as her consultant.

Marium Husain's project focused on the relationship between socioeconomic factors, patient attitudes, and the completion of recommended preventive screenings in her project entitled: "Beliefs and Access Issues Related to Getting a Screening Mammogram." Her conclusion that access issues were more of a barrier than beliefs for women from lower socioeconomic groups provided her community partners with essential planning information required to better meet the needs of this population. Dr. Marietta Langlois mentored Marium as her guidance committee chair and Ms. Sara Brown, from Premier Health Partners, served as the consultant on Marium's committee.

Tiffany Maple completed her project under the guidance of her committee chair, Dr. Janet Rickabaugh, and her consultant, Dr. James King.

Tiffany's project entitled: "University Students' Involvement in Sexual Activity: Differences in Gender and Grade Level" evaluated the influences of gender and grade level on the willingness of college students to participate in risky sexual behaviors, which lead to a number of public health problems. She identified patterns in these behaviors, which can help to shape future prevention programs.

The MPH faculty congratulates all of these students on completion of their culminating experience and the MPH program. The expertise and dedication of each of the guidance committee members, without whom the program would not be possible, is greatly appreciated.

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

Upcoming Events.....

8th Annual Center Conference

February 20, 2008 at Sinclair College Ponitz Center, Dayton

Future Health: Is Preventive Care the Future of Health Care?

Keynote Speaker: Lewis Sandy, MD, MBA, Senior Vice President, UnitedHealth Group (United Health Care) - Economics of Prevention: How to Create a Health System that Promotes Prevention

Luncheon Speaker: Alvin D. Jackson, MD, Director of the Ohio Department of Health

For a tentative agenda go to <http://www.med.wright.edu/hsm/education.html>

WSU Student Rate: \$10; WSU Faculty Rate: \$40; Conference Rate: \$95

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

Deadline for Fall MPH Admissions is April 1, 2008

Contact Petra Weaver for more information -

Email: petra.weaver@wright.edu Telephone: 937-258-5547