

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.



Seizing the Moment

by Jim Ebert, MD, MBA, MPH

The week of March 21st was an exciting time to be in our nation's capital. The planners of this year's meeting of the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR) picked the dates and the site over a year ago, at a time when nobody could have imagined that the gathering would precisely coincide with the final hours of the legislative process known as "reconciliation" for PL 111-148 (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) and the final presidential signature making it the law of the land. The theme of this year's meeting was "Seizing the Moment" – as serendipitously salient as the timing of the meeting itself!

When the APTR leadership set up meetings with congressional staff members a few months ago, little did we know that the Congressmen and Senators would actually be running in and out of their offices to vote during our visits. We were there to clarify language in other legislation dealing with public health education. Fortunately, our business was non-partisan in nature, and required no expansion of appropriations. I actually had the opportunity to meet face-to-face with Senator Sherrod Brown during a morning coffee March 25th. He looked remarkably fresh, despite having been up until 2 a.m. We spent additional time with his staff, as well as Senator George Voinovich's staff and presented detailed position papers to the staff of Ohio Congressional representatives in both parties.

In striking contrast with some meetings that start with a bang, then fizzle as the hours wear on, this meeting seemed to gain momentum over time. An array of speakers from the academic community, the private sector, and various levels of government kept the sessions humming along. During a breakout session right before the meeting's close, a lively panel discussed the implications of PL 111-148. I was struck by how much work remains to be done as health reform moves from the legislative realm to the administrative realm. The law contains over one thousand occurrences of the phrase "the Secretary shall . . ." With each occurrence of that phrase, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and her staff are directed to write regulation to operationalize the health reform mandated in the new law. This work needs to be completed according to the timetables specified in the law, and will require ongoing input from the all the health system actors involved.

Lobbying for public health education - Dr. Ebert and other members of the Association for Prevention, Teaching, and Research gather at the Capitol



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**WSU MPH Special
Points of Interest**

Did you know?

- **3 students started the MPH program in the Winter and 7 students started in the Spring!**
- **WSU Spring Commencement will be held on Saturday, June 12, at the Nutter Center. Go to <http://www.wright.edu/commencement/faq.html> for commencement FAQ's.**
- **Research Methods and Design seminars (part of CMH 820/821 but needed to 'Pass' CMH 810) will be held at 6 PM on five consecutive Tuesdays: June 8, 15, 22, 29 & July 6 at the Center for Global Health.**
MPH students should email Lori Metivier at lori.metivier@wright.edu if they plan to attend.
- **Summer quarter begins June 14th. Early registration has begun. Open registration begins May 21st.**



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 Catanya Stager at (937) 258-5550 or via e-mail at

Introducing the Center for Healthy Communities by Kate Cauley, PhD



In August, 2009, the teaching and research staff of the Center for Healthy Communities (CHC) joined the faculty and staff of the Center for Global Health Systems, Management, and Policy (CGHSMP) at the Research Park office. The co-location has provided a number of opportunities for collaboration. For example CHC staff have been more directly involved with MPH students. Bill Spears and Carla Clasen are working with MPH students as culminating experience advisors. Kate Cauley has joined Cristina Redko teaching the Global Health classes, and Bill Spears is teaching the Population-based Management class.

CGHSMP staff have been gaining experience in the teaching pedagogy of service learning and bringing this resource to the MPH students. Work is underway which involves research and demonstration projects as faculty and staff from both programs partner to write grants, and submit abstracts for publication. Most recently, Dr. Cauley and Carla Clasen joined Dr. McAlearney to complete a study of the organizations that constitute the health care safety net for the state of Ohio. "We have felt most welcomed", said CHC Director Kate Cauley, "Co-location has afforded some great opportunities for CHC and CGHSMP folks to learn about each other's work and areas of expertise, and we have done some good work together."

The Center for Healthy Communities, previously located at the Kettering Center and Sinclair Community College in downtown Dayton, found itself looking for a new home in the summer of 2009, as Wright State decided to mothball the building and the staff at the Sinclair office outgrew the space. "The synergy that has begun to emerge has exciting potential as we find ways to work together and integrate our work" says Cauley, "Sometimes change is a really good thing."



Seizing the Moment, *Continued from Page 1*

I hope that anyone reading these words will closely follow this process at DHHS, and will take the time to make calls or send e-mails with suggestions to the overworked and underappreciated folks at DHHS who will be working diligently to make this happen in the weeks and months to come.

For health reform to work, and for the goals of improved outcomes, universal access, and cost containment to be met, a larger trained public health workforce will be essential. There has never been a better time to consider a career in public health, or to add the skills gained through an MPH degree to a clinical or administrative career. There will be twists and turns in the road ahead, as the law is challenged in the courts, and as the true costs and complexities of implementation come to light. But when we look back years from now, I believe that March of 2010 will clearly be seen as the turning point in bringing about better outcomes for more people.

With Sympathies.....

Wright State University mourns the passing of Mr. Oscar Boonshoft. Mr. Boonshoft's philanthropy to WSU and the Boonshoft SOM made possible the launching of the WSU MPH program in 2004, as well as the dual degree physician leadership program.

Faculty Conversations

by Bill Spears, PhD

Last summer several new faces started showing up around the Center for Global Health Systems, Policy, and Management. As a member of the Center for Healthy Communities (CHC) and faculty of the Department of Community Health, even before the move I had started to contribute to the MPH program. I have made presentations about survey research designs in Dr. Sara Paton's Public Health Epidemiology class. This winter I taught Population Based Management (CMH 744) where students are conducted a community assessment for five neighborhood schools.

Working with CHC puts me in contact with several community-based organizations that are interested in having MPH students do practice placements to learn about their operations and provide some much needed help. Students have worked with the CHC Kinship Navigators and Community Health Advocates, Premier Community Health, the Good Neighbor House, and GetUp Montgomery County.

Last fall Dr. Cristina Redko began directing students to me as a potential chair for their culminating experience projects. Now I have students who are working on several projects including worksite wellness, physical activity, teenage driving awareness, unmet medical needs, and other interesting topics. I enjoy helping students face the challenge of developing their literature review and learning, if they don't already know, the difference between creative and technical writing.

If it isn't already evident, I am interested in health from the community perspective. Carla Clasen, the co-director of CHC, and I are on the steering committee for Wellness Matters: a coalition building a healthy Dayton. This organization promotes health promotion using eight dimensions of wellness. Members of Wellness Matters represent more than 30 community-based organizations. Many of these and other groups CHC works with are potential sites for practice placement and data for culminating experiences. Students interested in exploring community topics for practice placement and/or culminating experience are welcome to drop by my office to talk to me.



Understanding the role the community plays in public health practice is an important aspect of public health education. Collaboration between alumni and community partners and faculty and staff at the MPH program is an important way that we can work together to ensure that students in the Wright State University MPH program get the best possible education.

To contact Dr. Bill Spears, please email him at william.spears@wright.edu

Wright State University, Boonshoft School of Medicine, Department of Community Health & Center for Global Health Systems, Management, & Policy
cordially invites you to the

Graduate & Alumni Reception

Thursday, May 27, 2010 from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Program commences at 6:30 p.m.

Join us by the fountain at Research Park to honor our recent graduates of the:

- * Boonshoft Physician Leadership Development Program,
- * Health Care Management Certificate Program, &
- * Master of Public Health Program

Kindly RSVP to Pam Mondini at 937-258-5555 by May 5th with guest count.
Heavy hors d'oeuvres served; if inclement weather, join us inside.



Public Health: North to Alaska by Ken Dahms, JD, MA

Somehow it seems fitting that Sarah McBeth's plane touched down at Sitka, Alaska on July 4th. Sitka is, after all, politically a part of the USA. However, as Sarah would soon discover, Sitka may as well have been a million miles away as far as the practice of medicine was concerned. Sarah's first hint that she was not in Ohio anymore came when she hitched a ride from the airport to Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital (where she would fulfill her medical school rotation and MPH practice placement) in a local resident's pickup truck along with the resident's fishing guide husband, and their three dogs. Sarah would spend the better part of July and August of 2009 doing work for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), primarily at Sitka's Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital which was operated by the Southeastern Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC), a subsidiary of ANTHC. Sarah's learning objectives included: wanting to experience the provision of healthcare in a remote location; wanting to learn about the cultural influences on health by speaking with and caring for Native Alaskan patients; and wanting to gain an appreciation for a unique type of healthcare system designed to promote self-determination and self-governance for Alaskan natives. It is safe to say that Sarah's experiences met all these objectives and then some!

Sarah also spent a week at the (even more) remote Village of Kake working at a health clinic also run by SEARHC. Kake is a small village (pop. 500) on Kupreanof Island accessible only by boat or plane – no airport, only a postage stamp sized landing strip. Sarah

arrived via a “very small plane” while sitting in the copilot's seat. Besides working at Kake's health clinic, Sarah got an opportunity to sample the native culture including “subsistence food preparation” (believe me, you do not want specifics) and (yum!) the native cuisine (but just say no to the kelp soup with fish eggs). On the more serious side of things, Sarah could not help noting that downtown Kake was made up of one overpriced grocery store along with a liquor store. The latter was perhaps symbolic of Kake's high incidence of alcoholism. Sarah also discovered that fully 85% of the residents received some form of government assistance.

Sarah's practice placement journal is filled with vivid descriptions of the “good, bad, and the ugly” of her Alaskan experience. On the downside, Sarah describes the tragedy of the seemingly endemic nature of alcohol and drug addiction among Native Alaskans. Abuse of prescription medications is widely practiced as is the inappropriate use of the urgent care facilities at Mount Edgecumbe Hospital. All of these observations were in addition to the challenges and frustrations that are inherently a part of practicing medicine in a remote area where even standard medical procedures may involve the airlifting of patients to a hospital in far-away Anchorage. Some of the individual cases that Sarah describes are heart-breaking and terribly poignant.

But, like a lot of things in life, Sarah concluded that her good experiences definitely outweighed the other stuff. The sheer beauty of Sitka was enough

to take your breath away and Sarah did manage to find the time to enjoy the city's trails, shoreline and mountains.



Despite the obstacles of practicing medicine in a remote location, Sarah concluded that all things considered, SEARHC was able to provide excellent medical care to its patients, Alaska Native or otherwise. Despite some individual failings, Sarah found the vast majority of Native patients she encountered to be appreciative, good-natured, and hard-working with a strong sense of pride in their self-reliance and rich heritage. Sarah was reminded of this heritage every day by the Tlingit and Haida artwork which adorned the hospital's walls and by the intricately carved large wooden panels near the hospital's main entrance. In her journal, Sarah also speaks glowingly of listening to elderly Native Alaskans share their stories regarding what healthcare was like in Alaska's not-so-distant past. And then there were the two weeks Sarah spent with veterinarian, innkeeper, and (according to Fodor's Guide to Alaska) “loveable curmudgeon”, Burgess Bauder, at his shack at Rockwell Lighthouse suturing cats and learning about true dedication to the art of medicine and serving patients. But that's a story for another day ...

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.

First Lady Launches Childhood Obesity Initiative by Sabrina Neeley, PhD



On February 9, 2010, First Lady Michelle Obama announced a new initiative aimed at increasing children's health. *Let's Move* focuses on decreasing childhood overweight and obesity by increasing chil-

dren's physical activity and their access to healthy foods (www.letsmove.gov). *Let's Move* will facilitate the collaborations of states, communities, schools, non-profit organizations, and companies to pool their resources and expertise to help children become healthier through the Partnership for a Healthier America. Mrs.

Obama states: “The physical and emotional health of an entire generation and the economic health and security of our nation is at stake. This isn't the kind of problem that can be solved overnight, but with everyone working together, it can be solved. So, “*let's move.*”

First Lady Launches Initiative,

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The program will target four key areas:

(1) **Healthy Choices:** *Let's Move* will provide information to empower parents to make healthy food choices. The American Beverage Association has agreed that member companies will clearly label calorie information on the front of packages, and on vending machines and fountains within two years. The American Academy of Pediatrics will educate its members about monitoring children's weight and providing counseling to parents. *Let's Move* will also launch a public information campaign to increase awareness of the problem of childhood overweight and obesity.

(2) **Healthier Schools:** *Let's Move* will ensure kids have access to healthy meals at schools. This includes the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act including more funding for training of school food workers and acquisition of fruits and vegetables. School food suppliers such as Sodexo and Aramark have agreed to work towards meeting the Institute of Medicine's recommendations on fat, sugar, and salt in school lunches, within the next five years. More schools will be encouraged to meet Healthier US Schools Challenge.

(3) **Accessing to Affordable Healthy Food:** *Let's Move* will decrease food deserts in the United States. The President's 2011 proposed budget includes additional funding for the USDA's Farmers Market Promotion Program and the Healthy Food Financing Initiative that will help bring grocery stores to underserved communities.

(4) **Physical Activity:** *Let's Move* will encourage kids to get the recommended levels of physical activity. The President's Physical Fitness Challenge will be expanded and modernized and the number of Presidential Active Lifestyle Awards will be doubled. The US Department of Education and Congress will provide funding to encourage schools to make changes to their physical environments that encourage kids to be more physically active and improve physical education. Professional athletes have agreed to participate in encouraging kids to be more physically active through the "60 Minutes of Play a Day" program.

Culminating Experience Update

by Cristina Redko, PhD

During the Summer and Fall of 2009 our MPH students have completed some wonderful and high quality research projects. Here are some highlights of their research.

Sula Mazimba developed a retrospective case-control study with patients that were admitted in local hospitals with a diagnosis of congestive heart failure. Sula evaluated the relationship between preadmission patient characteristics and 30 day readmissions. Thirty day readmission rates have often been used by third party payers as a surrogate index for quality of care in the inpatients settings. Soon after completing the MPH program, Sula started his fellowship in cardiology at Kettering Hospitals, and is now hoping to stimulate and guide other MPH students to focus in cardiovascular diseases while developing their culminating experiences.

Steve McCullar did a selective comparison of global health organizations to detect a need to either establish more similar type organizations, or make current ones more efficient. Steve wanted to argue whether the creation of a Global Health Corps would be crucial to enhance the current global health workforce.

Eman Meawad, guided by her chemical engineering background, investigated the potential risks that nanotechnology brings to health and the environment. Eman did a comprehensive literature review of the data available on health effects of nanomaterials, and the potential environmental impacts associated with the use of these nanomaterials.

Heather Endres did a comprehensive literature review to examine disparities in the prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) across the United States. For instance, she described that states with more funding and resources for mental health usually had a higher prevalence of ASD --- more disease prevalence or more opportunities to diagnose and treat the disease.

Erin Brigham used geographic information systems (GIS) to evaluate the effectiveness of the Montgomery County, Ohio dam system and of the Great Miami River. She demonstrated that a large majority of the residents of Dayton and Montgomery County would be protected if another flood event were to take place. Cities to the south of Dayton (Moraine and West Carrollton) are not as well protected.

Stephanie Rogers developed her culminating experience exploring child obesity. She examined boys and girls responses on nutrition knowledge, physical activities, and physical fitness testing after they participated in a child obesity intervention implemented at Fairborn Elementary Schools.

I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to the guidance committee members who shared their time, expertise, and experience to help our students achieve their research goals in the MPH program.

For more information about the MPH Culminating Experience Project, please contact Cristina Redko, PhD at (937) 258-5555 or cristina.redko@wright.edu



MPH Students: Don't forget to RSVP for the Research Methods & Design seminar series mentioned in the "Did You Know" section on Page 2 if you are ready to begin your culminating experience project!

Student and Faculty Recognition....

Liliana Cote de Bejarano (MPH '06) and her husband Daniel were trained in Omaha, NE as medical consultants of Natural Procreative Technology (NaPro) Technology and practitioners of the Creighton model Fertility Care System (CrMS). They are presenting an in-service and are willing to teach couples how to use this method. For more information, email Lili at blili-cote@yahoo.com.

Megan (Luse) Folkerth (MPH '08) is currently employed at the Northern Kentucky Health Department as a Senior Health Educator for the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program. Additionally, she and Matt Fokerth were married on October 17, 2009!

Mark Gebhart, PhD, associate professor of Emergency Medicine is the director of the new Center for Excellence at Wright State University, the National Center for Medical Readiness (NCMR) at Calamityville. The NCMR is unique in that medicine is the central core component in the training of health care providers to respond to disasters. Please visit <http://webapp2.wright.edu/web1/regionalsummit/> for more information. Dr. Gebhart is the Emergency Preparedness Concentration Director in the MPH program.

Marium Husain (MPH '07) co-authored a journal article with MPH faculty Dr. Marietta Orlowski entitled "Revisiting the Relationship Between Beliefs and Mammography Utilization" published in the *American Journal of Health Studies*, Volume 25, Number 2/10.

Sarah Ndiang'ui, current MPH student, has been accepted into the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention's (CSAP) Prevention Fellowship Program by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The primary goal of the Prevention Fellowship Program is to prepare fellows for IC&RC certification as substance abuse prevention specialists. More information about this fellowship opportunity can be found at: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/0908282920.aspx>

Sara Paton, PhD, co-authored "An Overview of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders for Physicians" in the January 2010 *Primary Care Reports* (16)1. She was also invited to participate in the Ohio Infant Mortality Task Force established by Governor Strickland; the final report was released in November 2009. Dr. Paton teaches public health epidemiology in the MPH program.

Luke Rothermel, a current 5th-year MD/MPH student, presented on his 5-week trip to Sukhdev Raj Soin Hospital in rural India on January 11, 2010. His presentation can be found under "News" at the following web page: <http://www.med.wright.edu/clubs/ghi/index.html>

Lorena Royer (MPH '06) has been named the clinical coordinator for a new federally qualified health center in New Carlisle, OH.

Pattama Ulrich (MPH '08) has been called to active duty and is serving as a lieutenant as a US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps officer at the Department of Health and Human Services since July 2009.

Philip Van Atta (MPH '08) will receive an award for the best published paper in the Management Division for his article entitled "Water System Preparedness and Best Practices for Pandemic Influenza," published in the January 2009 *Journal of the American Water Works Association*.

The following 5th year dual degree students received their respective residencies on Match Day; they will graduate on Friday, May 28, with their MD and MPH degrees:

Jeffrey Jenks, Internal Medicine, Boston University Medical Center; **Kevin Jensen**, Obstetrics/ Gynecology, Texas Tech University; **Charlene Lam**, Dermatology, Hershey Medical Center/ Pennsylvania; **Sarah McBeth**, Internal Medicine, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center; **Luke Rothermel**, Surgery-General, University Hospitals Case Medical Center.

NOTE: WSU MPH graduates, students, & Faculty - remember to submit any happenings, i.e. promotions, presentations, new job, publications, to Catanya Stager at catanya.stager@wright.edu.

....Congratulations to All!
