



University of Connecticut

Public Health Happenings

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“The argument for reform seems clear. Americans without insurance need guaranteed access to coverage. Those with insurance need a guarantee that they will not be dropped by their insurers and will be able to buy an affordable policy if their employers decide to drop coverage. And ways must be found to slow the rise in health care costs and ease the burden of paying for insurance.”

New York Times Editorial, September 23, 2009

Accessed on September 23 at

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/23/opinion/23wed2.html?th&emc=th>

In this Issue:

- The Directors' Message
- Spring 2010 Courses
- Certified in Public Health Exam
- Student Opportunities
- Employment Opportunities
- Grand Rounds, Forums, Seminars, Conferences
- Health Reform Panel Discussion
- Report: The Cost of Health Inequities
- Student, Alumni and Faculty News

DEMONSTRATING CROSS-CUTTING COMPETENCIES: THE ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

While the UConn MPH program has its own set of competencies, they are based on the competencies outlined by the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH). Many of the competencies required of our program as well as those outlined by ASPH can be accomplished in the classroom. Many cannot without the opportunity to apply them in a practice setting.

What are the specific competencies we are talking about? They are what ASPH refers to as cross-cutting competencies, particularly such competencies as leadership, professionalism and program planning. For example, there are nine specific leadership competencies; upon graduation, an individual with an MPH should be able to:

- Describe the attributes of leadership in public health.
- Describe alternate strategies for collaboration and partnership among organizations focused on public health goals.
- Articulate an achievable mission, set of core values, and vision.
- Engage in dialogue and learning from others to advance public health goals.
- Demonstrate team building, negotiation, and conflict management skills.
- Demonstrate transparency, integrity, and honesty in all actions.
- Use collaborative methods for achieving organizational and community health goals.
- Apply social justice and human rights principles when addressing community needs.
- Develop strategies to motivate others for collaborative problem solving, decision-making and evaluation.

As we noted above, one cannot gain all these competencies while sitting in a classroom. One way to enhance leadership skills is through internships with public health agencies and other organizations. Another way is through active participation in professional organizations.

The months of October and November give ample opportunity to do this. On Friday, October 23, the Connecticut Public Health Association holds its annual meeting at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville, CT. The theme of the meeting, **Protect, Promote, Prevent: Think globally, Act locally**, allows for a wide breadth of public health issues to be covered. The keynote address touches on perhaps the hottest public health issue today: reform of our health care system and universal access to care. "Health Reform, Preventive Medicine, and the Public Health: The Devil is in the Details" is the title of the talk, to be presented by David Kamerow, Chief Scientist of the Research Triangle Institute and National Public Radio Commentator. Previously, Kamerow was Director of the Center for Practice and Technology Assessment at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and Director of the US Preventive Services Task Force.

In addition, a series of workshops will cover a variety of key public health issues: healthy food/safe food; emerging issues in HIV; childhood obesity; public health interventions for the elderly, including prevention of falls; working cross culturally in Connecticut and the world; safe drinking water; health promotion and protection at the workplace; public health nursing; and successful advocacy in challenging times. Much of this will reinforce what students are learning in the classroom. There are special registration rates for student registration and membership. Registration will be available at the door, but registration by October 22 is advised. For more information, visit www.cpha.info or call Annamarie Beaulieu, CPHA Campaign Coordinator, at 860-293-1183.

A little further from home, but still relatively close by, is the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association in Philadelphia, November 7-11, 2009. The APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition is the oldest and largest gathering of public health professionals in the world, attracting more than 13,000 national and international physicians, administrators, nurses, educators, researchers, epidemiologists, related health specialists, and public health students. APHA's meeting program addresses current and emerging health science, policy, and practice issues in an effort to prevent disease and promote health. Learn, network, socialize and participate—there is a choice of more than 1,000 cutting edge scientific sessions, 700 exhibit booths on public health educational and career opportunities, products and services as well as the Public Health CareerMart. An UConn MPH Alumni Social, open to students and faculty, will be held on Monday evening, November 9. Students who join APHA automatically become part of the APHA Student Assembly, which offer numerous opportunities for leadership development. Students will find both the CPHA and APHA conferences well worth the investment.

CPHA also welcomes students to join the organization through internships or committee membership. Several students have interned with the CPHA Advocacy Committee (see spring internship opportunity below), an experience that has often lead directly or indirectly to employment opportunities. Last year four former students of the Strategic Planning elective (being offered this spring) followed up with capstone projects on different aspects of CPHA's strategic planning process. Other students have been involved with the Program Committee and Communications Committee. In short, there are ample opportunities for leadership development with these and

other professional organizations, and we encourage students to take advantage of these opportunities to develop further and demonstrate their public health competencies. The opportunity for mentorship is also a big plus.

On another note, **Wendy Walsh**, our current program officer, will be taking a new position with UConn Health Center's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs in late October. We thank her for her devotion to the MPH program, its faculty, students, and alumni. We will miss her tremendously but wish her the very best.

David I. Gregorio, PhD, MS
Director, Master of Public Health Program

Joan Segal, MA, MS
Associate Director

SPRING 2010 COURSES ANNOUNCED

The MPH Program has released its spring 2010 course offerings. The core course schedule is as follows:

Environmental Health: Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Social and Behavioral Foundations of Public Health: Tuesdays, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Introduction to Epidemiology/Biostatistics I: Thursdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Practicum in Public Health: Mondays, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Public health electives include:

Mondays: International Health; Public Health and Policy in an Aging Society
Tuesdays: Industrial Hygiene; Intermediate Epidemiology
Wednesdays: Strategic Planning; Public Health Informatics; Health Program Evaluation
Thursdays: Public Health Issues in Genetics; Topics in Intermediate Biostatistics

Due to positive feedback from both full and part-time students, three of the electives will be held in the afternoon: Public Health Policy in an Aging Society, Industrial Hygiene, and Health Program Evaluation.

In addition to courses sponsored by the MPH program, the UConn Public Administration Program has secured slots for MPH students in the following Public Policy courses on the Hartford Campus located at 1800 Asylum Avenue in West Hartford: Resource Development for Nonprofit Organizations and Applied Research Design on Mondays; Advanced Quantitative Methods, Human Resource Management, Public Investment Management, and State Budgeting on Tuesdays; Attitude Formation and Administrative Function of Local Government on Wednesdays; and Policy Analysis and Analysis for Decision Making on Thursdays.

Registration for degree students begins on November 9. Non-degree registration begins the following week on November 16 on a first-come, first served basis, with certificate students having priority over other non-degree students. To be assured enrollment in their courses of choice, degree students should plan on registering the week of November 9, and certificate students beginning November 16. Students who cannot register until the first day of class because of UConn union contracts should let Barbara Case know their course selections to reserve space in them.

GET CERTIFIED IN PUBLIC HEALTH

The National Board Exam tests a candidate's knowledge of the five core areas of public health (epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health, health administration and policy, and social and behavioral sciences) and seven cross-cutting competencies in public health.



NBPHE

National Board of Public Health Examiners

To be eligible for the Certified in Public Health (CPH) exam you must have graduated from a **CEPH-accredited school or program in public health**. Those graduating in 2010 must have completed all degree requirements on or **before July 31, 2010**. Register online at www.publichealthexam.org and take the exam at one of the 300 test centers across the U.S. or at a site overseas. The early registration fee for the August 2010 CPH exam is \$350 (register between October 1, and November 22, 2009). The regular registration fee is \$400 (register between November 23, 2009 and April 23, 2010). Visit the above website for further information.

PART-TIME STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

The Center on Aging at UConn Health Center is about to receive a grant from the CT Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB) that will require some telephone surveying of BESB clients age 55 and above who have received services in the past year. The Center is looking for MPH students who are available part-time to help administer the surveys and work on a report that BESB must submit to the Rehabilitation Services Administration by January 1. The work would begin in October and conclude mid-December. At least one Spanish speaking interviewer is needed. If interested, please contact Noreen Shugrue at (860) 679-1689.

POTENTIAL STUDENT PROJECT

The CT Department of Public Health anticipates carrying out several CDC-required evaluations of the WISEWOMAN Program during the 2009-2010 year. These evaluations lend themselves to a graduate student internship experience. The WISEWOMAN Program provides cardiovascular risk reduction services to underserved women who have participated in the CT Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, a funded CDC initiative. If interested in the project, contact Stan Wolfe at swolfe@uchc.edu. For more information about the WISEWOMAN Program, contact Phyllis Dower, MPH, WISEWOMAN Program Coordinator, Connecticut Department of Public Health, at (860) 509-7506 or phyllis.dower@ct.gov.

ADVOCACY INTERNSHIP

Students interested in health care policy and the legislative process are encouraged to apply to the Connecticut Public Health Association's (CPHA's) internship program, which runs in the spring during the [Connecticut General Assembly's](#) legislative session. An intern typically will:

- Take a tour of the Capitol building and legislative office building.
- Track bill activity in Connecticut's House and Senate.
- Draft memoranda that analyze bills of interest to CPHA.
- Research upcoming legislative initiatives.
- Write CPHA Advocacy Committee communications, including action alerts.
- Prepare and update legislative fact sheets.
- Draft letters to legislators.
- Submit written testimony.
- Attend and give oral testimony at public hearings.
- Observe legislative debate on the floor of the state House and Senate.
- Attend quarterly CPHA Advocacy Committee meetings and other external meetings as a representative of CPHA.
- Draft legislative updates to the CPHA membership.
- Review CPHA's legislative priorities.
- Assess efficacy of advocacy efforts at close of legislative session.

Interns will learn about the overall legislative process and basic tenets of general public health advocacy. Students wishing to make the internship their capstone project will be expected to develop an expanded project, to be shaped with the individual intern.

Please forward your resume, a cover letter (one page maximum), and a writing sample to Advocacy Committee Chair Alyssa Norwood, JD, MPH, at: alyssa.norwood@cpha.info.

HEALTH EDUCATION INTERNSHIP

The Central Area Health Education Center (Central AHEC) is offering an internship for students interested in community health education from now through June 2010. This focus of this internship is on heart disease and stroke prevention. The intern will work as part of a team on the HeartStrong program by:

- Assisting in overall design, implementation and evaluation of a health education program.
- Creating pre and post tests to access learners' cognitive skills and acquired health knowledge.
- Analyzing test results and producing a participant outcome report.
- Developing creative activities, techniques, and strategies to enhance the health education experience for program participants.
- Preparing materials to promote the program in multiple media outlets such as newspapers, radio, and website.
- Performing other tasks specific to health programming.

Applicants should be creative and have research, analytical, and writing skills. The intern will learn new research skills, enhance existing computer skills, and gain practical experience in health education programming. For more information please contact Carol A. Walsh, HeartStrong Coordinator, Central AHEC, Inc., 2 Holcomb Street, 5th Floor, Hartford, CT 06112-1528, cwalsh@centralctahec.org, (860) 543-8873.

NEW POSITIONS AT MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL

Middlesex Hospital is leading a partnership with the Middletown Public School system and the Middlesex Ministerial Alliance of 23 African American Churches on a grant funded by the Connecticut Health Foundation. The three systems have united to institute a system to identify children between the ages of 6 and 11 who are at risk of behavioral health problems, and provide effective preventive interventions in three settings: school, family and community. This new system is called iCARE—Identifying Children At Risk Early. Middlesex Hospital has posted the following three positions:

iCARE Program Coordinator (Part time-20/hr/week). The Program Coordinator is responsible for the overall implementation of the iCARE initiative, including coordinating contracts with consultants, planning all training and educational events, convening and leading monthly meetings of the steering committee, and supervising the iCARE staff. Additional responsibilities will include the implementation of the ongoing evaluation component and participation in local and statewide coalitions and committees which work to the iCARE initiative mission. Qualifications for this position include a Master of Public Health or equivalent, and experience in planning, implementation, and analyzing public health and/or community based programs, and the ability to bring together individuals from various fields in effective partnership.

iCARE Social Worker. The iCARE Social Worker is the primary coordinator of behavioral health services for children and their families who are referred to a school-based Student Support Center and will serve as a link between the school, child, family and community. The iCARE Social Worker will provide assessment services, and work in conjunction with the Ministerial Alliance and Parent Peer Advocates. Additional responsibilities will include participation in local and statewide coalitions and committees. Qualifications for this position include a Master of Social Work from an accredited graduate school and Connecticut State Social Work licensure.

Student Support Center Coordinator. The Student Support Center Coordinator is responsible for the day to day operations of the Student Support Center and works cooperatively and creatively with the iCARE Social Worker and elementary school staff to develop behavioral plans and strategies to improve students' behavioral health. Additional responsibilities will include assisting with the administration and scoring of a universal behavior rating scale and entering student discipline data into an established database. Qualifications for this position include a Bachelor's Degree in psychology/counseling and/or education with five years experience working with elementary school children in an educational and behavioral health capacity, and experience in planning and implementation

of activities and interventions that are culturally and linguistically appropriate for the demographic diversity represented in the school population.

Interested candidates can send their cover letters and resumes to Pam Higgins, MPH (2001) at Pam_Higgins@midhosp.org.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT MANAGER POSITION

Chrysalis Center in Hartford has an opening for a Quality Improvement (QI) Manager to develop, implement, coordinate and administer all quality assurance and quality improvement functions to ensure contractual compliance, regulations, policies, standards and the provision of accessible, quality and cost-effective services. The QI Manager is responsible for oversight of the Client Information System, oversight and coordination of CARF accreditation, and outcome measurement functions to ensure agency meets stated goals.

Applicants with a master's degree are preferred. Qualifications include a minimum of a bachelor's degree; three or more years of experience in a health services agency conducting quality assurance and improvement functions; a minimum of two years of supervisory experience; ability to work in partnership with agency staff, work teams and regulation/funder groups; valid driver's license and a vehicle.

In addition, applicants should possess the following:

- Ability to organize and carry out data-collection and data reporting projects.
- Knowledge of principles of data analysis and statistics.
- Extensive experience in analyzing and reporting aggregate data
- Knowledge and proficiency of common computer applications, including MS Word, MS Access, and MS Excel.
- Extensive knowledge of SAS and/or SPSS or any other statistical package.
- Familiarity with mental health and addictions service systems.
- Familiarity with the DMHAS information system.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Thorough knowledge of quality assurance and improvement practices and familiarity with outcome measurement and IT systems.
- Excellent data analysis skills

To apply, contact Mary Feliciano, Associate Assistant, Chrysalis Center, 278 Farmington Ave., Hartford, CT 06105, phone (860) 525-1261, fax (860) 527-0297.

SENIOR EPIDEMIOLOGIST POSITION

The Occupational Health Surveillance Program (OHSP) at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has an opening for a **Senior Epidemiologist**. The program is looking for someone with strong epidemiological and biostatistical skills who will be responsible for hands on analysis of large population-based data sets and also serve as advisor to other OHSP epidemiologists who manage specific surveillance systems. This person will have the opportunity to play a leadership role in setting the direction of the program and development of surveillance initiatives.

Preference will be given to applicants with the following experience:

- Use of epidemiological methods for occupational and/or environmental health research.
- Familiarity with the various standard coding schemes and methods for categorizing exposure and populations at risk used in occupational health research.
- Use of multivariate statistics such as logistic regression and path analysis.
- Experience managing research or surveillance projects.
- Experience in providing technical assistance to others on epidemiological/biostatistics research methods.
- Three years of programming experience in SAS and working familiarity with large data sets.

The full posting is on <https://jobs.hrd.state.ma.us>, position #/key word: J19200.

POLICY ANALYST & OTHER POSITIONS: INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

The Futures Institute, located in Glastonbury, CT, has recently posted four new positions. The firm focuses on enhancing social and economic development in the fields of HIV/AIDS, family planning and reproductive health, child survival and infectious diseases by providing tools and technical assistance in policy, planning, modeling, resource allocation and evaluation. Much of this work uses computer modeling to examine the impact of interventions, including new technologies, in averting new infections, deaths or unplanned pregnancies.

Currently, the firm is seeking to fill the position of **Policy Analyst**. The ideal candidate will have strong quantitative skills and experience in applying quantitative analysis techniques to public health issues in the developing world. The position will require international travel and the ability to work well with developing country counterparts and to support capacity building. Candidates should have a relevant post-graduate degree (e.g., MPH) or equivalent experience. Proficiency in a second language is a plus. Qualified candidates should email cover letter and resume to: resumes@futuresinstitute.org (Attn: John Stover).

Another position currently posted is that of **Modeler/Policy Analyst**, a senior position requiring strong quantitative skills and experience in developing and applying computer models to examine key public health issues, particularly in the fields of HIV/AIDS, TB, child survival and family planning. The position will require international travel and the ability to work well with developing country counterparts and to support capacity building. Candidates should have a relevant post-graduate degree (PhD, MPH, etc.) or equivalent experience and at least five years of experience in international public health. Proficiency in a second language is a plus. Email cover letter and resume to: resumes@futuresinstitute.org (Attn: John Stover).

The position of **Senior Economist** is also posted. The ideal candidate will have strong research skills along with knowledge of policies and programs in the fields of HIV/AIDS, family planning and reproductive health, child survival and infectious diseases. Responsibilities include contributing to or leading project management teams on all aspects of research projects, including developing research designs, developing data collection instruments and plans, collecting quantitative and qualitative data, designing and implementing the analysis and synthesis of data, managing the work of more junior staff, and preparing technical memoranda and reports. Experience in computer modeling, simulation, and complex analyses would be highly desirable. The position will require international travel and the ability to work well with developing country counterparts and to support capacity building. Candidates should have a relevant post-graduate degree (PhD, MPH, etc.) or equivalent experience and at least five years of experience in international public health. Proficiency in a second language is a plus. Email cover letter and resume to: resumes@futuresinstitute.org (Attn: Lori Bollinger).

There is also an immediate need for a **Programmer/Developer**. This is a full-time, entry level position that will require developing, maintaining and supporting computer modeling applications. The programmer will work closely with senior modeling and programming staff to translate analytical models into desktop applications using Embarcadero Delphi. Applicants should possess a BA/BS Computer Science/Math or related degree, team-player attitude, and strong incentive to learn in a small company environment. Email cover letter and resume to: resumes@futuresinstitute.org (Attn: Bob McKinnon).

For further information visit <http://www.futuresinstitute.org/Pages/Careers.aspx>.

STUDENT PART-TIME JOBS AT UCHC

The Ethel Donaghue Center for Translating Research into Practice and Policy (TRIPP Center) at UConn Health Center may need some student help. The Center's mission is to facilitate health services and practice-oriented translational (T2) research of practical benefit to the University, local and regional primary care providers, patients, health systems, and policy organizations (including local and state governments). Accordingly, it is designed to provide an interdisciplinary collaborative home where University-affiliated clinicians, researchers, staff, and students will have access to research capacity and training

and where community researchers, clinicians and other interested parties can seek research guidance and opportunities for collaboration.

If interested, please contact: Melanie Martin-Peele · Office: (860) 679-3990 · Mobile: (860) 331-1206
Web site: <http://trippcenter.uchc.edu>

CENTER ON AGING GRAND ROUNDS

The UConn Center on Aging is offering the following Grand Rounds for the remainder of the 2009-2010 academic year:

Communicating with Older Adults About Pain Management	December 14, 2009
Aging, Musculoskeletal Disorders & Work Capacity	February 22, 2010
Role of Gender, Hormones and Age in Stroke	March 15, 2010
Angiogenesis: A Modifiable Determinant of Functional Plasticity in Old Age	March 29, 2010
Reducing Adverse Self-Medication Behaviors in Older Adults with Hypertension	May 3, 2010
Frailty Intervention	May 10, 2010
Incorporating Frailty Diagnosis and Management Into Real World Clinical Settings	May 24, 2010
Brain White Matter Hyperintensities: A Shared Risk Factor for Geriatric Voiding, Mobility, & Cognitive Impairments	June 21, 2010

All grand round sessions will be held on Mondays, 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the Low Learning Center, UCHC, Farmington. They also will be available via video conferencing on the Storrs Campus, Building CUE, Room 320.

HEALTH POLICY FORUM: UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE IN BRAZIL

New York University's Master's Program in Global Public Health invites you to a panel discussion, "Health Policy: Innovation and Inequalities—Experiences from Brazil" on Monday, October 26, 5:00-6:30 p.m. in Jurow Hall, 100 Washington Square East. Brazil is one of only a few middle income countries with a universal, rights-based public health system and is well-known for its innovative approaches to a number of public health problems. At the same time, there remain considerable geographic, socioeconomic, and racial/ethnic inequalities in health status and its determinants throughout the country.

This panel brings together leading Brazilian experts who will discuss the extent of inequalities in health in the country and present several health policy innovations (such as the national HIV/AIDS program and training human resources for health) designed to tackle such inequalities. The panel, comprised of Dr. Naomar Almeida-Filho, Rector of the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA), Dr. Emilio José Castro e Silva, Director of International Relations at UFBA, and Inês Dourado, Professor at UFBA's Institute for Collective Health will discuss progress and remaining challenges facing their country's ongoing development of a universal health system. The event is open to the public at no charge. Please RSVP online at http://www.nyu.edu/mph/events/event.html?e_id=1902.

OCEANS AND HUMAN HEALTH: A NEW FALL SEMINAR SERIES

You are invited to attend a new fall seminar series on the subject of Oceans and Human Health, organized by the post-doctoral and graduate trainees of I-RICH. I-RICH is a multi-institutional research and education consortium funded by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). As one of five training consortia in the United States, I-RICH is a collaboration between scientists and faculty in several UCONN research centers, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Center for Public Health and Health Policy, as well as the Mystic Aquarium and the Milford Laboratory of the National Marine Fishery Service.

On **October 29**, Dr. Bob Bowen, University of Massachusetts, Boston will present on “**Seas, Society and Human Well Being**” at 12:00-1:00 p.m. at The Exchange, Suite 173, 270 Farmington Ave., Farmington. The other two seminars in the series include “**Natural Halogenated Compounds in Aquatic Food Webs**” by Dr. Chris Reddy, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, on October 23, 3:00-4:00 p.m. in the Department of Marine Sciences, Room 103, University of Connecticut, Avery Point, Shennecossett Rd., Groton; and “**Legions of Legionella in the Coastal Marine Environment: Potential Implications for Human Health**” by Dr. Rebecca Gast, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, on November 19, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (light refreshments at 10:30) in the Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Sciences, Room A - 001, University of Connecticut, Storrs, 61 N. Eagleville Rd. For more information visit: <http://www.i-rich.uconn.edu/>.

PUBLIC HEALTH GRAND ROUNDS: GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Global Climate Change: Implications for Public Health” is the topic of the next Public Health Grand Rounds, a webcast developed in collaboration between CDC and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Public Health. The Webcast will take place on Thursday, November 5, 2009, 2:00-4:00 p.m. ET.

There is widespread scientific consensus that the world’s climate is changing. Some of the effects of climate change are likely to include more variable weather, heat waves, heavy precipitation events, flooding, droughts, more intense storms such as hurricanes, sea level rise, and air pollution. Each of these changes has the potential to negatively affect health.

This Public Health Grand Rounds program features nationally distinguished experts from CDC who discuss the case for the potential impact of climate change on the public’s health. Also, they focus on various processes, tools and resources which are currently available to support efforts to prepare for the affects of climate change in our states and communities. To learn more or to register, go to <http://publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu/>.

HEALTH REFORM: A PANEL DISCUSSION

The MPH Program’s *Health Administration and Policy* course is hosting a panel discussion on **November 12th, 6:00—9:00 p.m.**, in Patterson Auditorium, UConn Health Center. The panel topic is ***Paying for Health – Healthcare Reform’s Impact on Health Cost, Quality and Access***. The goal is examine the current healthcare reform debate from the perspective of the public healthcare finance systems’ impact on public health outcomes, through a diverse panel of health finance administrators, policy makers, and legislators.

The panelists are:

Congressman Christopher S. Murphy, JD: CT 5th District representative; member of the US Congressional Energy and Commerce Committee and its Health and Telecommunications Subcommittees; and of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and its National Security and Foreign Affairs, and Government Management, Organization and Procurement Subcommittees. The Energy and Commerce Committee is often considered one of the three most powerful committees in Congress, overseeing policy on health care, energy, the environment, global warming, consumer product safety, and other matters. Congressman Murphy is also past Chair of the CT Congressional Public Health Committee

Michael P. Starkowski: Commissioner of the CT Department of Social Services, instrumental in the development of the CT Healthcare for Uninsured Kids and Youth (HUSKY) Plan, the ConnPace program (providing access and payment for pharmaceuticals for the elderly and people with disabilities), and the Charter Oak Health Plan (for uninsured adults)

Robert E. Patricelli, JD: Founder, Chair, President and CEO of Women’s Health USA; past Founder, Chair, President and CEO of Value Health; past Executive Vice President of CIGNA Corporation, and President of its health care group; past White House Fellow, serving as Minority Counsel to the Deputy Under Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare; member of the Board of Northeast Utilities, Curagen Corporation, and Wesleyan University, and member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences

Patricia Baker: President and CEO of the CT Health Foundation; past national Program Director of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation; past Director of CT government programs at Oxford Health Plan; and past Executive Director of Planned Parenthood of CT.

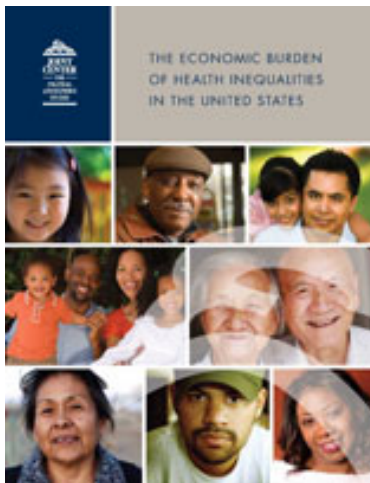
The discussion is open to all MPH, medical, dental, doctoral and other students, faculty, alumni and friends.

PANDEMIC FLU CONFERENCE

The World Response Conference on Global Outbreak (WRCGO) 2009 - H1N1 Swine Flu and H5N1 Avian Flu will take place on November 12-13 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The mission of this conference is to support the urgent endeavors of worldwide public health on pandemic influenza and to contribute to the advancement of the global community through Prevention, Protection, Response, and Recovery.

For further information call (425) 996-7102 or go to <http://wrcgo.eve-ex.com/>. To register, visit http://wrcgo.eve-ex.com/images/stories/WRCGO_brochure.pdf.

THE COST OF HEALTH INEQUITIES



In September 2009, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Study in Washington, DC published a new study, *The Economic Burden of Health Inequalities in the United States*, by researchers from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland. The study provides important insight into how much of a financial burden racial disparities are putting on our health care system and society at large. The researchers examined the direct costs associated with the provision of care to a sicker and more disadvantaged population, as well as the indirect costs of health inequities such as lost productivity, lost wages, absenteeism, family leave, and premature death.

According to the study, over 30% of direct medical expenditures for African-Americans, Asian-Americans and Hispanics were excess costs linked to health inequalities totaling \$229.4 billion between 2003 and 2006. The study can be downloaded at http://www.jointcenter.org/index.php/publications_recent_publications.

STUDENT NEWS

Kate Anderson has been selected to represent the MPH program on the Health Center's 2010 Commencement Committee.

Two first-year, full-time MPH students, **Courtney Butler** and **Nani Phillips**, have just received graduate assistantships to work on the Department of Community Medicine's new dental challenge grant.

Robert Cruz has received the 2009 "Latino de Oro" Award as Student of Year. The Latino de Oro awards recognize men and women in the State who have made a significant contribution to the Latino community and who have shown outstanding background in their field. This year's award ceremony will take place on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Theater of the Performing Arts at the Learning Corridor, 359 Washington St., Hartford, CT 06106. To learn more about this event, please go to www.latinodeoro.org or contact Adelia Santa-Cruz, Director of Sales and Public Relations at (860)231-9891 or (860) 965-5646. The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$45.00 each, but there are student group discounts available for the event.

Shane Lockwood, Deputy Health Director of Waterbury Health Department, presented a seminar on the "Public Health Response to H1N1" at the September seminar of the UConn Public Health Student Organization.

ALUMNI NEWS

Katie Perham (2009) presented her work on lead poisoning in Hartford at the ESRI Health GIS Conference on September 21-23 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Carlos Rivera (2007), Director of Health and Social Services, Hartford, and **Baker Salsbury, MSW/MPH (1996)**, Director of Health, Ledge Light Health District, participated in a panel discussion as part of the Health Equity Dialogue held at Anthony's in New Haven on September 14, 2009. The event was sponsored by the Health Equity Alliance, an initiative of the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health.

Stephen Updegrove, MD, MPH (1993) is the featured member in the Campus Community Partnership for Health (CCPH) October 2009 electronic newsletter. "As a long-term resident of the New Haven, Connecticut area," notes the CCPH email communication, "member Stephen Updegrove is committed to improving health in his local community through a variety of partnerships and collaborations. He is involved in the Office of Community-Based Research and Engagement at Yale University, the Wellness Committee of the New Haven Public Schools, and the New Haven Health Department."

Congratulations to **Alyssa Norwood, JD/MPH (2009)** on passing the Connecticut Bar Exam. Alyssa is working part-time at the Connecticut Health Foundation and will begin her law career at Robinson and Cole early next year.

Congratulations to **Morgan Hollenbeck Spencer (2006)** and Ryan Spencer on their September 19 wedding. Morgan made a beautiful bride!



Congratulations also to all the alumni who serve on the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Public Health Association, which was just named the 2009 Outstanding Affiliate of the Year by the American Public Health Association. The alumni include **Tracey Scraba, JD/MPH (2004)**, President Elect; **Steve Huleatt, (1989)**, APHA Delegate and Finance Committee Co-Chair; **David Mack, JD/MPH (2000)**, Honorary Member; **Alyssa Norwood, JD/MPH (2009)**, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair; **Baker Salsbury, MSW/MPH (1996)**, Director at Large; **Cyndi Billian Stern (2005)**, Director at Large and Mentoring Committee Co-Chair; and **Joan Segal (1982)**, President.

FACULTY NEWS

The MPH program is extremely saddened by the untimely death of one of our faculty advisors, **Marcia Trapé-Cardoso M.D., MPH, F.A.C.P., M.R.O.**, associate professor of clinical medicine, following a short illness.

Dr. Trapé joined the Health Center in 1992, as the medical director of the Employee Health Service. She achieved national recognition in the field of employee health with a focus on work-related exposures to health care workers. Dr. Trapé has been an active member of the Board of Directors for the Occupational and Environmental Medical Association of Connecticut, a chapter of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. She recently received the Irving J. Selikoff Professional Excellence Award from the Connecticut Council on Occupational Safety and Health (ConnectiCOSH), a non-profit, statewide organization which helps unions, individuals and communities win healthier and safer working and living conditions.

Dr. Trapé was passionate about ensuring the health and safety of employees and about training students in occupational health. She served as major or associate advisor to several MPH students over the last several years. With Dr. Trapé's passing the Health Center has lost an exceptionally valued member of the faculty and our MPH students have lost a highly dedicated mentor.

Editor: **Joan Segal, Associate Director**

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