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-Summit attendee



Practice Summit

Strengthening Academic-Practice Linkages

Partners come to New Crossroads Building

On September 24 and 25, 2006 the Office of Public Health Practice hosted a summit to explore linkages between public health academia and practice. Attended by more than 80 practitioners and faculty, the two-day event was a notable success.

The event commenced with a reception and dinner at the Campus Inn in Ann Arbor. A packed room of local health officers and medical directors, School of Public Health (SPH) faculty, and Michigan Department of Community Health

(MDCH) leaders mingled and networked while dining on hors d'oeuvres and enjoying background music. After dinner, Associate Dean for Practice Matthew Boulton presented two Distinguished Public Health Practitioner awards. Jean Chabut, MDCH Deputy Director for Public Health and Ellen Clement, Health Officer at Washtenaw County Public Health, were recognized for their years of collaboration with UM SPH.

Monday, September 25, 2006 was a historic day for the School of Public

Health. The summit marked the first event held in the school's new Crossroads of Public Health Building. The striking building provided an ideal environment for public health colleagues to gather and discuss important issues, such as public health advocacy. Dean Kenneth Warner greeted the state and local public health attendees and dialogued with the group about how the School of Public Health can be of greater service to the practice community.

Afternoon presentations high-

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Distinguished Public Health Practitioners

Jean Chabut, MDCH Deputy Director for Public Health, and Ellen Clement, Health Officer at Washtenaw County Public Health were honored on September 24 as the recipients of the Office of Public Health Practice 2006 Distinguished Public Health Practitioner Award.

Ms. Chabut and Ms. Clement were recognized for their years of collaborative work with UM SPH.

Congratulations to both awardees!

Practice Summit, cont.

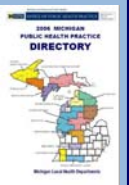
Afternoon presentations highlighted successful collaborative projects between governmental partners and SPH faculty.

- Marc Zimmerman, Chair of the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education and Bobby Pestronk, Health Officer of the Genesee County Health Department, presented community-based prevention research in Genesee County;
- Janice Bach from MDCH and Sharon Kardia, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Director of the Public Health Genetics program, outlined academic-practice collaborations in public health genomics;
- Dean Sienko, Ingham County Health Department Medical Director, along with a panel of SPH students and recent alumni, discussed the Preventive Medicine Residency program. SPH student Jessica Hagan gave

a summary of her experience in public health practice through participating in summer internships and being actively involved in the Public Health Action Support Team.

Since the feedback from both practitioners and faculty was overwhelmingly positive, the Practice Office intends to make the summit an annual event. As one attendee stated, "The 'energy' level of the group was very obvious from the start. The event was a safe place to discuss issues, attitudes, and ideas." The Office of Public Health Practice will continue to work toward its mission of strengthening linkages between UM SPH and the practice community.

The Practice Office distributed printed directories containing UM SPH, local public health, MDCH, and legislature contact information at the summit. Additional copies may be ordered at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/practice/directory.html>



Dr. Phyllis Meadows, Director of Detroit DHWP, discusses the responsibilities of local public health departments with SPH students

Practice Plunge: Education Outside the Classroom

Public health students travel to Detroit for an inside perspective on Public Health and its role in our world today

THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE PROVIDED 60 NEW PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATE STUDENTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES FIRST HAND.

On the Friday before Fall semester classes began, 60 first-year graduate students at the School of Public Health boarded two buses bound for Detroit where the first annual Practice Plunge was held. The students gained first-hand

experience in public health by visiting governmental and community-based organizations throughout Detroit. The day-long excursion began at the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion (DHWP) with a presentation from Dr. Phyllis Meadows, Director of Detroit DHWP. Dr. Meadows introduced the responsibilities of local public health departments, which range from restaurant inspections to water

quality monitoring to administration of vaccinations. In addition, Eve Mokotoff, HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Manager for the Michigan Department of Community Health, discussed the effects of HIV/AIDS on Detroit, emphasizing the impact on the African-American community. She stressed the need for solid data when forming public policy or establishing prevention and education programs.

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Practice Plunge, cont.

Following lunch, the students embarked on a windshield tour through southwest and east Detroit, each guided by a local resident. On the tour through southwest Detroit, the guide highlighted the economic growth resulting from community programs. However, he also pointed out the proximity of industry to residential areas and several derelict buildings, displaying a continued need for change. The focus of the east tour was environmental justice, including a chemical plant adjacent to nearby housing and overgrowth of unused community parks.

For most students this was their first time in Detroit and the tours put the city into a public health context while dispelling many stereotypes. Even those students who were familiar with Detroit observed different parts of the city and gained a new perspective through a public health lens.

The tours culminated at two community-based agencies, the Warren/Conner Development Coalition and the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation. At each location students learned about efforts to address community health problems in east and southwest Detroit, ranging from reso-

lution of gang conflicts to elimination of lead paint in homes. Practical approaches to general public health issues were illustrated to students at both locations.

The students' reaction to the Practice Plunge was marked with enthusiasm and appreciation for the unique experience. For many the Practice Plunge was an excellent way to begin their studies at the University of Michigan.

PHAST Students Preparing for Deployment

On September 9th, 2006, 59 graduate students of the School of Public Health began training for the Public Health Action Support Team (PHAST). For the second time, the PHAST training brought together University of Michigan students, faculty, and staff, along with local experts to present and discuss a variety of topics related to disaster relief and emergency response. These issues included overviews of chemical and biological terrorism, the role of public health entities during emergencies, disaster-related mental health issues and coping strategies, and emergency communication skills. Additionally, several general research topics such as cultural sensitivity, confidentiality, and effective interviewing were presented. Filled with newfound knowledge and energized by deployment stories from current PHAST members, the students set out to independently finish their training through a series of online courses offered through the university and FEMA.

Those students who complete their face-to-face and online trainings will join the current members of PHAST, a surge capacity volunteer group that can be deployed throughout Michigan to assist during public health emergencies. Last year PHAST assisted the Barry-Eaton District Health Department with a food borne illness outbreak and participated in several emergency preparedness trainings and drills at local health departments. PHAST's largest planned event this year is a follow-up deployment to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, where team members will spend their spring break assisting with ongoing public health activities related to Hurricane Katrina.

PHAST students are available for deployment throughout the school year. Contact PHAST Coordinator, Erin Rothney, MPH at PHAST@umich.edu or (734) 615-5782 to request assistance from PHAST. Additional information about PHAST can be found at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/practice/phast.html>.

PHAST Facts:

- 23 PHAST students have returned from the past academic year and are currently certified and ready for deployment
- 59 new students have already begun their training for this year
- PHAST members are certified in 8 training courses
- 40 PHAST students volunteered in the Gulf Coast to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts during spring break 2006

Public Health Lifelong Learning Opportunities

Coming Soon: "One-Stop Shopping" for Continuing Education

The Office of Public Health Practice will soon launch a new training gateway to allow public health practitioners to register for continuing education trainings offered by MPHTC and MI-CPHP. Look for the new system to be featured on the Practice Office website in early 2007.

The **Michigan Public Health Training Center (MPHTC)** offers training to strengthen technical, scientific, managerial and leadership skills and abilities. Continuing education credits are provided, as applicable.

Upcoming online, mentored courses include:

Conducting Useful Program Evaluations

February 12– March 30, 2007

Beyond Numbers: Qualitative Research Methods, Application and Analysis

April 16-June 3, 2007

Ongoing, self-paced online courses:

Measuring Health Disparities

Six Weeks to Genomic Awareness

For more information and upcoming course listings, please visit www.mittrainingcenter.org.

The **Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness (MI-CPHP)** regularly offers a full complement of emergency preparedness training for public health professionals in state and local health departments across Michigan. Course registration and resources are available at www.mipreparedness.org.

Upcoming courses include:

Effects of Radiological Agents– Archived Webcast

Chemical Sleuthing: Web-Based Tools for Public Health– Onsite

March 19, 2007— Lansing, MI

Exercising Unified Incident Command– Onsite

Spring/Summer 2007– various MI locations

The following courses are currently available online at www.mipreparedness.org:

- **Psychosocial Issues Related to Bioterrorism**
- **Zoonotic Disease: Bioterrorism and Beyond**
- **Epidemiology for Non-Epidemiologists**

Courses offered by MPHTC have been made possible through funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions. MI-CPHP courses are supported through funding provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This newsletter is produced quarterly by the **UM SPH Office of Public Health Practice**.
For more information about Office of Public

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