

January 2011

Accreditation:

- ◆ In a recent consultation with CEPH, transition planning for both OMPH and OSU was discussed. In May 2011 OMPH will officially notify CEPH of plans to transition from a 3-university program to a 2-university program; at the same time OSU will submit its application for stand-alone school status. Assuming OSU's application for this change is accepted, formal communication to all students, faculty, and the community will take place in July 2011. In November-December 2013, both Oregon MPH and OSU would go through full accreditation site visits, resulting in separate accreditation approvals. OSU will continue to be a member of the Oregon MPH collaborative until 2014. Beginning Fall 2014, OSU would operate independently as the College of Public Health and Human Sciences and PSU/OHSU would continue the collaborative OMPH program.

Program news:

- ◆ A memorial service was held on January 25 for Tana Grady-Weliky, MD. Since 2009 Tana has been Associate Dean for Medical Education at OHSU, School of Medicine, where her responsibilities included oversight of medical student education from admission through graduation. Tana also served on the Dean's Oversight Committee, the governance body for the Oregon MPH Program. Tana spoke often of the most rewarding aspects of her career: providing compassionate care to her patients and her work with medical students and residents.
- ◆ Our Primary Health Care & Health Disparities track is not accepting new students for Fall 2011 and is evaluating its future. Students in the track will have sufficient time to complete their degrees and as plans develop with the School of Nursing we will keep everyone updated.
- ◆ We are currently planning the 2011 Student Symposium, schedule for May 6 in Corvallis. The event will run from 10am-4pm, and will include speakers, alumni panel discussions, and a public health photo display. All students are encouraged to submit an abstract for consideration, either a poster or oral presentation on research, a field experience project, a case study, policy analysis, or literature review.
- ◆ For Fall 2011, the new student OMPH orientation will be held at two locations: in Portland for OHSU and PSU students on September 23, and in Corvallis for OSU students, date TBD.
- ◆ The International Health Club at OSU is sponsoring an International Health Conference on April 16-17 in Corvallis. Details of the program will be distributed as available on the OMPH listserve and website.

Congratulations:

- ◆ Laura Chisholm Saddler, MPH, CHES was recently informed by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing that she has met the requirements to become a Master Certified Health Education Specialist through their early documentation opportunity. Laura will be part of the first cohort of health educators designed as MCHES, and will receive full certification status in April 2011. Laura is the Self-Management Programs Manager in Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention for the Oregon Public Health Division.
- ◆ Dr. Sherril Gelmon, Professor and Chair of the Public Administration Division in the Hatfield School at PSU, will receive this year's PSU Alumni Association Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award. Tuesday, February 22, 2011, at The Governor Hotel, Grand Ballroom, 3rd Floor, 614 SW 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97205. Reception and awards presentation 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Register by February 18, by phone 503.725.4948, or

online at www.pdx.edu/alumni.

In the Community:

On January 21, at the monthly Public Health Alignment Workgroup, hosted by the Northwest Health Foundation, Drs. Larry Wallack and Liana Winett conducted a training session on messaging and communications for the upcoming legislative session. They discussed Lakoff's three levels: 1)big values, such as freedom, equality, family, community and justice; 2)category of the problem, such as education, public health, criminal justice and 3)policy – what we do about the problem. Lakoff's perspective is that public health often focuses on policy. Instead, public health advocates and leaders must start at values in order to communicate effectively in the political arena. The long-term struggle is how we recapture the values discussion. Note: George Lakoff, is a cognitive scientist and linguist at Berkeley.

Larry urged public health leaders in attendance to balance addressing the short-term needs in the state with promoting the long-term values discussion. Coalitions need to win short-term battles, but to get funding for the short-term, we sometimes undermine our longer-term goals. One of the greatest challenges is to be disciplined in messaging and focus on the long term. Bottom line: We need to link what we are doing with the greater good and we need to reframe: "Isn't it awful?" to "Can't it be wonderful?"

Calendar planning:

- ◆ February 4, 12-1pm, Public Health Seminar, PSU. *GLOBAL HEALTH COMPETENCY: Lessons from Research on Cassava (Food)-Associated Diseases in the Developing World. Presented by Desiré Tshala-Katumbay, MD, PhD.* Dr. Tshala-Katumbay will lecture on konzo, a crippling disease that affects thousands of people who rely on cassava as staple food in the Developing World (Africa, Asia, and Latin America). This lecture will provide a model of transdisciplinary research, a key element for the advancement of global health agendas. Refreshments served at 11:30am.
- ◆ February 11, 12-1pm, American Indian/Alaska Native Health Lecture Series. *Native Children Always Ride Safe, (Native CARS), presented by Jodi Lapidus, PhD, OHSU.* Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for American Indian (AI) children, but proper use of age-appropriate child restraint systems can substantially reduce fatal injuries. Dr. Lapidus will present baseline data from the Native CARS project, and discuss progress of the development and implementation of tribe-specific interventions to improve child passenger safety. Refreshments served at 11:30am.
- ◆ February 11, 8am- 4:30pm, 3rd Annual NW Environmental Health Conference: Bridging Research, Practice, and Policy. The Conference will be held at Portland State University. The 2009 and 2010 conferences brought together health care professionals together to share ways to bridge research, policy and practice for better environmental health. See the Oregon Environmental Council for more information.
- ◆ March 4, 12-1pm, Public Health Seminar, PSU.
- ◆ April 4-8, 2011 Public Health Week.
- ◆ April 16-17 International Health Conference at OSU.
- ◆ May 13, Latino Health Equity Conference.
- ◆ May 6, 2011, OMPH Student Symposium, in Corvallis.