SPH UPdate

SPRING 2002

Message from the DEAN

Greetings! Please allow me to introduce our new *SPH UPdate* to you.

As it has for all people in the U.S., this past year has been marked by loss, reflection, and renewed commitment. In October, in the midst of responding to many requests for assistance with bioterrorism preparedness training and information, we learned of the passing of our founding dean, Paul Q. Peterson. When I spoke with him a few weeks earlier, he expressed great pride in the growth of our school in size, stature, and service to the community. I like to think that he would be proud of our response to the tragic attacks of September 11, the anthrax events which followed, and the need to plan and prepare to protect people against future threats.

The many changes produced by the events of last fall, combined with the continued rapid growth and development of our school, have created a need for closer communication. It is important to have a greater awareness and sharing of the contributions we can all make, often through working together, as we face the challenges and opportunities that will continue to confront us in the coming months and years.

In response to suggestions from alumni and other friends that we need to share our news more often, we have developed *SPH UPdate* to keep you current about what we are doing here. *UPdate* will come to you in the intervals between publication of the School of Public Health magazine, *HEALTHviews.* We also intend to use the flexibility of this new newsletter format to produce editions on an "as needed" basis, to cover special events, new program initiatives, and research developments of interest to the wider community.

In turn, **we need to hear from you**—about what you are doing, about your views and ideas, and about what we can do to communicate better with you. This past year, we created the position of Communications Coordinator within the Office of the Dean specifically to facilitate exchange with our friends, with the media, and with the wider public. Pamela Ippoliti is our Communications Coordinator, and you can reach Pamela at any time by using the information listed here in the masthead.

We look forward to hearing from you.
With warm regards,

Susan C. Scrimshaw, PhD
Dean

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
people serving people

UIC University of Illinois at Chicago

SPH UPdate

Susan C. Scrimshaw, PhD
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"In the United States, we spend only 50 cents per person per day for all kinds of public health services provided to individuals and communities. Of that 50 cents, most goes for medical services, with only 15 cents per person per day going to protect us from all kinds of health risks and threats—including the kind of preventive preparedness we would need in the event of a bioterrorist attack."

Bernard J. Turnock, MD, MPH, Director, Illinois Public Health Preparedness Center

BIOTERRORISM

The School of Public Health Responds

Until this past fall, the use of chemical weapons by terrorists in the United States seemed more like material for a thriller than a grim reality.

The outbreak and threatened spread of anthrax-related illnesses, however, forced the public health system to test its capacity to respond to a crisis that once might have appeared unthinkable. In a time of unprecedented recognition and expectation of the role public health should play in protecting and improving the health of people here and around the world, the School of Public Health is rapidly evolving and expanding its own multifaceted responses to meet that challenge.

- With cooperative funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Association of Schools of Public Health, the Illinois Public Health Preparedness Center (IPHPC), was established in October 2000 to measure and improve preparedness of the public health workforce in Illinois through initiatives that assess and promote competency in basic public health practice, public health administration, community health improvement strategies, infectious disease prevention and control, bioterrorism, public health nursing, and environmental health. IPHPC is offering unique instructor-led online training courses that emphasize cross-cutting public health skills and competencies. The center is contributing to the development of emergency and disaster preparedness that will place Illinois in a stronger position to respond to bioterrorism-related threats and events.
- The Mid-America Regional Public Health Leadership Institute provides training for approximately 50 public health practice fellows, drawn from individuals in public health and legislative positions, from Illinois and surrounding states each year. The value of this prepared leadership force in addressing the current crisis was noted by CDC leadership in October.
- The new CDC-funded Illinois Community of Excellence in Environmental Health Center is building partnerships with local and regional public health and environmental agencies to deliver training, outreach, and services targeted to the prevention of environmental threats.
- The Illinois Center for Health Workforce Studies recently received funding from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration to conduct a health workforce needs and preparedness assessment for homeland protection.
- In partnership with Northwestern University, the SPH has formed a task force, headed by Dean Susan Scrimshaw, to coordinate efforts to assist directly with city and state preparedness and response capability.
- Dean Scrimshaw met with Secretary of Health Tommy Thompson in November to discuss the need to enhance the public health infrastructure and to support education for public health practice to maintain preparedness for response to existing and future public health challenges.
- Since October 31, the SPH has sponsored a series of forums for health professionals, media representatives, and the public at large on bioterrorism and related issues of major public health concern since September 11.
- The SPH is developing both a bioterrorism preparedness and response

Recently announced grants will enable the SPH to expand its public health preparedness efforts even more. On February 6, Secretary of Health Tommy Thompson announced $20 million in funding for a nationwide network of Centers for Public Health Preparedness. Of this, $1 million was awarded to the school's Illinois Public Health Preparedness Center. The Otho S.A. Sprague Memorial Institute has also provided two generous grants. The first will upgrade the SPH auditorium's capability for webcasting courses and conferences such as this fall's forum series on bioterrorism. The second will support the school as it convenes leaders to assess needs and coordinate efforts for bioterrorism preparedness, information, and training systems.

Paul Q. Peterson

Commemorating a Life of Service to Public Health

Paul Q. Peterson, MD, MPH

Alumni, faculty, and students learned with great sadness of the death of the School of Public Health's founding dean, Paul Q. Peterson, MD, MPH, on October 9, 2001.

Three decades ago, Dr. Peterson had the vision of creating a school of public health in Illinois. He then pursued that vision with the University of Illinois and other branches of state government until it became a reality. During his tenure as dean from 1971 through 1977, Dr. Peterson set the school on a firm foundation for future success by recruiting outstanding faculty from a wide variety of disciplines, overseeing the development of innovative educational programs, and attracting talented students.

Dr. Peterson received his bachelor of science and MD degrees from the University of Illinois and his MPH from the University of Michigan. He became an advocate of preventive approaches to the improvement of health during his early years in private practice. Between 1955 and 1970, he held a range of posts within the U.S. Public Health Service. In addition to leadership positions with the state health departments of Kentucky and Ohio, he was chief of missions to China, Taiwan, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

Dr. Peterson served as assistant director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; deputy chief of the Division of Public Health Methods; deputy director of the Bureau of State Services; associate administrator of the Health Services and Mental Health Administration; and deputy surgeon general of the United States. He was director of the Illinois Department of Public Health from 1977 through 1979, then returned to the university until his retirement in 1981.

"Dr. Peterson was known for his leadership in public service and for the health programs he helped to establish at the local, state, federal, and international levels," Dean Scrimshaw said. "He continued to have a strong interest in the UIC School of Public Health and served as my mentor from 1994 until his death. He left an enduring legacy to students here through his generous endowment of the Paul Q. Peterson Scholarship Awards. He was a remarkable man of tremendous intellect and dedication who served the people of Illinois well for many years."

A set of sculptures depicting the spirit of public health has been commissioned to honor Dr. Peterson's life of service to the field. These will be placed in the entrance lobby of the new SPH building at 1603 West Taylor and will be unveiled at a special ceremony and reception to be held in conjunction with Convocation 2002 on May 3. All friends of the school are invited to attend. Further details will be announced as soon as plans for the event are completed.

course for Spring 2002 and web-based, short topical courses, including segments on worker safety, for health workers.

- Faculty member Ronald Hershow, MD, is leading volunteer Epidemic Intelligence Service officer/student/faculty rapid response teams as part of Chicago's preparedness initiative.
- SPH faculty have continued to respond to a broad range of requests for expertise, information, and interviews from the media since September.

New Members Add Breadth to

DEAN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Dean's Advisory Council plays a key role in providing perspectives on public health from other sectors and in guiding the school as it forges relations with non-traditional partners ranging from corporations to artists, dancers, and sculptors..

As new members gathered at their first meeting in late fall, Dean Scrimshaw noted, "You supply the eyes that enable us to see further and the ears that help us to hear more than would be possible if we worked only with the partners considered traditional to public health. Because you help us think outside the box, you help us expand our outreach and relevance to the broad public we serve."

Council members include:

- Whitney W. Addington, MD, FRCP, MACP, Senior Executive, Chicago Metropolis 2020 and Visiting Professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Mr. Fred P. Benjamin, Chief Executive Officer, Boulevard Health Care Management, LLC
- Mr. Roger C. Claar, Mayor, Village of Bolingbrook
- Ms. Janet R. Douglas, Managing Director, Marsh Risk Consulting and Head of Consulting, Marsh Chicago
- Mr. Bill S. Forcade, Attorney at Law, Jenner & Block/Environmental, Energy and Natural Resources Law Practice
- John R. Lumpkin, MD, MPH, Director, Illinois Department of Public Health
- Mr. Duke Miglin, President, Miglin Properties, LLC
- Mr. Rod P. Musselman, President, R. P. Musselman, Inc.
- Ms. Marie E. Sinioris, Vice President, National Center for Healthcare Leadership
- Philip Sheridan, Jr., MD
- Mr. Don Turner, President, Chicago Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

An example of the kind of joint initiative made possible through collaboration between the school and council members is the seminar series on current and emerging occupational health and safety concerns and strategies for addressing them. Co-sponsored by Jenner & Block and the School of Public Health, the February 5 "Master the Disaster" and March 5 "Prevent the Event" programs bring briefings by SPH faculty, attorneys from Jenner & Block, and representatives from governmental health and emergency management agencies to corporations, businesses, and other employers.

Commenting on her decision to join the Dean's Advisory Council, Ms. Douglas said, "I am an alum of the school and a proponent of public health in the workplace. I joined the Advisory Council because of a desire to assist in bridging the gap between business and public health." Mr. Miglin added, "The School of Public Health serves a very valuable function in our community and society. It is the role of public health to strive to make sure that our everyday way of life is supported by a safe and acceptable environment in which everyone feels and can confidently be secure."

Great Lakes Centers

Celebrate 25 Years of Promoting a Healthy Human Environment

On April 13, the Great Lakes Centers (GLC) for Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health will mark a quarter century of success and service in improving, promoting, and maintaining the health and safety of workers and communities across Illinois and around the world.

Founded in 1977, GLC is now a NIOSH Education and Research Center, an NIH Fogarty Center for International Research and Training in Environmental and Occupational Health, an ATSDR/USEPA Regional Center for Children's Environmental Health, a CDC Center of Excellence in Environmental Health, and a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre in Occupational and Environmental Health which focuses on eastern Europe and the Americas.

A unique event is planned to celebrate this unique organization. In keeping with the educational component of GLC's mission, a full-day symposium will highlight the centers' leading-edge achievements in occupational and environmental health. Following the symposium, the Museum of Science & Industry will be the setting for an evening reception, awards ceremony, and an informal strolling dinner buffet featuring American, Brazilian, and Ukrainian cuisines. In addition to international music and dance entertainment, three of the museum's exhibits—coal mine, farm, and energy—will be open exclusively for guests. The theme for the evening is *Twenty-Five Years—Promoting a Healthy Human Environment.*

"This is a very special moment in the history of the Great Lakes Centers," said Director Dan Hryhorczuk, "and we hope that the friends and partners who have helped to make our work a success will be able to come and share it with us."

Honorary chairs for the event are Mayor Richard M. Daley, Governor George H. Ryan, and Cook County Board of Commissioners President John H. Stroger. Community chairs are Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan, Chicago Commissioner of Health John Wilhelm, Illinois State Senator Walter W. Dudycz, Occupational Safety and Health Administration Regional Administrator Mike Connors, Chicago Federation of Labor President Don Turner, Cook County Bureau of Health Director Ruth Rothstein, and Illinois Department of Public Health Director John R. Lumpkin.

Individual tickets for the event are $150. Sponsorship opportunities are available at various levels. Proceeds from the event will be used to initiate a five-year philanthropic campaign to permanently endow the Great Lakes Centers at the University of Illinois at Chicago. For further information, please contact Event Coordinator Rickie Anderson, at: phone–630-761-8709, fax–630-761-8719, or email–engagingresults@att.net. Information about the event is also available on the web at www.uic.edu/sph/glakes (click on "events@GLC").

The Great Lakes Centers for Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health 25th Anniversary Celebration

Alumni Association

Tacks in New Direction with Nautical Motif for Annual Meeting

Come back to your school...

The theme for this year's Alumni Association Annual Meeting is: COME BACK TO YOUR SCHOOL!

President George Smith and members of the Board of Directors want this year's annual meeting to focus specifically on alumni and on enhancing the SPH Alumni Association resources and programs that serve them. The evening's agenda will emphasize the role of communication and networking, and guests will be encouraged to share their ideas for potential future initiatives for the association.

"The school's alumni are an outstanding group of professionals and practitioners, and my goal this past year has been to increase opportunities for the synergy that can occur when alums get together and combine their ideas and insights," said Mr. Smith.

Set for March 21, the event will take place at the Chicago Yacht Club. The evening will begin with cocktails (cash bar) and hors-d'oeuvres at 6:00PM and will continue with live jazz music and an elegant dinner buffet at 7:00. An all-new program format will feature an overview of the association's work and achievements during the past year and remarks by John Wilhelm, MD, MPH, an SPH alumnus (MPH, '79) and commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health.

The dinner fee for alumni association members and faculty is $50 or $60 for alumni non-members and guests. RSVPs are requested by March 13. For further information, please contact Janet Beauchamp in the Office of Development at 312-996-0760 or JanetB@uic.edu.

UIC Health Sciences Deans

Go through Hoops in First-Ever Free-Throw Challenge

On February 7 five deans from UIC's health sciences colleges – the College of Dentistry's Bruce S. Graham, College of Medicine's Gerald Moss, College of Nursing's Joan Shaver, College of Pharmacy's Rosalie Sagraves, and the School of Public Health's Susan Scrimshaw – stepped out on the basketball court at the UIC Pavilion to compete with each other in a first-ever, free-throw Challenge of the Deans at half-time in the basketball game between the UIC Flames and the UW at Milwaukee Panthers.

Deans Scrimshaw, Shaver, Sagraves, and Graham train with Coach Collins (center).

The occasion was the UIC Flames Campus Spirit Night, and alumni, students, faculty, staff, and their family and friends joined to cheer on their respective deans in this friendly competition.

Dean and student teams representing each school paired up to shoot a sequence of free-throws in back-to-back duels. Joining Dean Scrimshaw on behalf of the Public Health Student Association was student Brandon Zagorski. The object of the competition was the new UIC Challenge of the Deans Honorary M.V.P. Trophy. With their eyes on this prize, the dauntless deans and students gave their best shots to defend the spirit of their colleges. Winning Dean Gerald Moss jubilantly took the trophy home to the College of Medicine. The evening was capped off by a last-minute Flames basket that gave the UIC team a two-point lead just as the game-closing buzzer sounded.

The Challenge was initiated and organized by the SPH's Office of Development. Given the enthusiastic response this year, it is planned that the Challenge of the Deans will become an annual event and will involve even more UIC colleges in the future.

CHALLENGE of the DEANS!

Dr. Helene Gayle

Will Address Convocation 2002

Helene Gayle, MD, MPH, has accepted the School of Public Health's invitation to present the keynote address at Convocation ceremonies on May 3. Dr. Gayle currently serves as senior advisor on HIV/AIDS for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which is dedicated to improving people's lives by sharing advances in health and learning with the global community. "Stopping the transmission of HIV," she has stated, "is the foundation's number one global health priority."

In her previous position as the director of the primary CDC center dealing with HIV/AIDS as well as other sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis prevention, Dr. Gayle expanded community-based HIV prevention activities, particularly for minority and underserved communities. She helped launch a new global HIV/AIDS initiative, supported acceleration of syphilis elimination efforts, and expanded efforts for tuberculosis elimination. Dr. Gayle is an elected member of the prestigious Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Information on Convocation time, place, and program will be announced shortly.

SPH Launches On-line MPH in Public Health Informatics

The SPH is offering a Master of Public Health degree specializing in public health informatics (PHI) in a program focused on study of the application of information management techniques to improve the practice of public health. All courses in the program are delivered via the Internet. A cooperative effort between the UIC SPH and School of Biomedical and Health Information Sciences, the three-year program will provide core competencies in public health information systems and management and consists of 14 didactic courses plus field and capstone experiences mentored over the Internet. Target audiences include public health officials and administrators, health information professionals, and managed care organization analysts.

Please visit the SPH website at http://www.uic.edu/sph/phi to download an application as well as review admission requirements and application instructions. To apply, applicants must complete the SPH MPH application and check the Health Policy and Administration (HPA) program preference. **Applications will be accepted until April 15, 2002.** Please attach a note to your application that you wish to be considered for the on-line public health informatics degree program. For further information, please call Aimee Wiebel, Academic Coordinator for HPA, at 312-996-3818 or e-mail her at PHI@uic.edu.

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