

INSIDE APHA: THE CHPPD STUDENT PERSPECTIVE



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What is APHA?

The American Public Health Association (APHA) is the oldest and largest organization of public health professionals in the world, representing more than 50,000 members from over 50 occupations of public health. APHA brings together researchers, health service providers, administrators, teachers, and other health workers in a unique multidisciplinary environment of professional exchange, study, and action. APHA has been influencing policies and setting priorities in public health for over 130 years. Throughout its history it has been in the forefront of numerous efforts to prevent disease and promote health. APHA works with federal, state and community entities to improve health worldwide.

APHA's mission is: "to improve the public's health and achieve equity in health status for all."

What are Sections and SPIGs?

Sections and Special Interest Groups (SPIGs) are the basic organizational units of APHA's membership. Each of APHA's 24 Sections and 7 SPIGs focus on a specific discipline or interest. The achievements of APHA can be attributed to Section and SPIG members, as much of the policy development and sharing of scientific knowledge and expertise occurs within the Sections and SPIGs.

To become involved or join a committee, contact the Section or SPIG of interest to you. APHA members can affiliate with a primary or secondary section: www.apha.org/sections/sectdesc.htm

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What does APHA Do?

APHA actively serves members, the public, and the public health profession through:

1. Legislation, Advocacy, and Policy:
www.apha.org/legislative/index.htm
2. Annual Meetings: www.apha.org/meetings
3. Publications: www.apha.org/about/pub.htm
4. Scientific and Professional Affairs:
www.apha.org/ppp/
5. Award Programs:
www.apha.org/sections/Awards/06_awards/index.htm
6. Learning, Professional Development Programs
www.apha.org/education/newweb/index.htm

What Do Sections and SPIGs Do?

Advocacy: Monitor and evaluate public health issues, mobilize members to contact legislators, and write petitions.

Policy: Offer expertise through testimonies to legislators and develop policy resolutions for APHA.

Science and Programs: Develop and implement programs that advance public health science and practice.

Networking: Broadcast information about the latest issues and policies and disseminate information on job opportunities, fellowships, and internships online and through newsletters.

The CHPPD Section of APHA

The Community Health Planning and Policy Development Section (CHPPD) of APHA was established in 1969 to promote planning and policy analysis as essential elements in the betterment of the public's health at the national, state, community and organizational levels. This section's members believe the development and enactment of policies that affect community health must rely on both sound science and participatory democracy. Thus this Section supports the principles of a strong local public health infrastructure, the promotion of public over private interests, the embracing of diversity, and the need to educate, empower, and include the citizenry in health planning and policy development.

What Does CHPPD Do?

To accomplish their mission, CHPPD:

1. Promotes planning and policy analysis as essential elements in the betterment of the public health at the national, state, community and organizational levels;
2. Advances the practice of effective health planning and policy analysis in public and private health settings;
3. Improves the scientific and technical base of health planning, policy analysis, and policy formulation in the public and private sector;
4. Identifies opportunities for collaboration between community health planning and other disciplines in relation to issues of mutual concern, arranges for their consideration by members of the Section, and effects recommendations for action stemming from such considerations; and
5. Stimulates thought, discussion, and research concerning health problems in which community health planning is involved and investigates approaches to solutions.

Where Can I Find Out More about CHPPD ?

- ▷ Click here to access CHPPD's website: www.chppd.org
- ▷ The current CHPPD newsletter can be found here (must be an APHA member to log in): www.apha.org/newsletter/index.cfm?fuseaction=newsletter&secid=3
- ▷ Click here for a CHPPD leadership roster, and contact Committee Chairs to get more involved!: www.chppd.org/CHPPDroster.html

What Does CHPPD Do for Students?

Affiliating with the CHPPD section allows students to explore and share information about current community health issues and research, as well as opportunities to become involved in relevant advocacy and policy development efforts. CHPPD student members are able to network and establish relationships with current and future colleagues in research, academia, or fieldwork in public health. CHPPD students can also qualify for CHPPD's annual student abstract sub-mission awards. The CHPPD website also provides updates to available fellowships, internships, and job positions around the country.



CHPPD Student Committee Member Aubrey Lipham (right) networking with CHPPD Section leader Monica Chan at Annual Meeting

What are the Benefits of CHPPD Involvement?

- Network with peers across the country.
- Access and submit articles to the newsletter.
- Support public health issues relevant to community health through advocacy channels.
- Participate in planning Section scientific sessions for the Annual Meeting.
- Get involved with CHPPD committees and make your voice heard in the Section and in APHA!

APHA Student Assembly

The APHA Student Assembly (APHA-SA) is the nation's largest student-led organization dedicated to furthering the development of students, the next generation of professionals in public health and health-related disciplines. APHA-SA represents and serves students of public health and other health-related disciplines by connecting individuals who are interested in working together on public health and student-related issues. APHA-SA is dedicated to enhancing students' professional development by providing resources, fostering diversity and promoting opportunities.

What Does APHA-SA Do?

APHA-SA's Strategic Plan supports the development of the next generation of public health professionals by:

- Increasing student representation in APHA
- Developing and disseminating educational and professional development resources
- Creating and promoting opportunities for student involvement within APHA-SA, APHA, and other health-related organizations
- Providing and sustaining vehicles for communication
- Advocating for student issues and public and health-related policy
- Facilitating networking among students and professionals

For more information, see:

http://aphastudents.org/strategic_plan.php

"Becoming involved with APHA as a student has been a great learning experience and has helped me to build valuable professional contacts in the field of public health..."

The National Mentoring Program

Mentoring is a personalized approach to learning based on a personal and professional relationship between a student (mentee) and a teacher (mentor).

The National Mentoring Program (NMP) is a partnership between APHA-SA and APHA that matches mentors and mentees in order to:

- 1) improve the relevance of the academic training that public health students receive;
- 2) increase the professional success and productivity of public health students and professionals; and
- 3) help strengthen the field of public health through the retention and growth of strong and committed members.



Take Part in the National Mentoring Program developed by the Student Assembly

What Are the Benefits of APHA-SA Involvement?

- Strengthen your leadership skills as a member or chair of an APHA-SA committee
- Run for open board positions
- Participate in the National Mentoring Program
- Get involved in APHA-SA programs, initiatives, advocacy
- Access fellowship, job, and internship opportunities
- Receive e-mail action alerts about student issues and public policy through via listserv
- Read and submit articles to *News & Views*, APHA-SA's quarterly newsletter: www.aphastudents.org/newsletter.php
- Help APHA-SA secure financial support to develop and maintain current and future programs and initiatives
- Network with future colleagues across the country

To become involved in APHA-SA, visit the official website: www.aphastudents.org

APHA Annual Meeting

The APHA annual meeting and exposition, the oldest and largest gathering of public health professionals in the world, and has been the premier public health educational forum since 1872. The educational program consists of three days of 90-minute oral sessions, 60-minute illustrated poster sessions, and 90-minute roundtable sessions. Business meetings and social events precede and accompany the educational program, allowing Sections, SPIGS, and Caucuses to meet face-to-face with fellow leaders and members. Together these activities address current and emerging health science, policy, and practice issues to prevent disease and promote health.

Meeting Attendees

More than 13,000 national and international public health professionals attend each year.

Meeting Dates

The event is held Saturday through Wednesday in early November.

Meeting Location

Each year the event is held in a different major U.S. city. The APHA website often lists the next two meeting locations.



CHPPD Award Winners, 2005 Annual Meeting

“APHA packs a lot into three short days. Last year was my first time attending and I’ll do my best to attend each year- there is nothing else like it!”

“The CHPPD Section’s ‘A (Slightly Irreverent) Guide to APHA Annual Meetings’ will help you get the most out of the conference!”

www.chppd.org/images/irreverentguide.pdf

Meeting Benefits

The annual meeting is just one of the ways APHA serves members, the public, and the public health professional community. It offers networking, learning and professional development opportunities and allows students, researchers, and program managers to present their work to colleagues across the globe.

Registration

To register for the Annual Meeting, you must first be a member of APHA. The student membership fee is \$50.00 per year, and the student Annual Meeting early-bird registration fee is \$145.00. The transitional membership fee, which is available to students for one 12-month period after graduation, is \$95, and the transitional member early-bird registration fee is \$205.

Taking advantage of early-bird registration discounts can save around \$50 in registration fees. The early-bird registration deadline is usually around the end of August.

Travel funds are offered by the CHPPD leadership to the top-scoring master’s and doctoral level student abstract submissions of that year. In addition, the CHPPD Student Committee will update students regarding additional funding opportunities available through CHPPD, and the CHPPD Student Liaison will inform students of available funding opportunities through APHA-SA. Another good source of assistance are individual school programs – students are encouraged to inquire within their universities about funding opportunities to help finance their attendance.

For up to the minute information about the Annual Meeting, registration deadlines and costs, and housing availability, visit: www.apha.org/meetings/

Dates to Remember

January – February

General Call for Abstracts:

A Call for Abstracts is released by each APHA Section and SPIG in January. The Call lists the public health topics each Section is prioritizing for its given scientific sessions this year. You will want to submit to the Section and topics most closely aligned with your work.

Abstract Submission Deadlines:

The deadlines for submitting abstracts for the Annual Meeting in November are during the second week in February. Abstracts must be submitted to individual Sections, in response to their Call for Abstracts. Each Section has a different deadline in this week, so check with Sections to verify deadlines: www.apha.org.

March – April

Student Call for Abstracts:

APHA-SA submission deadlines are during the third week in March. Late Breaker abstracts are accepted during the first and second week in April.

All students are invited, and encouraged, to submit abstracts. For more information about abstract submission guidelines and deadlines, visit the APHA Student Assembly Page: www.aphastudents.org

May – June

Abstract Accept/Reject Notification:

Accept/Reject notices are sent to all abstract submitters during the last week in May.

APHA Annual Meeting Registration and Housing:

APHA annual meeting registration and housing will open at the beginning of June. APHA offers discounts and incentives for early registration, and works with local hotels to provide discounted rates for meeting attendees who book through APHA.

******Trust us – it is in your best interest to register and book your hotel early!***

Learn more about meeting registration and housing: www.apha.org/meetings/reg_housing.htm

July – August

Get Involved:

Use your downtime this summer to explore ways in which to become involved with APHA student sections and committees. APHA-SA is *always* looking for people to help plan the annual meeting. Visit the Student Assembly page to find out how to become involved: www.aphastudents.org.

Connect with an APHA Mentor:

Join the National Mentoring Program, described in greater detail on page 3. *Tip:* Sign up today and set up an in-person meeting with your mentor at the Annual Meeting.

September – October

Identify Your Campus Liaison:

Do you know your campus liaison? This person is your school's connection to APHA and can provide invaluable information about APHA and APHA-SA student activities, opportunities, and deadlines. If your school does not have a campus liaison, why not sign up for the job? Check out the campus liaison page for more information:

www.aphastudents.org/campus_liaisons.php

November – December

APHA Annual Meeting:

The APHA Annual Meeting takes place during the first or second week in November. Check out CHPPD Section meeting times and social events and put them on your calendar!

CHPPD Student Social Event:

Starting in 2006, the CHPPD Student Committee will host a social event for student members on the Monday night of the Annual Meeting, immediately following the CHPPD Section Social Hour. Don't miss this opportunity to meet and socialize with your peers and future colleagues! All students affiliated with CHPPD will receive an invitation for this event in the months before the Annual Meeting.

APHA Annual Student Meeting

The APHA annual Student Meeting is held prior to the start of the general APHA Meeting. This is a great opportunity to meet other students in advance of the meeting. Check APHA-SA for more information: www.aphastudents.org.

Professional Development

Continuous professional development is needed in order to apply public health practices efficiently and effectively. Whether it's learning through job-embedded experiences, peer collaboration, or mentoring others in the field, professional learning contributes to a stronger health workforce and, ultimately, improved health in our communities. Involvement in APHA, CHPPD, and APHA-SA helps students foster knowledge and expertise, develop leadership skills, and network with current and future colleagues and collaborators. Each of these sections create professional development opportunities to enable students achieve personal, professional and organizational goals, and become public health's next generation of leaders.

APHA Student members have access to these professional development resources:

1. **Public Health CareerMart:** www.apha.org/career
The Public Health CareerMart is a comprehensive, user-friendly internet job search engine. Employers can post available positions and job seekers can search different public health opportunities that interest them. Career Development services are also available.
2. **Learning and Professional Development Programs Unit:** www.apha.org/education/newweb/index.htm
The Learning and Professional Development Programs Unit promotes professional development and strengthens public health practice within the core guidelines of essential public health services.
3. **Continuing Education:**
www.apha.org/education/newweb/index.htm
APHA offers continuing education to Physicians, Registered Nurses, Certified Health Education Specialists, and other public health professionals. At the APHA Annual Meeting, you can obtain credit hours by attending scientific sessions.

"APHA has been my primary source of real-world public health information and resources."

CHPPD Student Committee

Who We Are

The CHPPD Student Committee is a new standing committee of the CHPPD Section, whose purpose is to represent the voice and experience of student members to CHPPD Section leadership, to represent the CHPPD Section to the Student Assembly, and to serve as a mechanism for involving student members in CHPPD committees and leadership roles.

What We Do

Our committee meets 4-5 times annually via teleconference, and communicates mostly via email. Although our role is constantly evolving with member input, so far our main projects and functions have been to:

1. Reach out to and maintain contact with new and current student members of CHPPD.
2. Promote available CHPPD leadership opportunities and committee involvement to students and solicit interest.
3. Advertise CHPPD abstract submission awards, social events, and other Section opportunities.
4. Contribute to the regular *Student Perspective* article in the CHPPD quarterly newsletter.
5. Recruit the help of students based near Annual Meeting sites to help with local support and logistics.
6. Work in close collaboration with the Chairs of the Membership, Program, and Local Arrangements Committees of CHPPD.
7. Contribute to any CHPPD activities involving students, such as: student awards, travel scholarships to annual meeting, mentorship programs, social events, and member recruitment.

Get Involved with CHPPD:

If you haven't already joined the CHPPD Student Committee, email the Chair, Amy Carroll Scott: amycarr@ucla.edu, and ask about the next teleconference!