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News & Views

Inside this issue:

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Make the Most of the APHA Annual Meeting

With critical health topics taking headlines on a daily basis — from health reform to H1N1 influenza — there couldn't be a better time to connect with thousands of your fellow public health professionals, researchers, students and advocates.

Not only does the upcoming 137th APHA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Nov. 7–11, offer the latest public health science and practice, it's an opportunity to meet possible mentors, seek out future employers and discover your personal public health passion. And, of course, there are several ways to go about maximizing your time while in Philly.

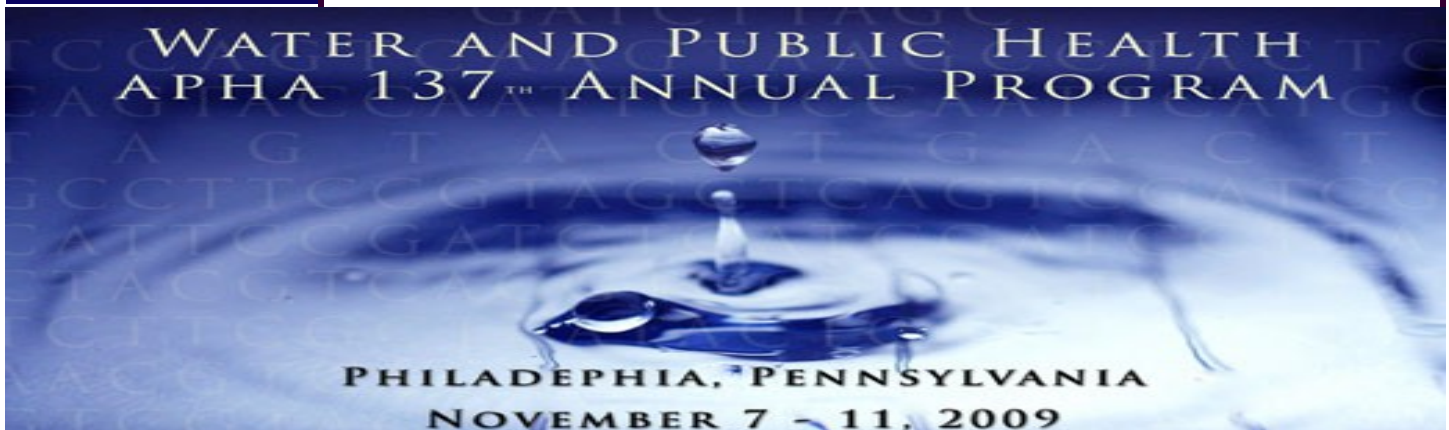
Kick off your Annual Meeting experience by attending the opening session on Sunday and hear from keynote speaker and conservationist Celine Cousteau as well as speakers such as Mirta Roses Periago, director of the Pan American Health Organization, and EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson. In between scientific sessions, stop by and visit the Public Health Expo's hundreds of public health-related booths, as well as APHA's Public Health CareerMart, where you can receive one-on-one career coaching aimed specifically at students and new professionals. Read about the expo's career opportunities at www.apha.org/about/careers/careerainfo.htm.

Also in Philly, APHA's many Sections, Special Primary Interest Groups, Caucuses and Forums will be gathering for business meetings and socials. Visit a few to learn more about the important role that member groups play in driving APHA's mission forward.

And to keep the conversation going during and long after the meeting is over, connect with the many APHA social media tools that will be chronicling the Philadelphia meeting, including the APHA Annual Meeting Blog, at <http://aphaannualmeeting.blogspot.com>, the APHA Twitters, at <http://twitter.com/publichealth> and <http://twitter.com/APHAAnnualMtg>, and APHA's Facebook page, at www.facebook.com/AmericanPublicHealthAssociation?v=info.

Most important, learn how building a lifelong relationship with APHA can help you shape the future of public health and create healthier communities for generations to come.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (E)
Executive Director
APHA



President's Pen

There is no better season than fall! Fall brings some of my favorite things; beautiful foliage, the best-tasting apples and pumpkin lattes at every corner coffee shop. Unfortunately, fall brings a host of other things that are not so pleasant: colder weather, shorter days and new to this year's lineup of unpleasantries, the H1N1 virus.

As a public health student, you probably have discussed H1N1 in your classes. You most likely have discussed its policy implications for public health preparedness, analyzed public health communication tools, learned about vaccine efficacy and more! You also may have noticed that never before have you heard the words "public health professional" so many times in the news.

Eventually, the world will look to you, as future public health professionals, for guidance and answers. While many people benefit daily from the work of public health professionals, it is often during times of crisis that our work is most obvious to the public at-large.

A few weeks ago I visited my family in New Mexico and had the great opportunity to see my nephew who just started kindergarten. I was eager to hear all about his new friends, but the first thing he told me about his new school was that he learned how to wash his hands! He even demonstrated "the right way" to get rid of all the germs so he wouldn't get sick. I was amazed that this kindergartner wanted to talk about how he learned to wash his hands and remembered every single step by reciting a clever rhyme. Besides feeling the pride that a normal aunt would feel for their smart nephew, all I could think about was all the work that probably went into making sure my nephew's teacher had the tools to keep her classroom healthy and her students educated about good hygiene. It was another one of those moments where you see public health in action! I am sure many of you will field questions and contribute to discussions about H1N1 when you return home for the holidays. Maybe this will be the year your family stops asking you, "What is it again that you are studying?"

"The world will look to you, as future public health professionals, for guidance and answers"

Another thing that comes about with every fall is the inevitable time change! If you are like me, you cringe just thinking about losing that hour of daylight, but find solace in having an extra hour to sleep in! Fortunately, there is a bright side! You can use the change to prepare for unexpected emergencies. APHA is encouraging you to get ready by checking your stocks when you set your clocks! You can find helpful information about preparedness and APHA's Get Ready campaign at: <http://www.getreadyforflu.org/clocksstocks/>.

And the one thing we love the most about the fall — the Fall 2009 edition of *News and Views*! So take a moment from your busy fall schedule and cuddle up with some warm apple cider to read this great edition of *News and Views*! I hope everyone has a productive and healthy semester!

— Mariza Hardin, President, APHA Student Assembly



Editor's Note

Dear Students,

Welcome to the Fall issue of News & Views, the official newsletter of the APHA Student Assembly. In anticipation of the APHA Annual Meeting, this issue will provide you with career and networking tips. You'll also find a list of leadership opportunities with the APHA-SA, as well as articles from students, and former students of public health. We're always looking for new articles and ideas, so if you have something you'd like to submit, please be on the lookout for our regular Call for Submissions. The newsletter is a great way to gain writing and publication experience! If you have suggestions, feedback or ideas, please email us at newsletter@aphastudents.org.

John Byrne and Melanie Doupé Gaiser
Editors & Newsletter Committee Co-Chairs

This is YOUR newsletter!
Send us your ideas, feedback and suggestions!

Student Assembly Expands Its Presence at the APHA Annual Meeting

By Christopher Fisher, PhD & Joshua Rosenberger, MPH

During the last several years, the American Public Health Association Student Assembly has been involved in several aspects of the Annual Meeting – hosting a Student Meeting, presenting scientific sessions, arranging career talks, planning speed-mentoring sessions and coordinating the ever-popular student social. This year is no different. The meeting will be full of student-centered activities and events that are sure to cater to the diverse interests of students attending the Annual Meeting. Here are just a few highlights:

Career Sessions: Student Assembly traditionally has hosted two career sessions to provide a forum for students to get advice from practicing public health professionals. This year, we're adding a third career session focused on more specific fields of interest. For example, if you are student interested in a career in HIV/AIDS, you can go to the career session that features that specialty. But if you're still not sure, that's okay, too – each session will have several specialties represented. Check out the upcoming Annual Meeting Student Supplement or the online Annual Meeting program for details.

Additional scientific and poster sessions: Thanks to the dedication and perseverance of the programming committee, Student Assembly is pleased to be able to provide more opportunities for students to share their work with their peers and other public health professionals this year! A Special Session has been added focusing on the Economy & Public Health, as well as two roundtable sessions and three new poster sessions.

We hope you will participate in these, and other events, put on by the Student Assembly. While at the Annual Meeting, stop by our booth in the Exposition Hall, meet some new friends, take a break, and get all the latest information on events sponsored by the Student Assembly, both at the conference, and year round.



Connecting Students with the World of APHA & APHA-SA

By Byron D. Hughes and Allen Suh, Campus Liaisons Sub-Committee Co-Chairs

Get involved with the APHA

Student Senate— become a campus liaison!

Do you wish someone could answer all of your questions about APHA and the Student Assembly? Campus Liaisons are members of APHA and an integral part of the Student Assembly. They are responsible for educating their peers about opportunities within APHA and the Student Assembly, recruiting other students to join APHA, and assisting with the planning of National Public Health Week (NPHW) activities. By leading and organizing activities on their campuses, Campus Liaisons serve as a bridge between students and APHA.

Although, APHA-SA does not have a chapter system, Campus Liaisons distribute important information to students at their schools. This can be accomplished through an already established organization at your school (e.g., the student club's publicity chair takes on the Campus Liaison position), or it can be done independently. Campus Liaisons participate in their schools' new student orientation and other school events by providing information about APHA and APHA-SA. Upon request, Campus Liaisons receive brochures about APHA-SA and a limited number of give-away items. Campus Liaisons also help publicize the Fall Geico APHA membership raffle, which awards APHA membership to new student members.

Each April, APHA and APHA-SA hold National Public Health Week, providing resources and information nationwide. In 2010, there will be a grant opportunity for students and Campus Liaisons to organize advocacy events at their schools!

If you are passionate about public health and want to get your peers involved in APHA and APHA-SA, this is the perfect opportunity for you! If you are interested in becoming a Campus Liaison, please e-mail us at:

Evaluate Conference Abstracts!

By Cherise Wong



The Abstracts Subcommittee facilitates the abstract submission and selection process each year for the Annual APHA Meeting. Working together with members from the Programming & Development Committee, responsibilities range from organizing funding support, to ensuring the integrity of high-quality evaluations. Last year, the committee nominated people to serve on a scholarship review panel that promoted award opportunities. Before the Annual Meeting, there is never any shortage of activity. We help with coordination and management of reviewers on a national scale, which requires efficient and open channels of communication for progress updates and feedback exchange.

If you are interested in getting more involved in the dynamic process of abstract review and evaluation, and if you would like to have a greater awareness of the public health research your peers are participating in nationwide, this is the subcommittee for you! Participating in the work of the Abstracts Subcommittee would also be a great addition to your CV, allowing you to proudly announce that you have helped direct the Student Assembly's abstract evaluation process for a major public health conference. For further information, please email abstracts@aphastudents.org.

Coursework At Work

By Lara Romanowski, Marketing Manager, Inflexxion

“I see the future of health information technology ... growing rapidly, offering expanding career opportunities for new graduates.”

As Marketing Manager at Inflexxion, I leverage technology to improve public health by reducing health risks, enhancing clinical outcomes and positively impacting quality of care. I'm involved in the day-to-day product maintenance and promotion of 8 online programs, some of which include: MyStudentBody.com, an online college health and wellness program for colleges and universities, and painEDU.org, an educational resource designed to teach primary care physicians and healthcare professionals about pain management. As a medium sized company with approximately 70 employees, we have to be efficient and resourceful. At the same time, I also have the ability to learn and execute ideas and plans that might not be possible in a much larger company. Everyone pitches in here, and I've learned an enormous amount.

I graduated from the Tufts Health Communication Program in 2006, and I encourage students to take any and all writing and technology courses available through their respective graduate programs. These courses have provided me with an invaluable foundation in my current position. Since health communication is inherently interdisciplinary, it is always useful to have experience writing different types of communication messages. Writing is a skill that you can continue to refine throughout your career. Several communication classes that I took while at Tufts gave me experience working with developers, and taught me how to “speak the same language” with team members who have expertise outside of health communication. Learning how to move a project forward successfully with team members who have various technical skill levels is what I practice every day. Given the current healthcare reform debate, I see the future of Health Information Technology and Electronic Medical Records growing rapidly, offering expanding career opportunities for new graduates.

