



ATMCH Newsletter

Winter 2010/2011

The Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health
Providing Leadership in Maternal and Child Health Education, Research, and Service

Message from the President

Douglas Taren, PhD



This past summer on the horizon of becoming the president of our organization, I was fortunate to attend the MCH Leadership Retreat that was hosted by the maternal and child health program at the University of Illinois, Chicago. This program focused on several important issues for ATMCH; how to implement change, changing

paradigms, and the link between the Life Course Perspective and the Maternal and Child Health field. Following this meeting the executive council of ATMCH organized a workgroup to review our organization's bylaws, update them as needed so the complete membership can review proposed changes, and to develop a strategic plan for our future. [The minutes from this meeting](#) are on our website.

At our [fall business meeting](#) on November 7, 2010 during APHA, we were able to continue our discussion on several of these issues. We had a wonderful [presentation](#) by Cheri Pies on the Life Course Perspective. We had a discussion on the role of ATMCH in teaching the Life Course Perspective. We were also informed that we continue to be in sound financial shape. Finally, we identified two workgroups to find ways to increase our membership and to develop a project to identify how the Life Course Perspective is being taught in maternal and child health programs. The following members volunteered to serve on these workgroups:

- Membership workgroup: Alice Richman, Holly Grason, Cheri Pies, Doug Taren, Kris Riley, and Ellen Daley.
- Life Course (Products & Services) Group: Martha Wingate, Beverly Mulvihill, Karen McDonnell, Doug Taren, Cheri Pies

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Upcoming:

ATMCH Meeting at AMCHP

February 12, 2011

8pm-9pm

Omni Hotel Director's Room

This meeting will provide an opportunity to have members:

1. Discuss the strategic plan that is underdevelopment
2. Provide input on the our strategy to increase membership
3. Discuss how do we work with other MCHB funded training programs
4. The development of our Life Course Perspective Project

Please RSVP to Jessica Petrush at jpetrush@asph.org.

I am sure that these members will welcome everyone's input as they move forward with their activities.

The outcome from these meetings and discussions lead to me to develop three goals that I would like to achieve over the next two years as president of ATMCH. First, I want to continue to work with our membership to strengthen the organization by increasing the size of our membership. Over the past few years we have significantly increased the number of student members, but we now have to develop an organization that also grows in the number of faculty and professional members by being sure that we provide the resources and activities that the membership wants. Second, I want to help transform ATMCH so it can advance how we educate students about how to promote maternal and child health. Finally, with the increase emphasis on the Life Course Perspective, I want to be sure that ATMCH takes the lead on finding the best ways to incorporate the Life Course Perspective into education programs.

We are in the middle of dynamic and exciting times for ATMCH. I want to thank all of you for putting your trust in me to accomplish these goals. I look forward to working with everyone.

Douglas Toren

Strategic Planning: Upcoming Feedback Request

ATMCH wants you to be aware that in the next few weeks you will be receiving a request to provide feedback on our Strategic Plan, potential bylaw changes and other projects that we plan to start this coming year. The Executive Committee wants to provide a method for everyone to provide input and this will be out shortly. We will accumulate this input and post what is received before any decisions are made. We look forward to hearing from all of you.

Additionally, the two workgroups for **Membership** and **Life Course** have been moving forward to formulate plans of action to compliment these goals. The ideas from both workgroups will also be presented to membership in the near future and we look forward to your input on those as well.

Find out more information & updates about the Strategic Plan at
<http://www.atmch.org/StratPlan.cfm>.

The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding: The Role of ATMCH

The United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC), of which ATMCH is a full member, held its regular winter meeting on January 21-22, 2011, in Arlington, VA. This time we received the visit of Dr. Regina Benjamin, Surgeon General of the United States. She had presented her new document for the promotion, support and protection for breastfeeding on January 20 at George Washington University. The following day she brought "The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding" to the plenary session of the USBC. This highly effective strategy for the health of mothers and children has now been brought to the forefront of health policies in the USA.

Dr. Benjamin's presentation to the USBC addressed the barriers to breastfeeding encountered by mothers in this country, and the need for effective strategies to solve them. While 75% of mothers in the U.S. initiate breastfeeding, only 13 percent of babies are exclusively breastfed at the end of six months, with the rates for African-American babies being significantly lower. The Call to Action strives to improve the success rate for mothers who want to breastfeed through active support from their families, friends, communities, clinicians, health care leaders, employers and policy makers. It is among those sectors of society that the barriers are present, which prevent the nation from achieving its own health goals on breastfeeding.

The Surgeon General has identified 20 key actions to improve support for breastfeeding. These key actions address each one of the sectors in society which have been shown to constitute barriers for successful breastfeeding. At the level of families, maternal support needs the development of programs to educate fathers and grandmothers about breastfeeding. At the community level, mother-to-mother support and peer counseling need to be strengthened, community-based organizations need to be used, a national campaign has to be created, and marketing of infant formula needs to be conducted in a way that minimizes its negative impact on exclusive breastfeeding.

At the level of the health care system, we must ensure maternity care practices are fully supportive of breastfeeding, that skilled support for lactation is guaranteed, that all health professionals are well trained to provide effective support, and that obstacles to greater availability of safe banked donor milk are removed.

In the employment world, work must be done to establish paid maternity leave for all working mothers, high-quality lactation support programs need to be established for lactating employees, direct access of mothers to their babies must be expanded, and child care providers need to accommodate the needs of breastfeeding mothers.

Funding of high-quality research on breastfeeding must increase, the capacity to conduct this research must be strengthened, and a national monitoring system must be developed to improve tracking of breastfeeding rates, as well as the policies and environmental factors that affect breastfeeding. The public health infrastructure must improve the national leadership for breastfeeding support.

The challenge put forth by the Surgeon General is huge, but too important not to pursue. The health of our mothers and their infants must be significantly improved, and health disparities reduced. The ideal strategy is available, but only if we all work to remove the barriers affecting its optimal implementation.

(Call to Action, cont.)

ATMCH is part of this effort. We are educators of tomorrow's health care force for our mothers and babies. Our opportunity to support the Call to Action put forth by the Surgeon General is at the core of this action. For more information and ways to help, please visit www.surgeongeneral.gov.

Ana M. Parrilla-Rodríguez, MD, MPH, FABM
USBC Delegate from ATMCH

José J. Gorrín-Peralta, MD, MPH, FACOG
USBC Alternate Delegate from ATMCH

Reference: US Department of Health and Human Services. *Executive Summary: The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding*. Washington, DC: US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General. January 20, 2011.

From HRSA: Meet the New MCHB Training Branch Chief!

Gwendolyn Adam, PhD, LMSW, assumed the role as MCHB Training Branch Chief in November 2010. Dr. Adam holds a PhD degree in Social Work and a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Houston.



Dr. Adam's career involves clinical practice in individual, group and family therapy, teaching, research, program development, and administration in social work and public health.

She's had direct involvement in Health Resources and Services Administration/MCHB training activities for the past 13 years. Prior to assuming the role as Training Branch Chief, Dr. Adam was the director of the School of Social Work and associate professor at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Dr. Adam has served as a national HRSA reviewer and MCHB technical advisor since 2000, specializing in Title V community activities, needs assessment and interdisciplinary training. Dr. Adam has provided training and technical assistance for various federal HRSA/MCHB-funded programs regionally and nationally since 1997, and routinely participates in HRSA Title V Block Grant reviews. She served as a member of the HRSA/MCHB Leadership Competencies Work Group and was a contributing author to the *HRSA/MCHB Leadership Competencies, February 2008, Version 2.0 Document*.

Dr. Adam has spearheaded national and regional efforts to enhance partnerships between MCH/Title V community leaders and MCH training programs and trainees to maximize resources, training, and service impact during and beyond MCH training.

Her current foci for research include interdisciplinary MCH competency assessment, leadership development and interdisciplinary training for the enrichment of MCH community-based services, and mindful leadership.

ATMCH looks forward to continue work with Dr. Adam and colleagues at MCHB!

2010 Greg Alexander Student/Faculty Breakfast: Speed Mentoring Event with Record Attendance!

Last November's Fifth Annual Greg Alexander Student-Faculty Breakfast held at the APHA Annual Meeting in Denver, CO was one of the most successful to date with over 80 MCH students and faculty in attendance – double the numbers from previous years! It was also the first ever "Speed Mentoring" event for ATMCH.

The Speed Mentoring event is part of an overall vision of ATMCH to help connect MCH faculty and students and facilitate the development of supportive relationships. During the event, faculty rotated among the tables of students allowing everyone to meet with each other, discover common areas of interest, and share experiences. The event was a success and the large number of students in attendance demonstrates the desire and need to create these important relationships with faculty.

The Speed Mentoring event was the result of a student-led initiative organized and conceptualized by Alice Richman, chair of the Membership Committee. Additional planning committee members included: Tara Trudnak, Kate Howe, Russ Kirby, Natalie Hernandez, and Ndidi Amutah.

If you are interested in learning more and participating in other student-led initiatives, please contact Alice Richman at richmana@ecu.edu.



Interested in joining an ATMCH Committee?

ATMCH has three standing committees:

- Education
- Membership
- Research

The committees are always looking for dedicated and energized members to help carry out ATMCH's mission and provide services and support to the membership through these venues.

If you would like to join a committee, or have an idea for a project or initiative, please email your interest to jpetrush@asph.org.



MCH Awards & Grants

Carolyn Halpern Receives 2010 Lacey Award

Carolyn Tucker Halpern, associate professor of maternal and child health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) Gillings School of Global Public Health and fellow at UNC's Carolina Population Center, was the winner of ATMCH's 2010 Loretta P. Lacey Maternal and Child Health Academic Leadership Award. Carolyn was recognized for her outstanding accomplishments as a teacher, mentor, and research in maternal and child health, and honored at a dinner held in November during APHA's Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.

Carolyn is director of the department's doctoral program, has produced a number of published works and is acknowledged by her students as an outstanding teacher and mentor. See more information in the press release [here](#).



Milt Kotelchuck Receives Martha May Eliot Award



Milton Kotelchuck, PhD, MPH, visiting professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and senior researcher in maternal and child health Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Child and Adolescent Health Policy, received the 2010 Martha May Eliot Award, which honors exceptional achievements in the field of maternal and child health.

A long time ATMCH member, Milt has been chair of MCH Departments at both the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Boston University. He has extensive experience evaluating public health programs to improve birth outcomes and child health status. His current research interests focus on maternal and child health life course models and the creation and utilization of the Massachusetts Pregnancy to Early Life Longitudinal, or PELL, data system. See more on APHA's web site [here](#).

UNT Awarded 'Healthy Moms-Healthy Babies' Grant

ATMCH member Richard Kurz, PhD, dean of the University of North Texas (UNT) School of Public Health, is lead principal investigator on the first phase of a project called the "Healthy Moms-Healthy Babies Initiative." Grant funds totaling \$135,372 have been awarded to the University of North Texas Health Science Center's School of Public Health and Center for Community Health to conduct this project. Funding is through a payment the Health Science Center received from a foundation that supported the Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas before it closed in 2005.

The initiative is designed to lower infant mortality rates in four zip codes in Fort Worth, TX, which are among the highest in the state, by focusing on women's health throughout their lives. The goal is to establish a sustainable, community-based effort through which community organizations can reduce infant mortality rates, particularly among African-American women.

The project will collaborate with the Healthy Texas Babies program initiated by the Texas Department of State Health Services and the March of Dimes.

The initiative will convene an Oversight Board, build a partnership with the affected community, conduct focus groups to raise awareness and knowledge regarding infant mortality and its risk factors, and develop a strategic plan to reduce infant mortality rates in Tarrant County.

The proposal for this initiative is the result of feedback and "next steps" follow up from the North Texas Health Forum, an annual community conference sponsored by the UNTHSC School of Public Health that focused in 2010 on the topic of infant mortality.

Raising Awareness about Unplanned Pregnancy among College Students: Faculty Experience through Learning Grant

Christina L. Benjamin, a faculty member in the Montgomery College Department of Health Enhancement, Exercise Science, and Physical Education, participated in a learning grant focused on raising awareness, increasing knowledge, and influencing attitudes about unplanned pregnancy among community college students. Recent research indicates unplanned pregnancies are on the rise among 18 to 29 year olds – many of within this age group attend community colleges. In 2008, Montgomery College, located in Maryland, was awarded a 2 year learning grant from The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy to study sexual choice-making and life choices among students.

Across various disciplines, faculty incorporated creative and reflective activities about unplanned pregnancy within course work. In the Fall 2010 semester, Christina's students in Personal and Community Health viewed and discussed an episode from MTV's *16 and Pregnant*; created PSAs using multimedia in small groups; and shared their reflections on course content and activities related to unplanned pregnancy. Many students were not aware of the continuing increase in unplanned pregnancy among young adults and its effects on college degree completion rates. Some students shared their own experiences of becoming a parent through an unplanned pregnancy and how building (or having) a strong social support system encouraged them to be the best parent possible for their child and achieve personal and career goals.

For more information or questions, please contact Christina L. Benjamin at Christina.Benjamin@montaomervcollege.edu.

MCH Resources

AMCHP Fact Sheets on Affordable Care Act for MCH Programs

The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) has released three new publications designed to assist state MCH programs in understanding and implementing key Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) provisions. These resources focus on provisions related to promoting medical homes, adolescent health and children and youth with special health care needs.

Each document provides an overview of key legislative provisions, opportunities and issues for state Title V MCH Programs and links to additional resources:

- [Adolescent Health Fact Sheet](#)
- [CYSHCN Fact Sheet](#)
- [Medical Home Fact Sheet](#)

AMCHP's National Center for Health Reform Implementation

provides state maternal and child health leaders and their partners with the information, tools and resources to optimize the opportunities presented by the ACA for improving services, systems and health outcomes for MCH populations. To provide feedback on these resources, suggest future topics or seek additional assistance, contact Brent Ewig, AMCHP Director of Policy, at (202) 266-3041 or bewig@amchp.org.

Infant Mortality and Pregnancy Loss Knowledge Path

The MCH Library released a new edition of the knowledge path, Infant Mortality and Pregnancy Loss. The knowledge path directs readers to resources that analyze data, report on research aimed at identifying causes and promising intervention strategies, and describe risk-reduction efforts as well as bereavement-support programs.

- View the path online at: http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_infmort.html
- A resource brief for families is available at: http://www.mchlibrary.info/families/frb_infmort.html.

Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Knowledge Path

The Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention knowledge path directs readers to a selection of resources that measure, document, and monitor the problem; identify risk and protective factors; and report on promising intervention strategies.

- View the path online at: http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_adolpreg.html
- A resource brief for families is available at: http://www.mchlibrary.info/families/frb_adolpreg.html.

Cultural Competence

The MCH Training & Research Resource Center and the National Center for Cultural Competence for the Diversity in MCH Training Peer Learning Collaborative Webinar on December 15, 2010. Please see the following link for the webinar archive. The link contains an audio recording, as well as a view of the meeting's PowerPoint slides regarding the 2009-2010 Collaborative Team activities: <http://altarum.adobeconnect.com/p31831750/>.

In addition, the video archives from the 2009-2010 Collaborative Closing Meeting (July 2010) discussed during the webinar are available:

- Keynote Address: Joan Reede, Dean of Diversity and Community Partnership, Harvard Medical School: <http://altarum.adobeconnect.com/p49064390/>

75th Anniversary of Title V Resources

The MCH Library has put together a web page devoted to resources about the 75th anniversary of Title V. It includes links to podcasts from Dr. Vince Hutchins and Dr. Peter van Dyck, and historical materials at the MCH Library. See the web site for more information: <http://www.mchlibrary.info/anniversary/>.

You can also access the following materials from the 75th Anniversary Celebration:

- Meeting Presentations, slides and photo gallery: <http://webcast.hrsa.gov/conferences/mchb/TitleV75/index.htm>
- Life Course concept paper: <http://www.hrsa.gov/ourstories/mchb75th/images/rethinkingmch.pdf>
- 75th anniversary video: <http://www.hrsa.gov/ourstories/mchb75th/>

Team Presentations: Stories of Success!

- Alabama: University of Alabama-Alabama State University Consortium <http://altarum.adobeconnect.com/p48205618/>
- California: University of California, Los Angeles-University of Southern California/Children's Hospital Los Angeles <http://altarum.adobeconnect.com/p49626327/>
- Minnesota: University of Minnesota <http://altarum.adobeconnect.com/p13222687/>
- New York: Westchester Institute for Human Development <http://altarum.adobeconnect.com/p28485145/>
- Utah: Utah Regional LEND-Utah State University <http://altarum.adobeconnect.com/p30105307/>

Mental Health

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has released the report, "The Mental and Emotional Well-Being of Children: A Portrait of States and the Nation 2007." Findings from this report include:

- 11.3% (nearly 7.4 million) of children in the United States are reported by their parents to have been diagnosed with emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions.
- 29.4% of diagnosed children with insurance were reported by their parents to have insurance that did not usually or always meet their needs.
- 40.3% of diagnosed children have more than one emotional, behavioral, or developmental condition.
- 45.8% of children with one or more emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions also had learning disabilities, compared to 2.7 percent of children without these conditions.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07emohealth/index.html>.

MCH Programs

Online Graduate Certificate in MCH Epidemiology

2011 Cohort Deadline: March 31, 2011

Native American populations in rural and underserved regions and Appalachian counties have disproportionately worse maternal and child health (MCH) outcomes than national averages. Public health professionals serving these populations have identified the need for training in MCH epidemiology. To meet this need, the [University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health](#) in collaboration with the [University of Kentucky College of Public Health](#) developed a graduate certificate program in Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology.

Faculty from both Universities have worked with representatives from [Indian Health Service](#) (IHS), the [United South and Eastern Tribes](#) (USET), and maternal and child health providers in rural, underserved counties of the southeast and Appalachian Kentucky to develop a 15-credit graduate certificate in MCH Epidemiology that is offered entirely online. The program is designed to fill a gap in MCH epidemiology education of professionals who have limited resources and work in difficult settings with underprivileged communities.

The program is supported by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the Department of Health and Human Services. Through a grant program, tuition scholarship is provided to support the participation of 10 students annually.

The program is open to MCH professionals nationally and internationally. We are currently recruiting our second cohort of students to start in June this year. **Application deadline is March 31, 2011.** Detailed program information, a program brochure, and application materials are available on the program web site:

- <http://www.mch-epitraining.arizona.edu/default.aspx>.

For more information, contact:

- John Ehiri, PhD, (520) 626-6355, jehiri@email.arizona.edu
- Maribel Tobar, MS, (520) 626-6560, matobar@u.arizona.edu

UNC's Online Degrees/Certificate in Maternal and Child Health

In January 2011, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health welcomed its first cohort of online MCH master's students, who with its online Certificate students, participated in Orientation and a 3 ½ day on-site leadership intensive workshop.

Online Master's Degree in Maternal and Child Health

Overview: The online master's degree in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) provides access to graduate education for working professionals whose career goals are firmly focused on improving the health of women, children, and families in domestic and international settings. Developed with support from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Maternal and Child Health, the online MPH and MSPH degree programs provide the flexibility of distance delivery to students seeking a part-time course of graduate study in MCH. All MCH online courses are taught by MCH faculty of the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Curriculum: The curriculum for online MPH and MSPH degree students parallels the residential master's degree programs in MCH, but as part-time students, distance education students are expected to complete their degrees at a slower pace. Online master's degree students form a new cohort each January at which point they enroll in two of the required MCH core courses - MHCH 701: Foundations of MCH – and the leadership seminar, MHCH 790: Fundamentals of Leadership in MCH. MPH and MSPH degree seeking students will also take SPH core courses, MCH methods courses and electives. Additional requirements for a degree in MCH are the field practicum, comprehensive exam, and master's paper. All course work can be completed online with the exception of one 5-day session held on the UNC campus in early January.



MCH Programs, cont.

(UNC cont.)

Online Certificate in Maternal and Child Health Leadership



Overview : The Certificate in MCH Leadership is a three-course, 10-credit-hour program of study designed to provide practitioners with core knowledge, skills and competencies for promoting the health of the MCH population in domestic and global settings.

Major emphasis is placed on critically evaluating population-based solutions to complex health problems in MCH - with maternal and child health being defined in the broadest sense to include physical, political, economic, cultural, and psychosocial factors. The Certificate is intended to build field leadership in addressing health disparities in MCH and in defining a population-based vision for improving health and well-being of women, children, youth and families.

Curriculum: Two of the Certificate courses focus on critical thinking about the determinants of well-being of the MCH population. The third course focuses on Public Health and MCH Leadership. While specifically designed for distance education students and delivery via the Internet, Certificate courses are equivalent to those available to residential master's degree students in the School's Department of MCH. Students will be able to register, access course materials, interact with faculty, and successfully complete this program with only one 4-day visit to the campus. With successful completion of the MCH Certificate and upon admittance to the online master's degree program, the 10-credits obtained in the Certificate can be approved for transfer toward an MPH or MSPH in MCH.

For more information, visit www.sph.unc.edu/mch/mch_leadership_certificate_overview_12092_9866.html.

Contact: Marcia Roth, MPH, Director of Training Initiatives in MCH, at marcia_roth@unc.edu.

MCH Meetings & Events

Past Events:

MCHB Training "Prelude to Strategic Planning" Meeting

On October 19, 2010, MCH training grantees and trainee representatives met to explore critical areas for which national leadership for MCH training is needed. Specifically, attendees addressed the following question:

"Considering the next five years, what are the five critical areas for which national leadership is needed in order to advance excellence in the education of MCH professionals?"

The input gathered from the meeting is being used as a starting point for a comprehensive effort to update the current MCH Training Strategic Plan, in which a wide array of MCH Training constituents and partners will be engaged. Several ATMCH members were in attendance to represent various training programs: Anita Farel, Sylvia Guendelman, Arden Handler, Jeanette Magnus, Donna Strobino, and Martha Wingate. Additionally, ATMCH-member Holly Grason planned the meeting and prepared the summary document.

Nearly 70 current and past MCH trainees met via the web to provide their perspectives and suggestions, which were conveyed by the four trainees that attended.

A summary of meeting highlights is now posted on the MCH Training Program web site: http://mchb.hrsa.gov/training/strategic_plan.asp#10-15_update. The document is titled "[Prelude to Strategic Planning: A Conversation to Inform Direction: Meeting Summary Highlights](#)." The next phase of the strategic planning process will be launched over the coming months. For more information, please contact Denise Sofka at dsofka@hrsa.gov or Holly Grason at hgrason@hrsa.gov.

MCH Meetings & Events, cont.

Upcoming Events:

**AMCHP & Family Voices
National Conferences
February 12-15, 2011
Washington, DC**



The 2011 Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) and Family Voices National Conferences will hold their 2011 conferences with the shared theme of "Working Together to Improve Maternal and Child Health."

The conference will begin with the AMCHP Annual Conference Training Institute – one and a half days of in-depth interactive skills-building sessions and events – on Saturday, February 12. The general conference program begins mid-day Sunday, February 13 with a reception, the Welcome Plenary and the MacQueen Memorial Lecture, followed by sessions and networking opportunities.

For more information, click [here](#).

**2011 Regional Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology (MCH EPI) Conference
June 19-20, 2011
San Francisco, CA**

The Regional Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology (MCH EPI) conference organizers invite you to join local, state and federal public health professionals working to improve the health of women, children and families in sharing research, enhancing knowledge, and generating new ideas for improved MCH data use and informed policymaking.

The **abstract submission** web site for the conference is also open. The deadline to submit abstracts is Tuesday, March 1, 2011.

Click [here](#) for registration website, abstract submission, and sponsored traveler applications!

**4th Annual MCH Leadership Retreat
Offered by UIC's Maternal and Child Health Training
Program
July 25-27, 2011**

This July, the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) School of Public Health (SPH) will offer the 4th annual MCH leadership retreat called **Leadership, Legacy, and Community: A Retreat to Advance Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Scholarship and Practice**.

Leadership, Legacy, and Community is an exciting MCH professional development retreat that takes place in a beautiful Chicago retreat center. It is designed by and for interdisciplinary, intergenerational MCH practice and academic professionals including individuals connected with the various MCHB-funded training programs (SPHs, LENDs, LEAHs, PPCs, Nutrition, etc.) who have a strong desire to work together to create innovative programs to improve the health and well-being of women, children, and families. An interesting synergy happens when individuals across the generations come together to explore ways to improve MCH!

The Retreat is designed to support the development of competencies outlined in the [MCH Leadership Competencies 3.0](#) and includes sessions, exercises, and events that focus on self, others, and wider community. In this robust retreat participants will have opportunities to think critically about the Life Course Model and how this may impact research and/or practice and what it means for the field of MCH, learn how colleagues across the states are integrating Life Course into their work, learn how a 'Community of Practice'* can be developed and supported our work in MCH, have the opportunity to become a member of the inaugural MCH Leadership and Legacy Community of Practice, learn how to establish their own Community of Practice, and develop practical leadership skills to break down silos and support productive communication across the various systems of care that exist to support MCH.

Attendees are committed to social justice; equity-based programming; out-of-the-box thinking to improve the health of women, children, and families; and leadership development. Attendees appreciate the need to take time to reflect on what is important and what is next for them and their communities. If you fit this description, please consider attending this Retreat.

The Retreat will take place at the [Hyatt McDonald's Lodge](#) in Oak Brook, IL. For additional information, please visit http://www.uic.edu/sph/mch/mch_leadership_conference.htm.

Contact: Jaime Klaus at jaimkl@uic.edu or Kris Risley at kyrisley@uic.edu

*Community of Practice: A group of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly ~ Etienne Wenger

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ATMCH Staff Transition

ATMCH would like to provide a warm farewell to Kate Howe, MPH who has been our project coordinator from the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) for the past two years. Kate received her MPH from George Washington University this past year and will now be taking a position with the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP). Without Kate's assistance we would not have been able to complete all the activities we accomplished over the years and to have successfully managed our financial obligations.

Currently, Jessica Petrush (jpetrush@asph.org) will be working with ATMCH as our administrative coordinator from ASPH. We will miss Kate's day-to-day input into ATMCH, but we also look forward to having her continue to be one of our colleagues.

Don't forget to take advantage of your membership benefits!

In addition to being able to participate in ATMCH activities and initiatives, access ATMCH resources, and collaborate and network with other academic MCH leaders, ATMCH members are entitled to benefits such as discounted subscriptions to the *MCH Journal*, *Public Health Reports*, *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nursing*.

Visit

<http://www.atmch.org/membership.cfm>

for more information on the resources available to you!



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<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6RKVRNV>