



# ATMCH Newsletter

Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health

**Fall 2002**

*Providing Leadership in Maternal and Child Health Education, Research, and Service*

## **A Letter From The President**

by **Arden Handler, DrPH**

This is the last newsletter article written in my role as President of ATMCH. The two years that I have spent as President have both flown by and seemed like a lifetime. However, I am confident that as I leave the presidency of ATMCH, we are a stronger organization. My major objective as president was to expand the

reach of ATMCH, moving it to be viewed as an organization of teachers and researchers in MCH in all health and health related institutions of higher learning, where sharing of knowledge and expertise would serve to strengthen us all. In that light, in the last two years, we have: launched the Curricula Posting Project, where members and non-members alike can find curricula on the ATMCH website covering a wide range of MCH topics to use as the basis for the development of their own curricula; begun the MCH program mentorship program in which new and or emerging MCH programs can receive technical assistance from senior MCH faculty (the first ATMCH mentee is the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-School of Public Health); carried out an extensive membership campaign and needs assessment project under the direction of our membership chair, Dr. Molly McNulty; begun planning for an MCH continuing education workshop to hopefully be held at APHA, Fall 2003; strengthened our system of presenting internal education workshops at ATMCH meetings; inaugurated a student symposium at the Spring ATMCH meeting (initiated through the efforts of Dr. Bernie Guyer and students at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and to be continued this year by Dr. Greg Alexander and the students at the University of Alabama); provided input to the Research arm of MCHB in its decision to provide support to MCH doctoral students; and increased our interactions with other organizations including AMCHP and the National Action Alliance (see article on p.5).

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I have truly enjoyed working with all of the

members of the ATMCH executive committee and the ASPH staff, particularly Sandra Maldague, Liz Weist, Karen Helsing and Kalpana Ramiah. I look forward to continued service to ATMCH as past-president and to providing support to my good friend and colleague Gene DeClercq as our next President. And finally, during these challenging times, I look forward to working with all of you to continue to strengthen MCH academe as our contribution to bringing health, security and social justice to all women, children and their families in the US and the world.

**From The Desk Of Peter C. van Dyck,  
M.D., M.P.H., Associate Administrator  
For Maternal And Child Health In The  
Health Resources And Services  
Administration (HRSA)**

As fall approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) activities. I am looking forward to seeing you on Sunday, March 9, 2003, at the ATMCH meeting in association with the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs National Meeting.

**News from MCHB**

I am pleased to provide an update on MCHB activities.

- The HRSA Preview, a comprehensive announcement of HRSA's fiscal year (FY) 2003 competitive grant programs, is now available at <http://www.hrsa.gov/grants.htm>. The HRSA Preview contains a description of grant programs scheduled to be competed in FY 2003 and includes instructions on how to contact the Agency for information and receive application kits for all programs. In FY 2003, HRSA will begin accepting grant applications on-line. Please refer to the HRSA Grant Schedule at <http://www.hrsa.gov/FY2003-Grants.htm> for more information.
- This summer there have been some changes in HRSA leadership: CAPT Kerry Nessler has become the director of the Bureau of Health Professions, Dr. Sam Shaker has moved to be the director of the Bureau of Primary Health Care and CAPT Deborah Parham is the director of the HIV/AIDS Bureau.
- The Department of Health and Human

Services (HHS) has launched an Emerging Leaders Program. On July 15, 2002, Secretary Tommy G. Thompson welcomed to HHS the first class of Emerging Leaders, a new program designed to attract exceptional individuals into public service in a variety of occupations within HHS. HHS hired 62 people into the program out of the more than 8,000 people who applied. The Emerging Leaders Program is a 2-year internship program designed to promote new employees' growth and development as they begin Federal careers.

- The *New Investigators in Maternal and Child Health Research: Training Program Enhancement* awards have been made. The purpose of this program is to enrich the research training experience of trainees in MCHB supported long-term training programs. Through this pilot grant program, MCH long-term training programs will develop, demonstrate and disseminate models to enhance the research training experience of trainees. Congratulations to the following successful applicants: Cecily Betz, Children's Hospital, Los Angeles, CA; Joann Bodurtha, VCU, Richmond, VA; Eugene DeClerq, Boston University, Boston, MA; Richard Kreipe, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY; and Michael Resnick, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.
- The *New Investigators in Maternal and Child Health Research: Dissertation Awards* are now available. The purpose of this program is to increase opportunities for MCH trainees to conduct applied research on maternal and child health issues; to strengthen the research training experience of the next generation of MCH leaders; and to encourage new investigators in the field to conduct applied research that has the potential to improve the planning, management, delivery, outcome and evaluation of health-related policies, programs and services for mothers, infants, children, adolescents and families. Congratulations to the following successful applicants: Marlene Anderka, Boston University, School of Public Health, Boston, MA; Yolanda Cartwright, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis,

MN; Ann Bradford Harris, Regents of University of California, School of Public Health, Los Angeles, CA; Debra Kane, University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health, Chicago, IL; Laura Prichett, The Johns Hopkins University, School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD; and Pamela Lynn Smith, University of Maryland, School of Social Work, Baltimore, MD.

- MCHCOM.COM: MCHB will be hosting several video teleconferences targeted to MCHB-funded MCH Training Programs over the next FY. If you have suggestions for topics, please contact MCHB.
- Special Projects of Regional and National Significance Performance Measures have been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget.
- The final draft of the MCHB Strategic Plan has been reviewed by expert panels and will be ready for review by a wider audience shortly.
- A first draft of a National Plan for Maternal and Child Health Training has been developed by an ad hoc advisory committee and will be available for your review and comment in the early fall.

I look forward to seeing you at the spring ATMCH meeting.

## **AMCHP-Appropriations Quagmire**

**by Chris Goldson**

In what is becoming an annual ritual, the FY 2003 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill has become the focal point of an appropriations battle, this time in the House. After successfully getting a promise from House GOP leaders to consider the Labor-H bill immediately after the August recess, House Republican conservatives are now fighting to keep the cost of the bill within the President's request of \$130 billion in discretionary funding. The Labor-H bill is one of the largest appropriations bill and traditionally has been seen as a budget buster by some conservatives.

The funding level being advocated by the conservatives, though, is too low for some House GOP moderates and leading appropriators who are concerned that they will be unable to fund priorities without cutting or shifting funds from other programs. The GOP leadership is hesitant to step in

and help to reach a compromise. As a result, no action has been taken on the Labor-H bill or any other FY 2003 appropriations bills since the House returned to Washington on September 4<sup>th</sup>. It is clear, however, that the only way to pass this bill, ultimately, will be to exceed the President's request but House GOP leaders are hesitant to do so prior to the election.

House leaders have insisted that no other appropriations bills will come to the floor until an agreement has been reached on the Labor-H bill. Meanwhile, in the Senate, where the Labor-H bill has cleared committee thanks to a funding level \$4 billion above the president's request, Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) has stated that the Senate will only consider appropriations bills that have passed the house, resulting in a total appropriations impasse.

A continuing resolution (CR) appears inevitable with the major issue being how long a continuing resolution will last (Congress is expected to recess in mid-October and return to Washington after the November elections), and how many will be needed. The President's Budget Director has warned that any CR that exceeds current year funding levels for domestic programs will not be supported by the administration. The Administration, citing the looming budget deficit, has also warned that the President will look for ways to restrain growth of domestic programs as tax revenues decline and the war on terrorism continues.

The Senate Appropriations Committee reported out its Labor-H bill in July, funding the MCH Block grant at \$755 million, including a \$5 million SPRANS earmark for oral health. See chart below comparing the President's FY 2003 budget against the Senate Committee's bill for selected programs of interest to MCH advocates.

Moderate Republicans in the house need to hear that they should vote against a bill that provides only the President's budget request level for health programs, or a bill that alters that request by cutting NIH, or other health programs and agencies, in order to shift funds to under funded areas. Calls, faxes, letters are important to reaffirm increased funding for the MCH block grant and other important health programs.

## President's FY 2003 Budget Request

(in thousands of dollars)

	FY 03 Pres. Bud.	FY 03 Senate Committee	Difference
<b>HRSA</b>			
Community and Migrant Health Centers	\$1,458,867	\$1,500,000	\$41,133
MCH Block Grant	\$732,030	\$755,000	\$22,970
Traumatic Brain Injury	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$2,500
Healthy Start	\$98,989	\$104,000	\$5,011
Universal Newborn Hearing/Trauma	\$0	\$18,000	\$18,000
Ryan White AIDS	\$1,911,177	\$2,072,000	\$160,823
Family Planning	\$265,877	\$285,000	\$19,123
Abstinence (discretionary appropriations)	\$73,044	\$40,000	(\$33,044)
<i>Abstinence (mandatory funding)</i>	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
Health care Access for the Uninsured	\$0	\$120,000	\$120,000
Healthy Communities Innovation Fund	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
Poison Control/EMS for Children	\$40,204	\$45,000	\$4,796
			\$0
<b>CDC</b>			\$0
			\$0
Preventive Health and Health Services BG	\$134,966	\$134,966	\$0
Birth Defects and Early Childhood Development	\$89,982	\$99,823	\$9,841
Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion	\$697,035	\$810,785	\$113,750
Immunization	\$631,089	\$672,895	\$41,806
Public Health Improvement	\$118,836	\$117,743	(\$1,093)
<b>OTHER PROGRAMS</b>			
Social Services Block Grant	1,700,000	\$1,700,000	\$0
WIC	\$4,800,000	\$4,800,000	\$0

## **AMCHP Restructuring Creates New Center For Policy And Advocacy**

by Chris Goldson

In the past few months, the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) has undergone a few changes that we wanted you to be aware of. AMCHP brought on board in June, a new executive Director (Sana F. Shtasel, JD, MPA,) and just recently has restructured our staff into centers to help AMCHP better carry out its mission. One of the new Centers is the Center for Policy and Advocacy. The purpose of this Center is to substantially expand AMCHP's ability to analyze, develop and initiate national policy discussion among concerned stakeholders and ensure that the MCH voice is heard in the decision making process. The Center will help to give AMCHP a stronger national voice on MCH issues and continue to help AMCHP monitor, collect, and convey responses from the Maternal and Child Health community relevant to federal and state policies and positions. The creation of the center will reduce the fragmentation between policy and advocacy by housing legislative staff and policy staff within one center.

## **National Action Alliance: An Overview**

by Amy Fine, MPH

The National Action Alliance (NAA) is a partnership of national organizations and agencies representing public health education, research and practice, that have come together with the goal of strengthening data capacity related to the health of women, children and families. Current participating organizations and agencies include:

- **AMCHP** – Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs;
- **ASPH** – Association of Schools of Public Health;
- **ASTHO** – Association of State and Territorial Health Officers;
- **ATMCH** – Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health;
- **CDC (DRH and NCBD)** – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Reproductive Health, and National Center for Birth Defects & Developmental

- Disabilities;
- **CityMatCH**;
- **CSTE** – Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists;
- **HRSA/ MCHB** – Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau;
- **NACCHO** – National Association of City and County Health Officials; and,
- **NAPHSIS** – National Association of Public Health Statistics and Information Systems.

NAA functions as a loosely affiliated alliance with each group appointing up to two “organizational representatives,” who participate in Alliance discussions and vote on key organizational issues. AMCHP has agreed to provide administrative support for the Alliance for a period of one year, starting on October 1, 2002. In discussions taking place over the past six months, the organizational representatives have identified six potential projects that NAA hopes to develop and/or implement over a two to three year period. These include:

- An Integrated Needs Assessment of MCH Epidemiology and Data Capacity in State and Local Public Health Agencies.
- An Inventory/Calendar of MCH Epidemiology Training Resources.
- Topic-Specific Conference Calls on Issues of Interest to Participating Organization Members.
- A Consensus Statement on Core MCH Epidemiology/Data Analytic Competencies for Students at the Masters and Doctoral Levels.
- A Consensus Statement on Core MCH Data, Epidemiologic and Analytic Capacity for State and Local Health Departments.
- National, Tribal, State and Local Public Health Practice Guidelines for Maternal and Child Health Surveillance

Initial work has begun on the first two projects above, with the development of working groups comprised of members appointed by NAA organizations/agencies. These are described below:

*The Working Group on Integrated Needs Assessment* has identified three purposes: (1) to

develop a prioritized list of state and local public health agencies' needs for MCH epidemiology and data capacity by integrating the findings of four major national related efforts; (2) to evaluate current national efforts to meet those identified needs; and, (3) to develop a combined list of potential strategies to address identified needs. DRH/CDC serves as the lead agency for the group.

*The Working Group on Inventory/Calendar of Training Resources* has set the following goal: to develop an on-line updated MCH epidemiology training calendar accessible to public health organizations at the local, state and national levels who wish to strengthen their MCH data/analytic capacity. AMCHP serves as the lead organization for the group.

Both working groups will report on their progress at the MCH EPI conference in December 2002. At the MCH EPI conference, NAA organization representatives will continue discussions on the development and maintenance of the Alliance, as well as discussions on how best to operationalize additional projects. For more information on the National Action Alliance, and participating partner representatives, contact: Stephanie McDaniel at the AMCHP office (202/775-0436).

### **Head Start's Sixth National Research Conference, "The First Eight Years. Pathways To The Future. Implications For Research, Policy And Practice."**

**by Jonathan B. Kotch, MD, MPH**  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

From June 26-June 8, I had the opportunity to represent ATMCH at Head Start's national conference, which is organized by our colleagues at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. However, the thrust of the meeting is early childhood education and child development, rather than child health per se. Nevertheless, there was plenty on the agenda to interest the itinerant MCHer. There was an area of emphasis that did address health, organized by John Pascoe, a pediatrician who just happened to get his MPH from UNC!

The plenaries were good, especially the presentation by Nobel Laureate (Economics) James Heckman, who

argued that it makes much more economic sense to invest in early childhood than later in life. Other plenaries addressed investing in parents of young children (by Ann Crittendon, author of *The Price of Motherhood*) and promoting young children's eagerness to learn.

The high points for me included the musical interlude provided by the Head Start Children's choir of the Washington DC area and meeting someone whose first name is Windy (as in Windy M. Hill, a former Head Start student who now is Associate Commissioner for ACYF). Then I got to swing my enormous clout around by talking my way into the "Mentor's Lunch," where Julie Richmond got an award. It was my pleasure to sit with Judith Palfrey (Dr. Bright Futures) and Leslie Davidson, the new chair of Columbia's Department of Population and Family Health.

Finally, I had the opportunity during the poster sessions to pursue a new theme that I am considering developing in conjunction with my child care health and safety activities, namely, using child care as an opportunity to identify children at early risk of mental illness. Hopefully, some of the contacts I was able to make may be helpful as I collect my own thoughts regarding what can be done in North Carolina to prevent the expulsion from child care of children with behavioral and emotional problems. Let me know if you would like any more detailed information (jonathan\_kotch@unc.edu).

### **Safe Motherhood In Vietnam**

**by Trude A Bennett, MSW, MPH, DrPH**  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

In September 2002, the Hanoi School of Public Health started an innovative undergraduate Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) degree program, with reproductive health as one of its core areas. About 100 recent high school graduates were selected for the initial class, chosen from 5,000 applicants. Trained in both basic sciences and intensive field methods, the graduates of this program will enter a new career track at all levels of the public health system in Vietnam.

I spent time in Vietnam during May and June

helping to develop reproductive health curricula and plans for multidisciplinary research on reproductive health topics at the school. I also co-led a week-long faculty workshop on active learning and participatory teaching methods.

At the annual APHA meeting in Philadelphia, a special international MCH session will feature visiting Vietnamese colleagues speaking on "Safe Motherhood in Vietnam." I have collaborated with several generations of Vietnamese MCH practitioners to organize this session, which will include presentations on the impact of war on reproductive health, the Vietnamese public health system, family planning and adolescent health issues, and the development of the first national Safe Motherhood plan. Please plan to attend on Monday evening, November 11, from 8:30 - 10:00 p.m.

## **MCH/Public Health Milestones History Series Now Available**

**by Greg Alexander, RS, MPH, ScD  
University of Alabama at Birmingham**

Now available for public access and use is Maternal and Child Health/Public Health Milestones, a web-based, multi-volume history of MCH and public health in the United States. Developed by the MCH Leadership Skills Training Institute at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Maternal and Child Health, with support from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, HRSA, this visual and narrative presentation chronicles milestones from 1792 to the present and highlights in its timeline significant MCH and public health achievements, momentous political/social events, and landmark legislation, programs and policies related to the health and well-being of children and families. Historical photos from the National Library of Congress, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other organizations are incorporated throughout this chronological account to provide deeper context and temporal perspective.

This 12-volume series is provided free as a resource tool for faculty, students and practitioners in MCH and is relevant to all those working in public health. Helping the current and future MCH and public health workforce understand the roots of MCH may engender a greater appreciation of the mission of the

MCH field to ensure the optimal development, health, safety, and well-being of children and their families. Previous programs, legislation, and advocacy campaigns reflect the vision and accomplishments of past MCH leaders and provide a legacy for the current workforce to build upon and pass on to those who will take up the MCH mission. The final volume of the series entails a presentation on the philosophy of MCH, focusing on the thoughts of MCH professionals, both past and present, regarding a fundamental question that continues to arouse debate: What is MCH?

The bibliographic reference for this historical account of MCH is: Alexander GR, Chadwick C, Petersen DJ, Pass MA, Slay M, Shumpert N. Maternal and Child Health/Public Health Milestones: Volumes I-XII. MCH Leadership Skills Training Institute, Department of MCH, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2002 (<http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=45534>).

Each volume of the series is available in a PDF file and hard copies can be downloaded from the indicated website. For complementary copies of the original PowerPoint presentation, please contact Dr. Greg R. Alexander at (205) 934-7161 or [alexandg@uab.edu](mailto:alexandg@uab.edu). Also available on the website is a Glossary of MCH Terms and Acronyms, helpful for those new to the MCH field, and Landmark Federal MCH Legislation, including reproductions of the Children's Bureau Act, the Sheppard-Towner Act, the 1935 Social Security Act - Title V, OBRA, and COBRA, with an introduction by Drs. Greg Alexander and Mary Peoples-Sheps.

## **Update On The Merger Of The National Maternal And Child Health Clearinghouse With The HRSA Information Center**

The Health Resources and Services Administration's National Maternal and Child Health Clearinghouse merged with the HRSA Information Center. Materials produced by all HRSA programs are now available from the HRSA Information Center. To order publications, contact the HRSA Information Center by phone, toll free at 1-888-Ask HRSA (275-4772), by e-mail at [ask@hrsa.gov](mailto:ask@hrsa.gov) or visit the website, [www.ask.hrsa.gov](http://www.ask.hrsa.gov). Bright Futures Publications are handled by the National Center for

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To receive the HRSA Information Center monthly e-mail update, containing a new list of publications, send an e-mail message to [Maiser@circlesolutions.com](mailto:Maiser@circlesolutions.com) with the phrase SUBSCRIBE HRSAINFOCENTER in the body of the message.

## **ATMCH Member- New Dean At Tulane**

ATMCH congratulates Pierre Buekens, MD, PhD, for his appointment as Dean of Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Buekens, will join Tulane at the beginning of January 2003 as their new dean.

Dr. Buekens has been greatly involved in ATMCH activities, and as ATMCH president from 1998 to 2000, was instrumental in setting up the ATMCH secretariat at ASPH with funding from MCHB.

Dr. Buekens served as Professor and Chair of the Department of MCH since 1996 and as Associate Dean for Global Health at the University of North Carolina SPH since 2001. Dr. Buekens earned his MD, MPH, and PhD degrees from the Free University of Brussels, Belgium. He is certified as a specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology, has had experience in supervision of perinatal clinics, and has served as vice-president of the School of Public Health at the Free University. He has a strong record of accomplishments as a clinician, researcher, educator, and administrator and as an international spokesperson for perinatal health.

## **MCH Faculty News**

### **Profiles of the new MCH faculty members in University of Alabama at Birmingham**

The Department of Maternal and Child Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham has hired four new faculty members. **Melissa M. Adams, RN, MPH, PhD, Professor**, joined the department in March 2002 after a 23-year-long career at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She

completed a BA at the University of Pittsburgh, a BS in Nursing at the Cornell University-New York Hospital School of Nursing, an MPH in epidemiology at the University of California, Los Angeles, and a PhD in epidemiology at the University of Washington, Seattle. She is a past president of the Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research. **Hamisu Salihu, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor**, joined the department in November 2001. He completed his MBBS in General Medicine at ABU in Nigeria, earned his MD in Obstetrics and Gynecology and a PhD in Perinatology from University of Saarland, Germany. Additionally, he holds a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of South Florida. His primary research interests are in perinatal epidemiology, research methodology, and international health. **Russell S. Kirby, PhD, MS, Professor**, joined the department in July 2002. He holds a PhD in human geography (1981) and an MS in preventive medicine-epidemiology (1991) from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Kirby is past president of the National Birth Defects Prevention Network and serves on the executive committee of the Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research. Elected Fellow in the American College of Epidemiology in 1996, Dr. Kirby's research interests include perinatal epidemiology, birth defects surveillance and prevention, population health approaches to maternal and child health, and measuring the quality of obstetrical and prenatal care services. **Shailender Swaminathan, PhD, Assistant Professor**, joined the department in August 2002. He holds a PhD in Economics (University of Southern California, 2000) and worked as consultant at the RAND Corporation in the Labor and Population and the Health, Education and Welfare Divisions. Dr. Swaminathan's research interests include the long-term determinants and consequences of low birth weight, the determinants of sexual behavior among adolescents, the links between health and labor outcomes, and the effects of family, school and community on early child health outcomes.

### **Johns Hopkins University MCH Department News**

It's a pleasure to inform all of our ATMCH colleagues that we have had several important MCH

promotions in the Department of Population and Family Health Sciences at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: Patricia O'Campo, PhD, last year's Loretta Lacey awardee, was promoted to professor with tenure. Pat is well known for her contributions to MCH research, especially her development of sophisticated multi-level analytical methods to address the relative contributions of community and personal level factors to complex MCH problems. She teaches courses on evaluation and womens health. Congrats!

Cynthia Minkovitz, MD, MPP, was promoted to associate professor. Cynthia is a pediatrician who is making important contributions to the research and policy literature on child health and development, immunization policy, and pediatric training. Cynthia teaches courses on MCH policy and on children with special health care needs. Congrats!

## Conferences

### **16th Annual Maternal And Child Health Leadership Conference Sponsored By The University Of Illinois At Chicago Maternal And Child Health Program**

The 16th annual University of Illinois at Chicago Maternal and Child Health Program's Leadership Conference will be held April 27-29, 2003 at the contemporary Hotel Allegro in Chicago's downtown Loop district ([www.allegrochicago.com](http://www.allegrochicago.com)). This conference is the second in a series of three devoted to the translation of research into MCH public health practice. Plenary and workshop sessions will address the elimination of disparities in health among women, adolescents, children, and infants. Speakers will highlight current research as well as unmet research needs and implications for MCH public health practitioners. The \$250 early bird registration fee includes a program book; admittance into all conference sessions; and, breakfast, lunch, and morning/afternoon breaks on Monday and Tuesday.

The conference planning committee is currently accepting online abstracts related to specific cutting edge issues in MCH. Selected abstracts will be presented during roundtable discussions on Tuesday morning, April 29, 2003. For more information about the conference or the abstract submission process and roundtable discussion topics, please visit

[www.uic.edu/sph/mch/ce/mch\\_leadership](http://www.uic.edu/sph/mch/ce/mch_leadership).

We are pleased to announce the availability of a limited number of tickets to see Disney's Tony award-winning musical *The Lion King* at the Cadillac Palace located next door to the Hotel Allegro. Tickets for the Sunday evening performance (April 27, 6:30pm) may be purchased for \$40 or \$18. To reserve a seat or to be placed on the conference mailing list, please contact the conference coordinator at (312)-996-2875. Conference registration materials will be available in December 2002.

### **Eighth Annual Maternal And Child Health Epidemiology (MCH EPI) Conference December 11-13, 2002 Sheraton Sand Key Hotel Clearwater Beach, Florida**

You are invited to attend the Eighth Annual Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology (MCH EPI) Conference. The purpose of the MCH EPI conference is to provide maternal and child health professionals an opportunity to disseminate research findings, to provide training opportunities, and to allow knowledge exchange for policy and program management decision-making. The Seventh Annual conference theme is *Counting the Women, Children and Families Who Count on Us*. Conference discussions will focus on improving the use of data to formulate policies for maternal and child health populations.

The plenary sessions will highlight new approaches to better understand children with special health care needs, how women's health may impact the entire family, and the feasibility and benefit of combining qualitative approaches with epidemiology. Additionally, the 2002 National MCH Epidemiology Awards sponsored by the Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology will be presented during the Thursday luncheon on Friday.

Are you new to MCH? Attend the Welcome Reception on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. to meet MCH leaders, other new professionals, and students.

Do you have a special interest in planning programs for Children with Special Health Care Needs? Or

maybe within your state you find yourself having to learn how to use data for effective decision-making or even you want to learn more about publishing practice-based manuscripts. Fret no more. This year you can gain the skills needed to overcome such situations. Training Sessions on these topics are being offered on a first come, first serve basis. You may sign-up at the conference during registration.

**Looking for a MCH new position?** The MCH EPI conference planners are providing a Job Board available from noon on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> to 5:00pm on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

The conference organizers encourage attendance of all health professionals working with maternal and child health data, programs, or policies, particularly at the state and local levels. This includes epidemiologists, program specialists, evaluators, data analysts, community advocates, policy makers, and especially students and young professionals.

For up-to-date information about the conference and to **register online**, please visit: [www.publichealth.usf.edu/conted/mchepi02.html](http://www.publichealth.usf.edu/conted/mchepi02.html)

## Job Postings

### Women's Health Analyst

The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) seeks a full-time professional for a Women's Health Analyst position. AMCHP is the national organization representing state public health leaders and other interested individuals and organizations working to improve the health and well being of women, children, youth and families, including those with special health care needs. AMCHP accomplishes its mission through the active participation of its members and vital partnerships with government agencies, families and advocates, health care purchasers and providers, academic and research professionals and others at the national, state and local levels.

A successful candidate will have extensive knowledge of women's health issues and the public policy process at the federal and state level including development of legislation. He or she must be able to develop written policy analyses, strategy reports, public education and briefing papers, website and newsletter articles on proposed legislation and policy, and have knowledge of health care financing and funding streams, federal grant initiatives and programs related to women's health and familiar with government agencies. The candidate must be able to demonstrate solid analytical, writing, verbal, organizational, interpersonal, research, internet search, and computer skills. A minimum of a Master's degree in public health or related field or Bachelors degree with 3 years of related experience required. See [www.amchp.org](http://www.amchp.org) for complete description. Competitive salary and excellent benefits. Interested candidates should send resume, cover letter, and salary requirements to AMCHP, Women's Health Analyst Search, 1220 19<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 801, Washington, DC 20036, fax 202-775-0061, [jmericsko@amchp.org](mailto:jmericsko@amchp.org). No telephone calls please. EOE

## Fall ATMCH Meeting

Sunday, November 10, 2002 is the date for the fall ATMCH meeting in Philadelphia, to be held in conjunction with the APHA annual meeting. You will be receiving the agenda by email. It will also be posted in the ATMCH website at <http://www.atmch.org/meeting.htm>. We are looking forward to seeing you in Philadelphia.

### Executive Committee Meeting

Meeting date: Sunday November 10, 2002  
Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 noon  
Location: Philadelphia Marriott  
Room: 413  
1201 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA

## **Business Committee and Strategic Planning Meeting**

***Please join us in planning ATMCH activities for the next two years!!!!***

Meeting date: Sunday November 10, 2002  
Time: 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.  
Location: **Loews Philadelphia Hotel,**  
Room: Commonwealth B  
1200 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA  
Phone (215)-627-1200

***NOTE: Business meeting location is not in the APHA program book.***

## **News From The ATMCH Secretariat**

The ATMCH secretariat updates the membership on events and news relating to academic MCH, maintains and updates the ATMCH website and listserv, coordinates and staffs ATMCH meetings, and provides staff support for general ATMCH business.

We are accepting course syllabi for posting on the ATMCH website for the following MCH areas:

- Introduction to MCH
- Reproductive and Perinatal Health
- Child Health
- Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Family Planning/Population Health
- Adolescent Health
- Global MCH
- MCH Policy and Advocacy

Please send your syllabus to Ms. Kalpana Ramiah at [Kramiah@asph.org](mailto:Kramiah@asph.org).

Let us know how we're doing! We always appreciate hearing from our members. If you have any questions about the newsletter, upcoming ATMCH meetings, or updates or changes to your contact information and interest areas please contact Kalpana Ramiah at [Kramiah@asph.org](mailto:Kramiah@asph.org). The website is updated on the 1st and 15th of each month.

Please continue to support ATMCH. Remember to pay your membership dues for 2003-2004 fiscal year, if you have not yet done so. Please note that only members in good standing will receive all ATMCH announcements.

The *ATMCH Newsletter* is produced by Kalpana Ramiah with the submissions from ATMCH members.

**You may reach us at:**

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