



# ATMCH Newsletter

**Fall 2003 Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health**  
*Providing Leadership in Maternal and Child Health Education, Research, and Service*

## President's Letter

Dear Colleagues,

This time of year combines the chaos and excitement of a new school year – the fact that we find it exciting marks us as teachers – with ongoing research and administrative responsibilities as well as the rising challenges we face as advocates in a field under stress. Our close involvement with the various constituencies we serve and collaborate with means we are seldom far away from the reality facing women, children and families in need. While we regularly note how this involvement makes us better teachers, it also means we share the frustration of those trying to better their lives in the face of changes they have little control over.

Like many of you I'm a regular reviewer for MCHB block grants in my region and it's striking how the combination of an economic downturn and the political commitment to cutting social services has meant a significant reduction in state funding for MCH programs at the same time needs are growing. It is also a reminder of the crucial role that the MCH Block Grant plays as it provides states with the flexibility to adjust state programs to minimize the damage to the groups they serve. As teachers, this presents us with a great opportunity to provide our students with living case studies of MCH organizations under stress and the importance of their role

as policy advocates. It also frames a challenge to our commitment to evidence-based practice and policies, since so many of these cuts have little relationship to the results of the needs assessments and program evaluations we teach our students to rely on.

This mix of the intellectual and practical which draws so many of us to public health is reflected in the series of activities we have planned for ATMCH in the coming months. As a small organization with limited resources we obviously can't directly redress the challenges facing the field of MCH. However, we can work to improve the teaching, research and service we provide and help create another generation of leaders in MCH who are well equipped to face these challenges.



## New Time for ATMCH Business Meeting

**Date:** Sunday, November 16

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Location:** Westin St. Francis Hotel  
335 Powell Street  
Georgian Room  
San Francisco, CA

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We have two programs at APHA that begin this process by focusing on teaching. We are sponsoring our first ever Continuing Education session at the American Public Health Association meeting in November. The session is entitled “Teaching Maternal and Child Health Competencies: Tools and Techniques for Graduate Programs” and is aimed at helping those relatively new to MCH to enhance their skills as teachers by learning from experts in the field. It will include an overview of the ATMCH competencies (Noel Chavez) and how to best teach in two of our competency areas: “Policy and Advocacy” (Sara Rosenbaum) and “MCH Research” (Debbie Rosenberg). This is a great faculty to learn from and they are going to focus how best to present material to students in their respective areas. The session is not yet full so if you have students and colleagues who might be interested in the session (scheduled for Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 – 6:00), then please encourage them to apply through the APHA website. For details go to: [http://www.apha.org/meetings/cei\\_2028.htm](http://www.apha.org/meetings/cei_2028.htm).

Teaching is also the focus of our symposium at this year’s Business Meeting, though unlike the CE session it is intended to bring experienced teachers together to discuss how they approach their classes in three ways. “TALKING ABOUT TEACHING” will be devoted to a discussion of teaching in key areas of MCH: “The Introductory MCH Course,” “Women’s Health,” and “Child and Adolescent Health.” Participation is open to everyone and the facilitated discussion is intended to be an open exchange around: (1) readings and resources used in the class; (2) style and structure of the class; (3) products and assessment techniques. I’d encourage you all to participate and consider posting your syllabi for any of these courses on the ATMCH website so others can learn from your experience.

Other ATMCH projects are in the works including an expansion of the syllabus posting project (it is exceptionally easy to add your syllabus to the website by simply sending it as an attachment to Kalpana Ramiah at [KRamiah@asph.org](mailto:KRamiah@asph.org)) and a second round of the ATMCH mentoring project with the

program at St. Louis University receiving the advice and counsel from a senior faculty in MCH. My work in this role last year with the School of Public Health at UMDNJ was well received at the school, but the process of stepping back and considering what would be necessary for the development a new program in MCH was incredibly helpful for me as well.

Finally, I want you all to consider how we build on the recommendations from our strategic planning meeting held last year to decide how we want to shape the program of activities for ATMCH in the upcoming year. I want to thank Donna Peterson for her leadership both in directing the strategic planning effort and her stellar work as the ATMCH Treasurer for the past two years. The results were summarized in the Spring 2003 newsletter (available at <http://www.atmch.org/Spring%2003.pdf>) and reflected our very productive meeting. Two major priorities emerged: “Current and Future Faculty Development” and “Partnerships.” Clearly our Fall program addresses faculty development. I’d like to build on this momentum to begin to look at partnerships at our Spring meeting and I need to draw on your experience, wisdom (and time) to help move the organization forward in this endeavor. Bring your ideas and energy to our Fall meeting in San Francisco and we can continue our efforts to develop the next generation of MCH leaders.

Gene Declercq, PhD  
ATMCH President  
Boston University School of Public Health

## **ATMCH Business Meeting**

*Sunday, November 16  
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Westin St. Francis Hotel  
335 Powell Street  
Georgian Room  
San Francisco, CA*

**From the Desk of  
Peter C. van Dyck, M.D., M.P.H.,  
Associate Administrator for Maternal and Child Health,  
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**

Dear colleagues, we've reached the chilly days of Autumn! As the season begins, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) activities. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday, November 16, 2003, at the Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health meeting during the American Public Health Association national meeting.

**News from MCHB**

- The Fiscal Year 2004 HRSA Preview has arrived. The document is an index of all Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant funding opportunities for the upcoming year. Of particular note are three training grant programs, which are to be competed this year: the Leadership Education Certificate in Public Health Program, the Continuing Education and Development (General) Program and the Continuing Education/Distance Learning Program. You can find a summary of the Leadership Education Certificate in Public Health Program at <http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/preview/mch.htm#hrsa04053>. The application guidance for this program can be found at <http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/preview/guidancemchb/hrsa04053.htm>. A summary of the Continuing Education and Development (General) Program and the Continuing Education/Distance Learning Program can be found at <http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/preview/mch.htm#hrsa04054>. The guidance for these two programs will be available in mid-November.
- The MCHB strategic plan has been completed and is ready for dissemination. Please keep an eye out for this important document which high-

lights Bureau priorities for the next 5 years.

- Please join me in welcoming Steven A. Pelovitz, JD, as the new Deputy Associate Administrator for Maternal and Child Health in HRSA. Mr. Pelovitz provides senior leadership and policy direction for MCHB programs. Prior to assuming his current position, Mr. Pelovitz was the Director of the Survey and Certification Group (SCG) in the Centers for Medicare's Medical Services. In that role, he was responsible for the oversight of major operations activities such as the development, interpretation, and application of specific laws, regulations, and national policies that directly govern the operations and management of the agency programs and the related interactions with the States and regional offices. He had responsibilities for planning and coordinating the operations of Survey and Certification to marshal available staff and budgetary, financial, and other resources to accomplish program missions. He also directed and coordinated the activities for day-to-day operations of this program, which provides oversight of the quality of care in health care providers. This oversight was done through contracts with state agencies, which in total exceeded \$220 million a year.

During the Health Care Financing Administration's (HCFA) (currently the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) reorganization effort, Mr. Pelovitz was the Chief Operating Officer of HCFA. Mr. Pelovitz has testified at congressional hearings and represented HCFA's interests submitted for review by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Office of Management and Budget.

For 3 years prior to his July 1993 HCFA appointment, Mr. Pelovitz served as the Vice President for Management and Fiscal Affairs at the New York Academy of Medicine. Prior to that, he served as the Chief of Staff of New Jersey Department of Human Services.

During his 30+ year Federal Government career, Mr. Pelovitz has also held various senior positions in the HCFA and the Social Security Administration.

- MCHB also is pleased to welcome Ms. Ivy Vedamuthu who is the new HRSA/Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) Vince L. Hutchins Fellow in MCHB. This fellowship is supported through the *Demonstration in Training Grants to Support Public Health Fellowships and Internships* cooperative agreement between ASPH and HRSA. Ms. Vedamuthu has been detailed to the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program in the Bureau and will be working with the Program Director, Mr. Dan Kavanaugh. Ms. Vedamuthu has a BS in Biology and completed her MPH (with a focus on International Health) at Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA. She recently finished an internship with San Bernadino County's Maternal and Child Health Section.
- Dr. Duke has convened a workgroup to develop a HRSA Oral Health Strategic Plan. A draft plan will be released this fall for your review and comment.
- Thank you for your participation in the September 16, 2003, "***MCH Training Programs: Faculty and Trainee Research on Health Disparities and Cultural Competence***" MCHCOM.COM webcast. Based on your feedback, we feel that the webcast was a success and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our presenters, Drs. Cheryl Kodjo and Sheryl Ryan from the University of Rochester Leadership Education in Adolescent Health Program and Drs. Michele Kelley and Swapna Sawardekar and Ms. Jeannie Concha from the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health, Division of Community Health Sciences, on a job well done! An archive of this webcast is available at <http://www.mchcom.com>. As we plan future MCH Training MCHCOM.COM

webcasts, please feel free to send your suggestions and/or comments to Ms. Madhavi Reddy at [mreddy@hrsa.gov](mailto:mreddy@hrsa.gov).

- REMINDER: MCHB's Distance Learning Inventory Database is available for you to access the distance learning training resources that we support. You can browse all of MCHB's training resources or search for them by key word, format, State, or project. Visit [http://www.uic.edu/sph/mch\\_dli](http://www.uic.edu/sph/mch_dli) to learn more.

I look forward to seeing you in November!

## Funding for the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant

by Chris Goldson

The House of Representatives passed a Labor, Health and Human Services Bill in early July that would provide **\$732.9 million** for the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant. The Senate recently passed their version of the same bill and would provide \$731.5 million for the MCH Block Grant in fiscal year 2004.

The proposed funding levels, although a slight increase over the current year, results in cut funding for 30 state's MCH programs, because of the use of new census data on children in poverty in calculating state allocations. These states lose approximately \$10 million combined, with the bolded states losing over \$1 million each: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, **Louisiana**, Maine, Massachusetts, **Michigan**, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, **Ohio**, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Amendments adopted during floor debate includes increasing funding for poison control centers by \$1.5 million for a total of \$23.8 million, and adding \$2 million within the Office of Minority Health in NIH

for a demonstration project to reduce Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) disparities in African-Americans and Native Americans, including efforts to reduce alcohol use by pregnant women, support for smoking cessation programs, and educating teens on the risk factors for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. NIH is encouraged to work with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in carrying out this demonstration project.

The Senate also added \$2 million for newborn genetic screening programs as authorized under Title XXVI of the Children's Health Act of 2000. Another \$1 million will be available as competitive grants through CDC to strengthen local capacity on Native American reservations for STD screening and treatment.

The Senate and House will now attempt to work out funding differences between the two bills. Negotiators can add or decrease funding on programs that receive different funding levels in each House. A final report will have to pass both chambers and be signed into law by the President before any of these funds become available. The President has threatened to veto any bill that contains a provision added by the Senate blocking the administration's proposed changes to overtime rules. It is unlikely that this bill will be completed before the fiscal year it covers begins October 1.

#### *Medicare Bill Includes Provision Extending Health Care To Legal Immigrant Pregnant Women And Children*

The Medicare Prescription drug benefit bill (S.1) that passed the Senate earlier this year includes an important provision giving states the option to provide legal immigrant women and children access to coverage under Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Championed by Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fl.), the provision would authorize the change for three years. The committee defeated an attempt by Sen. Don Nickles (R-Okla.)

to strip the provision by a vote of 8-13. An attempt to remove the provision on the floor was defeated (33-65). The House Medicare bill did not include a companion provision.

The Bush Administration opposes the provision, noting that it "contradicts current welfare reform policy and should not be undone in Medicare reform legislation."

This bill has the support of the National Governors Association, the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and numerous immigrant, ethnic, labor, health and faith-based organizations. House and Senate negotiations are currently underway to resolve differences between the bills.

#### *Senate Finance Committee Marks Up TANF Reauthorization Bill*

In early September, the Senate Finance Committee finally began work on legislation reauthorizing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program.

The legislation, called the Personal Responsibility and Individual Development for Everyone (PRIDE) Act, passed the committee on by a vote of 9-8 after Chairman Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) reached an agreement with Senator Olympia Snowe (R-Maine). The deal allows her to offer an amendment during floor debate to increase child care funding in the bill in exchange for her support in committee. Among the highlights of the bill:

- Adds a provision allowing single parents who provide continuous care for a child or other dependent with an impairment to satisfy TANF work requirements under these circumstances: the state must determine that the dependent's impairment requires continuous care; the parent is the only reasonable provider of the care; and the parent is complying with their self-sufficiency plan.

- Reauthorizes the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Sec. 510 Abstinence Education program for five years.
- Authorizes the following fatherhood programs: \$20 million for up to 10 states for demonstration programs; \$30 million program for eligible entities (such as private service providers) to conduct demonstration programs; \$5 million for a nonprofit fatherhood promotion organization to develop a fatherhood media campaign; \$20 million block grant to states to conduct similar media campaigns.
- Reauthorizes the Transitional Medical Assistance program as under current law until September 30, 2008, allowing low-income families to keep their Medicaid coverage for a limited time after they find a job and leave TANF.
- State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP): provision clarifying that SCHIP funds cannot be spent on childless adults (waivers approved by the Secretary of HHS have allowed these expenditures).

## Teaching MCH Competencies: Tools and Techniques for Graduate Programs

The Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health (ATMCH) invites you to participate in their first continuing education institute: "Teaching MCH Competencies: Tools and Techniques for Graduate Programs" (session 2028). This half day session will feature national leaders in MCH education providing state-of-the art information about how to teach in three key areas in MCH: Core Competencies (Dr. Noel Chavez), Analytic Methods (Dr. Deborah Rosenberg) and Policy Analysis (Dr. Sara Rosenbaum). The program should be of great interest to graduate students who are interested in careers in teaching MCH as well as junior faculty who wish to enhance their skills.

The institute is part of the APHA 2003 Annual meeting in San Francisco and will be held from 2:30 - 6:00 pm on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Kalpana Ramiah at [KRamiah@asph.org] or consult the ATMCH website [<http://www.atmch.org/CE%20.htm>] for more information.

**Encourage your junior faculty members and doctoral students to attend the CE session.**

## Fall ATMCH Meeting

Sunday, November 16, 2003 is the date for the fall ATMCH meeting in San Francisco, 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 San Francisco.

### Business Meeting

Meeting date: Sunday, November 16, 2003  
 Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
 Location: Westin St. Francis Hotel  
 335 Powell Street  
 Georgian Room  
 San Francisco, CA

## ATMCH Election Results

In keeping with our plan to expand our Executive Committee, ATMCH welcomes two at-large members this year as well as a new treasurer.

Wendy Hellerstedt, MPH, PhD from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health will be

Wendy is an epidemiologist and an Associate Professor in the Maternal and Child Health Program/Division of Epidemiology. She is co-investigator of the CDC-



funded National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Research Center, which supports community-based youth development interventions as well as advocacy activities. She is also co-investigator of the Minnesota Center for Research in Health Statistics, a collaborative research effort from the

University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Health to examine social disparities in perinatal outcomes using vital records and other extant databases. Her research interests are the biologic, psychosocial and behavioral risk factors that influence pregnancy outcomes, maternal health, and women's health. She teaches two graduate courses entitled "Reproductive and Perinatal Health" and "Women's Health" and two seminars entitled "Race, Class, and Family Formation" and "Reproductive Epidemiology."

Our other at-large member, serving a two year term, is Marti Coulter, DrPH, from the University of South Florida where she is a Professor of Public Health. Marti has been on the faculty at USF since 1985, though she spent one year on loan to the Florida Division of Health Services as a deputy health director. Marti currently directs the James and Jennifer Harrell Center for the Study of Family Violence. Her research interests are focused in the areas of Maternal and Child Health and Family and Community Violence both in the United States and Latin America. She has numerous publications and presentations in this field. She teaches courses in this area at the College of Public Health and has recently developed a certificate program in Violence and Injury Prevention directed at Community professionals and graduate students desiring specialty training in this area.

Anita Farel, DrPH, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health will be the new ATMCH Treasurer. She has been on the

faculty in the Department of Maternal and Child Health since 1983. Her research and teaching focus on access to services for children with special health care needs and their families. She has recently examined the feasibility of using birth defects registries for automatic referrals to early intervention services and has compared use of and need for services among children with special health care needs enrolled in SCHIP, Medicaid, and North Carolina's State Employee Health plan. She has co-chaired the Children with Special Health Care Needs committee for the MCH Section. For many years, Anita has been involved in conducting analytic skills training for state and local health departments. Most recently, this training has been conducted online. She is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for MCH-Initiative for Data to Action.



## **Loretta P. Lacey Academic Leadership Award 2004**

The Loretta P. Lacey Award was created to recognize leadership in MCH education, research, policy development and/or advocacy. The award is sponsored by the Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health (ATMCH) in memory of Loretta P. Lacey, a former faculty member at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a leader in MCH education. The awardee is announced at the Spring ATMCH meeting.

The nominee must be at mid-career, i.e., not yet a full professor, but must have already begun to establish a reputation in MCH. The nominee must have demonstrated leadership skills and show potential for future career development. The recognition accorded by this award is intended to support such career development.

The nominee must be a faculty member in a health or health related institution who is actively involved in

MCH teaching and/or research. The nominee must be an ATMCH member. All nominations must be received by **January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004**. To nominate an individual, send a letter of nomination and curriculum vitae for the nominee providing evidence of the nominee's accomplishments and her/his future potential, to the ATMCH secretariat. Letters of support are not necessary and are discouraged.

## Martha May Eliot Award



Dr. Bernie Guyer has been named winner of the 2003 Martha May Eliot Award, which honors exceptional achievements in the field of maternal and child health. Dr. Guyer is currently the chair of the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health's Department of Population

and Family Health Science. Through more than 30 years of work in the maternal and child health arena, Dr. Guyer is a strong advocate of child health.

Dr. Guyer has held several positions at JHU, including professor and chair of the MCH department and faculty member within the Injury Prevention Center. For seven years, he worked as director of the division of family services for the Massachusetts Department of Health. He was chief coordinator of the master's of public health program at the Harvard School of Public Health and visiting faculty at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, among his many professional appointments.

ATMCH congratulates Dr. Guyer for the award.

## CityMatCH Award

ATMCH congratulates Dr. Milton Kotelchuck for the Ed Ehlinger Award in recognition of the outstanding contributions made by a leader whose

commitment and distinguished service has helped shaped the future of CityMatCH.

Dr. Milton Kotelchuck and Dr. Julius Richmond were selected as this year's joint recipients in acknowledgement and appreciation of their work over the past two decades to promote strategic understanding of the dynamic interrelationships between data and policy development.



Their tripartite conceptual model for developing sustainable, evidence-based public health policy became the keystone for many CityMatCH products and initiatives. CityMatCH's Effective Data Use Triangle was adapted from the Richmond-Kotelchuck model, and team composition for the DUI, PPOR, Perinatal HIV and other learning and prevention collaboratives structurally integrates analytic, practice and policy perspectives.

## Donald A. Cornely, MD, MPH

ATMCH was saddened to learn of the death of Donald A. Cornely MD, MPH on March 20, 2003. A Pediatrician who had earned his MPH from The Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health in 1958, Dr. Cornely was hired to chair the MCH Division in what was then the Division of



Population Dynamics. When these Divisions were reconstituted into free standing departments of the School in 1970, Dr. Cornely was named chair of the Department of Maternal and Child Health, a position he held until his retirement in 1989. During his academic career a number of significant honors were awarded to him including: The Martha May Eliot Award from the American Public Health Association; The Clifford Grulee Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and The Ernest Lyman Stebbins Medal given by The Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Dr. Donald A. Cornely was an ATMCH member.

## HRSA Women's Health Curriculum Project

ASPH has been awarded \$100,000 from HRSA to complete a project, "Curriculum Review for Women's Health in Accredited Schools of Public Health." This project is part of HRSA's efforts in assessing how women's health and sex/gender differences are interwoven into health professions schools. This project came out of a growing need to translate findings about disease prevention into educational curriculum to ensure that health professionals are properly trained in the latest information on preventive care for women of all ages. The purpose of the project is:

- To collect information on the breadth of current women's health related content in the curricula at SPH
- To develop recommendations for integrating women's health into SPH curricula
- To share findings and recommendations with Federal partners, SPH and other curricular planners.

For more information on this project, please contact Karen Sauers at [ksauers@asph.org](mailto:ksauers@asph.org)

## Ninth Annual Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology (MCH EPI) Conference

December 10-12, 2003 Tempe, Arizona

Join the Maternal & Child Health Epidemiology (MCH EPI) Program at CDC at its Ninth Annual Meeting, *Linking, Learning and Leading Together for Women, Children & Families*. This conference brings together health professionals from federal, state, local and tribal levels who work with Maternal and Child Health (MCH) data, programs, and policies.

Through the interchange of best practices, with a shared vision and commitment to collectively direct

the field, MCH professionals will learn how to use data to effectively and efficiently impact the lives of women, children and families.

This year's plenary sessions are designed to raise participants' awareness on pertinent MCH issues and create a forum for valuable collaboration among MCH leaders. Conference participants will hear some of the successes and challenges in dealing with MCH issues in the southwest, have the opportunity to engage in discussions to generate solutions for the unique challenges faced by children with special health care needs as they transition into adulthood and talk about ways to take the field one step closer to answering the question, 'what is MCH EPI?' Additionally, topics for the concurrent breakout sessions include racial/ethnic disparities, unintended pregnancy, women's health, & data linkage.

Conference organizers encourage all health professionals working on MCH issues to attend. This includes epidemiologists, program specialists, policy makers, data analysts, researchers, community advocates and students.

For more information about the conference and to register online, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth>.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual ASPH Environmental Health Conference

The ASPH Environmental and Occupational Health council hosted the 4th annual Environmental Health (EH) conference - August 9-12 in Research Triangle Park (RTP), NC. The purpose of this series of conferences is to strengthen the environmental health training capacity of accredited graduate schools of public health. The conference aimed to foster ongoing dialogue among faculty from SPH and provide opportunities for them to explore mutual issues and resolve common problems, such as how to best link academia and practice. Such linkages are key components in sustaining a prepared, effective, and competent envi-

ronmental health workforce.

The theme of this year's conference was children's environmental health. A pre-conference workshop on urban sprawl and smart growth was held on August 9<sup>th</sup>. The workshop began with a series of speakers from community-based organizations and federal partners, Dr. Andrew Dannenburg (NCEH) and Dr. Allen Dearry (NIEHS). Later in the day, using information they had just learned, participants went on an interactive "walkabout" in Durham and subsequently marked up blueprints of the city with recommendations for improvements. The proposals ranged from ideas to increase safety to ways to make the area pedestrian-friendly.

The council would like to express its gratitude to EPA staff for hosting the conference in their beautiful new conference facilities in RTP and to co-sponsors of the conference (HRSA, NIEHS, NCEH, and ATSDR) as well as the planning committee for their efforts in planning the conference.

This year's pre-conference urban sprawl workshop was videotaped for a video-streaming archive that will be available on the web soon. We also just debuted the new "Learning Tools" site, using materials from the 2002 conference at <http://www.asph.org/learningtools>. The site, created by popular request from the faculty attending last year's conference, contains materials, recommendations, and tips for conducting the "Interactive Exercise on Bioterrorism," offered as a part of the 2002 EH conference. Video streaming presentations on bioterrorism from the 2002 pre-conference workshop are also available on this site. Faculty are encouraged to peruse the site and use the materials in their classrooms.

Plans for the next environmental health conference are already underway. Faculty interested in participating on the planning committee are welcome to contact Allison Foster at [afoster@asph.org](mailto:afoster@asph.org).

## STEP UP Call for Abstract

The ASPH/Legacy STEP UP project announces a call for poster abstracts to be presented at "STEP UP to Tobacco Control: Advancing the Role of Public Health and Public Health Professionals," a workshop on tobacco studies in SPH. The workshop will be held on April 14-16, 2004 in St. Louis, MO, and is organized to promote the development of education in tobacco control and to enhance participation in tobacco studies, tobacco research, and competency-based training among graduate public health students and professionals.

Poster presentations should convey knowledge and experience that will help build tobacco studies in graduate public health education. The presentations should illustrate effective and creative processes through which tobacco studies are being integrated into graduate public health education. To view the call, see <http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=787>. For more information, contact Kalpana Ramiah at [KRamiah@asph.org](mailto:KRamiah@asph.org).

## Other Meeting Announcements

**NBDPN 2004 Annual Meeting:** Advances and Opportunities for Birth Defects Surveillance, Research, and Prevention

January 21-23, 2004

Salt Lake City, Utah

<http://www.nbdpn.org/NBDPN/annualmeeting/2004/index.html>

**CALL FOR POSTERS**

Deadline for submission is October 31, 2003.

<http://www.nbdpn.org/NBDPN/annualmeeting/2004/callforposters.html>

**AMCHP 2004 Annual Conference:** Mental Health — Promoting a New Paradigm for MCH Public Health Practice

February 28 - March 3, 2004

Washington, D.C

<http://www.amchp.org/news/conference.htm>

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.

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(ATMCH)**

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