



ATMCH Newsletter

Fall 2006 Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health
Providing Leadership in Maternal and Child Health Education, Research, and Service

Fall 2006

President's Letter: Ave Atque Vale

This is my last President's letter, as I will be turning over the mallet to colleague and friend, Marti Coulter at the end of our business meeting in Boston on November 5. I have had the privilege to have a most capable and committed team of professionals in the Executive Committee during my tenure as President. To all of them, first and foremost, my deep appreciation for their efforts and long hours of dedication. To Ms. Kalpana Ramiah, a very special recognition for her consistent and persistent watch over the affairs of ATMCH. One has trouble understanding that Kalpana has multiple other hats to wear from her office at ASPH. Her capacity for effective and efficient work output defies the imagination. And her perennial positive disposition and readiness to respond to requests (she does not know how to say: "that cannot be done") is truly impressive. Thanks, Kalpana!

As ATMCH inaugurates a new administration following our November meeting, the future looks bright. The Case Studies Project, under the leadership of incoming, President Marti Coulter, and the excellent collaboration of Deborah Allen, Gene Declercq, (our representatives from Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs—AMCHP) Chuck Onufer, Loretta Fuddy, and others, is beginning to show fruit. At a meeting in the ASPH offices on October 16, the most recent draft of the first case study was presented to the Advisory Committee members present, as well as to HRSA/MCHB officials. This pilot project, oriented to the policy level, and based on the work of the Title V program in the state of Minnesota, discusses the concept of the medical home for children with special health care needs.

A main objective was to provide a grounding in policies which currently drive Title V program efforts for CYSHCN at the national, state, and local levels. The discussion of this latest draft was most productive, and suggestions were made for the enrichment of a teaching guide which should prove itself most useful at the preservice and in-service education in public health.

A meeting was held on the same date with officials of AMCHP. Our Executive Committee, including Marti Coulter, Russ Kirby, Holly Grason and I were very pleased to receive the visit of their organization's President, President-Elect, Past-President, Treasurer, acting Chief Officer, as well as the Chair of the Workforce Development Committee, and AMCHP staff liaisons. Holly Grason and Charlie Mahan, will be our permanent ATMCH representatives to the AMCHP Workforce Development Committee. Representatives of their committee will also attend our meeting in Boston. In an atmosphere of total camaraderie, we were all able to learn of each organization's present situation, and to explore avenues of collaboration for short, medium, and long term efforts. Agreements were reached whereby ATMCH will collaborate in the design of an instrument and analysis of the data to be therewith obtained from MCH directors across the nation regarding their perceived needs for the future regarding human resources. ATMCH will help in mentoring efforts for AMCHP leaders, and both organizations' leaders will meet regularly for follow up, evaluation, and planning of collaborative efforts. These meetings will take place at the AMCHP Partnership Meeting during the fall, and at the AMCHP annual spring meeting.

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2006 ATMCH Fall MEETING
Sunday, November 5
2:15 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Boston Convention and Exhibition Center
Room: 251
415 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02210

Meeting agenda is at
<http://www.atmch.org/Meetings/Meetings.htm>



AMCHP will suggest research topics of their interest to ATMCH, and we will present a modification of our by-laws to incorporate a delegate from AMCHP to our Executive Committee.

We wish to offer a special thank you to Laura Kavanagh from MCHB who has supported us in the development of both of these projects, making our new collaborative initiatives with AMCHP reality. With her continued support we will be able to make ATMCH much more deeply responsive to the training and research needs of Maternal and Child Health program providers throughout the country.

At this year's ATMCH business meeting in Boston, we have an exciting agenda, including a number of special topics. We will have the presence of invited guest Dr. Hani K. Atrash, Associate Director for Program Development, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Atrash will present some of his recent work on the issue of preconception health, and women's health in the context of maternal and child health. We expect that the discussion will encourage our faculties to widen the offer of courses on the relation between women's health and perinatal outcomes. We are expecting a large turnout of ATMCH members for a lively discussion of this exciting topic, as well as further discussion of our case study project and collaboration initiative with AMCHP!

As I approach the end of my Presidency, I wish to extend my appreciation to the membership for allowing me the privilege of collaborating in the growth of this organization, pledge my collaboration as Past-President to the incoming President Marti Coulter, and to President-Elect Russ Kirby, and encourage the entire membership to contribute with their participation and expertise to the ATMCH.

ATMCH
Cordially Invites You to...
Faculty Student Breakfast on Sunday,
November 5, 2006.
Come meet & mingle with MCH
faculty & other MCH students.
Boston Marriott Copley Place
Room: Massachusetts
110 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA
8:00 A.M. to 9:30 A.M.

From the Desk of Peter C. van Dyck, MD, MPH, Associate Administrator for Maternal and Child Health, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Dear Colleagues:

Happy fall! MCHB hosted the HRSA/MCHB Federal/State Partnership Meeting in Washington, DC, October 15-18 2006. The theme of the meeting this year was *Maternal and Child Health: Leadership, Legacy and a Vision for the Future of MCH*. State MCH Directors, Children with Special Health Care Needs Directors and State Systems Development Initiative Project Directors were in attendance at this meeting. Objectives for the meeting included the following items:

1. Demonstrate greater awareness of the role of leaders/management in the growth and development of future maternal and child health leaders.
2. Identify concepts and strategies implemented for disease prevention and health promotion of women, infants and children including children with special health care needs.
3. Develop a more conscious and consistent approach to "emerging issues" related to maternal and child health (public health risks) in times of change.
4. Summarize the history, structure and lessons learned from past leaders in the development of healthier communities.
5. Define and articulate leadership strategies for combining media and community approaches to influence public policy as well as build support for community-based public health programs.
6. Recognize the impact of leadership development in public health programs and professional practices.
7. Stimulate community-based health initiatives through public/private partnerships.

Conference archives will be available at <http://www.mchcom.com> approximately 2-4 weeks after the meeting.

- The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Training Program will conduct competitions in four programs in 2007. They include the Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH) program, the Leadership Education in Pediatric Dentistry (LEPD) program, the MCH Distance Learning

program, and the Knowledge to Practice (formerly known as Continuing Education) program. Information about these grant competitions will be available at <http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/default.htm> in the near future.

- The Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) are pleased to announce the funding of four new MCH Pipeline Programs at the following academic institutions: Alabama State University, Howard University, University of California, Los Angeles, and University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

The purpose of the Maternal and Child Health Pipeline Training Program (MCHPTP) is to promote the development of a culturally diverse and representative health care workforce by recruiting, training, and retaining students from under-represented minorities into maternal and child health professions. The Maternal and Child Health Pipeline Training Program (MCHPTP) recruits financially disadvantaged under-represented undergraduate students enrolled at Minority Serving Institutions. The MCH Pipeline Training Program educates, mentors, guides and provides enriching ex-

periences to increase students' interests in MCH public health professions (pediatrics, public health, pediatric nutrition, public health social work, pediatric nursing, pediatric dentistry, psychology, health education, pediatric occupational/physical therapy, speech language pathology, etc.). The applicant must demonstrate a linkage to one or more existing MCH long term training programs.

Abstracts for each of the funded programs can be found at: <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/training/projects.asp?program=22>

- MCH Timeline: History, Legacy and Resources for Education and Practice, www.mchb.hrsa.gov/timeline, is a Web site designed for the following purposes:
 1. To trace the history of maternal and child health in the U.S.
 2. To provide in-depth modules on topics such as MCH 101, MCH Systems of Care, Infant Mortality and MCH Performance and Accountability.
 3. To allow visitors to search for topical areas of interest.

We hope that the site will be used as an orientation tool for those new to the MCH profession, for

APHA MCH Section Student Papers Presentation

**Monday, November 6, 2006
10:30 AM-12:00 PM
Session Number: 3134.0**

Paper topics are:

- Variation in the accuracy of recorded maternal events in birth certificates and hospital discharge data between physicians and certified nurse-midwives
- Improving the linkage of deliveries across time using vital records and hospital discharge data
- Maternal outcomes when prior cesarean is the only indication for a repeat cesarean, Massachusetts, 1998-2003
- Knowledge Discovery (KDD) in Birth Certificates for Preterm Birth Prediction
- Social contexts (neighborhood and family) and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among low-income pregnant women: Multilevel analysis

Co-sponsored by ATMCH

grantees of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and MCH students. We also hope that those with experience in the field will find it a rich resource and a source of inspiration. This site will be continuously updated. Planned enhancements include: interviews of MCH leaders about historical events, links to digitized historical documents in the MCH Library, and additional in depth modules. Please contact Laura Kavanagh, lkavanagh@hrsa.gov, with any suggestions.

- In other news, on September 1, 2006, The MCH Training Program announced the most recent face-lift of its Web site at <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/training>. When you look at the Web site, you notice that you now have the opportunity to submit content and search the Web site for training related topics. Visitors also notice that links to “Grantee Products” and the “MCH Training Grantee Network” are more visible on the left hand side of the Home page. If you click on the double arrows (>>) next to “Grantee Products,” you arrive at a page that divides the products into several categories. Currently, the Web site houses Grantee Products in the areas of “Training Materials and Strategies,” “Evaluation Materials and Strategies,” “Guidelines and Case Studies,” and “Other.” If you click on the double arrows (>>) next to MCH Training Grantee Network, you come to a page that provides you with a brief description of the network and a link to the MCH Training Grantee Network Web site. Additional information on the services provided by the Institute for Child Health Policy at the University of Florida (Web site contractor for the MCH Training Program) is available at the MCH Training Grantee Network Web site.

Major content areas, such as About, Strategic Plan, Funded Projects, Applying for a Grant, Grantee Resources, and MCH Resources, remain intact. If you click on each content area, you come to a page that divides content into several subcategories or you can simply click on a subcategory under a content area to get more information. One area that you may notice as strikingly different is the “By Region” subcategory under “Funded Projects.” If you move your mouse over the color-coded regions on the map, you can view the States in each region and you can click on a region to view funded projects.

News, MCH People in the News and Upcoming Events items are on the right hand side of the Home

page. Visitors can click on the “More>>” button next to each of these sections to get a complete listing of all recent postings. If you have comments about the redesigned Web site, please send them directly through the Contact link on the Home page.

- As MCHB plans future MCH Training MCHCOM.COM Webcasts, please feel free to send your suggestions and/or comments to Ms. Madhavi Reddy at mreddy@hrsa.gov. Archived MCH Training MCHCOM.COM Webcasts are available at <http://www.mchcom.com> and are available on the MCH Training Program Web site at <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/training>.

Have a great holiday season. I will see you at the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs Conference in March!

CityMatCH – Improving the Health of Urban Women, Children and Families

By Maureen Fitzgerald, MPA
Coordinator, Policy & Communications

CityMatCH is the recognized national voice for city and county health departments' MCH programs and their leaders who represent urban communities in the United States. This national membership organization connects representatives from currently, 157 urban health departments for targeted MCH education, capacity-building, leadership, growth and training opportunities.

CityMatCH believes that all children and families deserve to be healthy and to achieve their optimal growth and development in the physical, intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual aspects of their lives. CityMatCH further understands that the opportunity for assuring this is shared by each individual, the family, the community, and government at all levels.

Because it is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of urban women, children and families through strengthening the public health organizations and leaders in their communities, CityMatCH is a natural complement to ATMCH, which provides leadership in education, research, and service in MCH.

Over the years, CityMatCH has initiated a number of programs, services and activities to achieve its mission. Reliance on guest faculty and expert presenters from 4

the academic, research and practice communities assures accurate content is provided to our membership. The utilization and adaptation of techniques for tailored adult learning in public health is a hallmark of CityMatCH products and services.

Frequently, members and focus groups are queried or surveyed to assure products and services meet current and projected member needs related to specific MCH issues, budget concerns and other factors impacting them. Adapting cutting-edge research and making strategic use of student placements to support projects are other key strategies employed by CityMatCH to strengthen local, urban public health organizations and their leaders. Examples of specific programs and activities are described below.

The Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) Approach is a population-based tool which can enable communities to better understand and respond to fetal and infant mortality. PPOR uses a combined analysis of birth weight and gestational age as a way to measure and address racial disparities that exist in a community's fetal-infant mortality. The approach follows six stages sequentially as part of community-based planning for maternal and child health. Its "stepwise" analytic components enable a wide range of community partners to understand and experience how data can be translated into strategic actions. As a comprehensive planning process, PPOR is designed to be integrated into the current local and state MCH and public health planning process. Since 2000, with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, and HRSA/MCHB, CityMatCH has trained over 100 urban communities, including 65 federal Healthy Start sites, in the PPOR approach.

The DaTA Institute promotes the translation of data to action through a comprehensive, creative and active, year-long learning opportunity. Training focuses closely on three identified core domains of effective data use are data, program and policy. Public health practitioners need leadership, systems thinking and communication skills to be effective translators. This training offers data analysis skills essential to ensure accurate baseline and outcome measures, planning, monitoring and evaluating skills needed for creating/monitoring effective programs and decision-making and data strategy skills for creating evidence-based policy.

Perinatal HIV Prevention has been a focus since the fall of 1999, when CityMatCH undertook a national training effort targeted funded by the CDC, toward the

prevention of HIV transmission from mother to baby. CityMatCH entered into a new three-year cooperative agreement with CDC in the fall of 2005. Since then, CityMatCH has collaborated with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists to adapt the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review process to investigate and address cases of perinatal HIV exposures. It is believed that this rich, community-based strategy for better understanding sentinel events will advance the science and practice of HIV prevention from mother to baby.

The Women's Health Partnership (WHP) between AMCHP and CityMatCH, with funding from the CDC, has been undertaken to identify and promote unique state and local MCH roles and opportunities to ensure and improve women's health before and between pregnancies. Initial efforts (2005-2007) focus on the importance of healthy weight among women of reproductive age, to improve maternal health and birth outcomes.

The WHP's Action Learning Collaborative (ALC) is working to build state and local capacity to address healthy weight among women of reproductive age. Starting this fall, the ALC is convening national, state and local MCH experts to implement a women's preventive health framework including evidence-based, data-driven strategies to improve preventive health services, policies and financing at state and local levels for women of reproductive age. Specifically, the ALC brings together teams of state and local MCH leaders to enhance partnerships to improve preventive health for women of reproductive age including readiness assessments, to collaboratively incorporate evidence-based strategies (via Community-Based Participatory Research) framework into one-year action plans; to evaluate and share successes, challenges and lessons learned. Upon completion of the ALC, team approaches and lessons learned will be documented and shared to assist replication of these efforts nationwide.

The National Preconception Health Practice Collaborative Pilot is a new activity which will be undertaken by this organization. Since the CDC release (MMWR, April 21, 2006) of "*Recommendations to Improve Preconception Health and Health Care – United States*," several CDC-convened work groups were convened to consider issues around implementation. In June 2006, the Public Health Practice (PHP) Work Group developed strategies to foster the integration of preconception health in public health practice, and recommended using a "practice collaborative"

model to promote adoption and integration in sentinel communities and states. CityMatCH was then selected to develop, “*Science-Based Capacity-Building for Major Urban Public Health Agencies*,” a one-year pilot practice collaborative team-based approach in three sentinel U.S. cities. Teams will demonstrate expertise in community assessment and engagement, prevention programming, clinical practice, policy development and systems integration. Core activities are selection, confirmation, and orientation of teams; distance education; on-site meetings; ongoing expert consultation and technical assistance; e-mail and web communications; development of case studies, and evaluation of process and impact with recommendations for future efforts.

A unique component of this collaborative of particular interest to ATMCH members is the invited participation of a limited number of doctoral students from MCH training programs in schools of public health (or qualified graduate students in CEPH accredited graduate programs in public health) to work with the project as assignees to the three pilot sites to assist with assessment, and the compilation of case studies.

Adolescent Health Promotion is a more recent addition to the issue-based initiatives at CityMatCH. In May 2006, the Division of Adolescent, Child and Family Health at the HRSA/MCHB released a request for proposals for the “*Partners in Program Planning for Adolescent Health*” (PIPPAH) Initiative. CityMatCH was selected for the five-year project which seeks to contribute to the improvement of adolescent health, safety and well being by promoting a multidisciplinary, comprehensive adolescent health agenda among professionals who work with adolescents and their families. CityMatCH will engage in national efforts to elevate and promote adolescent health and safety, and will build and enhance local capacity to address the 21 critical adolescent health objectives identified by Healthy People 2010. Finally, CityMatCH will provide national leadership regarding elimination of health disparities among adolescents. CityMatCH is pleased to be included in this partnership along with The American Academy of Pediatrics, The American Bar Association, American College of Preventive Medicine, Healthy Teen Network, National Conference of State Legislatures, National Association of County and City Health Officials, and the National Institute for Health Care Management.

The Urban MCH Leadership Conference hosted each year by CityMatCH, provides carefully developed and orchestrated opportunities for participants to gain

knowledge, skills, and cutting-edge tools to address MCH issues; to disseminate science and information for improving urban MCH, and to network and exchange promising practices with other MCH professionals. CityMatCH encourages ATMCH members to participate in next year’s 17th annual Urban MCH Leadership Conference on August 25-28, 2007 in Denver, Colorado. (For more information or to register, visit <http://www.citymatch.org/>)

Emerging Issues in MCH – In conjunction with NACCHO, for over three years CityMatCH has produced a monthly audio-conference series entitled, “*Emerging Issues in Maternal and Child Health*” (E-MCH). Up to 200 call lines are available for participants to join in on the third Thursday of each month for an effective combination of presenters. Each month, the groundwork is laid for one MCH issue by the presentation of a national expert. At least two additional presentations focus on local and/or state practice in this area. Powerpoint presentations and additional resources are accessed through the website. Open-mike question and answer period completes this interactive learning experience.

Communications and Publications – A cadre of proven communication tools are available to CityMatCH members, most of which are also available online. These tools constitute an additional resource that can be accessed by the members of ATMCH. For example, the quarterly issue-based newsletter, “*CityLights*,” and related “*ResourceInfo*,” which provides supplementary resources for each *CityLights*, can inform ATMCH and CityMatCH members. “*NewsBriefs*,” a bi-weekly electronic distillation of MCH news, education and research opportunities, plus topical resources, is filled with relevant information for MCH educators. The “*Ask-A-Colleague Service*” rounds out the policy communications cluster. Ask-A-Colleague is a unique, web-based tool which enables individual members to query their peers around the country on specific MCH issues or practice. All of the communication tools and resources can be found on the CityMatCH website.

Reflecting upon the missions of each organization, it seems clear that both ATMCH and CityMatCH are concerned with public health education, training and capacity-building. Both wish to assure a robust and well-prepared workforce. Additionally, each recognizes that children and families who live in urban areas have unique needs that must be effectively addressed by the public health community, to achieve their fullest potential.

The recent focus of ATMCH on increasing its col-

laborations with national practice partners represents a unique opportunity to bring the strengths of both of these effective, forward-thinking organizations together for creative and effective partnership and practice. CityMatCH looks forward to enhanced education and training collaboratives through a natural alliance with ATMCH.

ATMCH and CityMatCH collectively recognize that one measure of this country's future is the health and success of its most vulnerable populations. Each organization can look to the other's strengths as we find opportunities to address key issues together and work to make a measurable difference in the lives of women, children and families.

For more information about CityMatCH, please telephone: (402) 561-7500, E-mail: citymch@unmc.edu or visit the website at: <http://www.citymatch.org/>

FY 2007 MCH Block Grant Funds Still Undetermined as Congress Adjourns for Midterm Elections

Susan Campbell
Legislative Consultant

Members of the House and Senate left Washington for the final month of campaigning prior to the midterm elections, leaving a lot of unfinished business. Of the eleven appropriation bills for FY2007, only the Department of Defense and Homeland Security appropriations bills have been completed. The Committee-passed Senate bill cut Department of Defense funding \$9 billion below the President's request and shifted \$5 billion of the President's defense request to the Labor-HHS-Education appropriation bill. However, the final Department of Defense bill included \$5 billion more than the Senate committee version, which will have to come out of other subcommittee accounts. This is a blow to moderate Republicans and Democrats who had endorsed the Specter-Harkin amendment to the budget resolution to add \$7 billion to the Labor-HHS pot.

The remaining appropriations bills, including the Labor, HHS-Education bill which funds the Title V Block Grant, are waiting for legislative action when Congress reconvenes on November 13 for a lame duck session to complete the work of the 109th Congress. In the meantime, a continuing resolution, which will fund all non-defense, non-homeland security programs at the lowest of the House-passed, Senate-passed or FY 2006 levels

through November 17, is attached to the Department of Defense bill. The Title V MCH block grant will be funded at the FY 2006 appropriation level of \$693 million since neither the House nor Senate has passed its version of this appropriations bill. For the regular FY2007 appropriations bill, the House and Senate will have to resolve their differences on the Title V MCH block grant in a conference committee after the election. The Senate committee bill funds Title V at \$693 million; the House version funds the Title V MCH block grant at \$700 million.

MCH Block Grant supporters have time to educate members of the House and Senate about the invaluable services the Title V MCH block grant provides in their states. Please communicate with your Senator and member of Congress to let them know the important role Title V plays in your state. Ask them to uphold the House version of \$700 million for the Title V MCH Block Grant, and explain, whenever possible, how cuts to the program will affect the MCH population in your area.

Step 1: Contact your Senator and member of Congress

- To identify your Senator, go to: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm
- To identify your Representative, go to: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

Step 2: Let them know the important role Title V plays in your state

- Talking Points – [Sign on Letter to Urge Support of the MCH Block Grant](#)
- Talking Points – [for Visits/Correspondence with Members of the House or Senate](#)
- Talking Points – [AMCHP State Profiles - new for 2006!](#) AMCHP state profiles provide a snapshot of how the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant works in specific states. The profiles detail the Federal funds appropriated to each state, state match, specific programs funded, numbers of people receiving services and state health needs. These profiles can be helpful to AMCHP members and partners when describing what the Federal and state funds support, who Title V programs help and what priority issues should be addressed.

Additional Resources:

- [More Information on Title V Grants \(SPRANS and CISS\)](#)
- [Understanding Title V](#) [PDF]
- [HRSA Justification for FY 2007 Appropriations](#)
- [Ohio Details Impact of Cuts - April 2006](#) [PDF]
- [Protecting the Health of Mothers and Children](#) [PDF]

Appropriations chairmen, Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-Calif., and Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., hope to pass all of the fiscal 2007 spending bills individually, as they did for FY 2006. By doing so, Congress would avoid a year-end omnibus. Omnibus or minibus legislation, which rolls some or all appropriations bills together, often results in across the board cuts to discretionary programs.

Election results will impact legislative business during the lame duck session. Many races are too close to call, and there is a possibility for a shift of power from Republican to Democrat in one or both chambers. A power shift could dramatically affect the legislative climate for the 110th Congress; political analysts are uncertain what next session's agenda will hold. No matter the results of the election, the FY2008 appropriations, SCHIP reauthorization and ongoing changes to the Medicaid program will be items of interest for MCH advocates.

2007 Loretta P. Lacey Academic Leadership Award Call for Nomination

The Loretta P. Lacey Award was created to recognize leadership in MCH education, research, policy development and/or advocacy. The award is sponsored by 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.

Eligibility Requirements:

The nominee must be a full-time faculty member in an accredited school of public health or program, who teaches in the MCH curriculum, program or department. The nominee must be an ATMCH member.

Application: All nominations must be received by **January 15th, 2007**. 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.

Resources form MCH Library

The MCH Library released a new knowledge path edition about diabetes in children and adolescents that includes resources about the types of diabetes, its prevalence, treatment and care, and lowering the risk of complications. This electronic resource guide also identifies tools for staying abreast of new developments in pediatric diabetes research. The knowledge path is intended for health professionals, program administrators, educators, and researchers, and a separate section identifies resources for families. View it online at http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_diabetes.html.

The MCH Library released a new knowledge path about physical activity and children and adolescents. This electronic resource guide offers a selection of current resources that analyze data, describe public health campaigns and other promotion programs, and report on research aimed at identifying promising strategies for improving physical activity levels within families, schools, and communities. The knowledge path also provides resources that describe the consequences of sedentary behavior. The knowledge path for health professionals, policymakers, educators, coaches, and families is available at http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_phys_activity.html.

The Maternal and Child Health Library has posted on its Web site a new resource, Maternal and Child Health History, which is available at <http://www.mchlibrary.info/history>. This resource brings together documents and reports related to the history of maternal and child health in the United States and health services for children and families that are part of the Maternal and Child Health Library Collection and also links to significant resources at other libraries and federal agencies.

The MCH Library is a virtual guide to maternal and child health information. It offers a wide variety of electronic resources, including the MCH Alert, knowledge paths, publications, databases, bibliographies, and other materials developed for health professionals, policymakers, and families. The MCH Library is located at the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health (NCEMCH) at Georgetown University.

To receive notification of the updates of this and other knowledge paths in the future, you can subscribe to the MCH Alert (See <http://mchlibrary.info/alert/default.html>), a weekly electronic newsletter that

provides timely reference to research, policy developments, recently released publications, new programs, and initiatives affecting the MCH community.

MCH Training Information

Post-Disaster Leadership Seminar Series for Tulane MCH Students

During the summer of 2005, the Tulane University Maternal and Child Health Section was enjoying the task of developing their newly awarded Maternal and Child Public Health Leadership Training (MCPHLT) Grant. With the unwelcome arrival of Hurricane Katrina and subsequent destruction, Jeanette Magnus, MD, PhD, Section Head of Maternal and Child Health, had to rethink what leadership meant in a post-Katrina environment. Dr. Magnus assembled her staff by mid-September and was able to resume planning, if not ordinary activities, by December of 2005. She conceived a new idea: bring community leaders to share their leadership development process and the leadership challenges in a post-disaster environment with current MCH students. The MCPHLT Torchbearers Leadership Seminar Series was born. "Hurricane Katrina illuminated our local innovative leaders. Our students are really enjoying hearing about the creative and inspiring leadership roles Tulane alumni, faculty, and community affiliates are assuming," said Dr. Magnus.

Leadership has new importance and meaning in a post-disaster environment. As Torchbearers Leadership Speaker Karen DeSalvo, MD, MSc, MPH said, "The hierarchies have been flattened. It is no longer about your degrees or age, but about your willingness to do the work and be creative." Dr DeSalvo shared her experience establishing a free clinic after the Hurricane. As a Tulane alumna, Dr. DeSalvo described her personal journey to developing leadership skills. Through the seminars, Tulane MCH students have initiated internships and research projects with the speakers.

"After the initial shock of the disaster wore off, we realized we are uniquely situated to educate students about MCH leadership. Public health needs in New Orleans are dire. We are not engaging in abstract discussions but calling on students to demonstrated leadership through concrete action," said Dr. Magnus. The Torchbearers Leadership Seminar Series has proved very popular among students, faculty, and staff at the Tulane Health Sciences Center. Initially planned for the Spring 2006 semester, the seminar series has been extended through the Spring of 2007. The fall lineup includes Mary Jo-

seph, Director of the Children's Defense Fund (New Orleans), the community advocacy group Women of the Storm, Ravi Vandlamundi, MD, Clinical Director of the Common Ground Clinic, and Scott Cowen, PhD, President of Tulane University. Acknowledging that the Tulane community has been scattered across the country, all lectures are digitally recorded and available for viewing on the Tulane MCPHLT website (<http://www.sph.tulane.edu/mch>). This digital record has also allowed students to trace the evolving understanding of leadership as the city confronts new challenges and moves from emergency to long term planning. By continuing to bring exceptional examples of leadership to the Tulane MCH community, the MCPHLT hopes to inspire the next generation of MCH leadership and encourage students, as Mary Joseph said, to "remember the faces and futures behind the numbers."

Did you pay your ATMCH membership dues?

Please pay your membership dues for the 2006-2007 fiscal year, if you have not yet done so. Please note that only members in good standing will receive all ATMCH announcements.

If you have any updates or changes to your contact information and interest areas, please send them to Ms. Kalpana Ramiah at kramiah@asph.org. The website is updated each month.



ATMCH Executive Committee

Starting November 6th 2006



Jose Gorrin-Peralta
Past-President
University of
Puerto Rico



Martha Coulter
President
University of
South Florida



Russell S. Kirby
President-Elect
University of
Alabama at
Birmingham



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