



# ATMCH Newsletter

Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health

Spring 2001

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

## A Letter from the President

by Arden Handler, DrPH

It is a very exciting time to be President of ATMCH. Pierre Buekens, our past-president, oversaw important organizational efforts, such as the move of our secretariat to the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) and the implementation of a strategic planning process; all of these efforts are serving us in good stead. Many thanks to Pierre for ensuring that ATMCH has a strong base upon which to build our programs and expand our membership.

Given our strong sense of organizational stability, our

members have been very busy since we last met in November at APHA. We have launched a new members drive with a goal of recruiting members from outside of Schools of Public Health; we would like to include all MCH faculty and doctoral students in the ATMCH family, wherever they may be housed. Toward this end, we distributed the membership letter and a membership survey to all of you through our listserv. We hope you share this letter and survey with all of your colleagues who are MCH faculty as well as with your doctoral students and ask them to join. In addition, in this newsletter, Michelle Bell, our membership chair, is asking **all of you** to complete this same membership survey so we can better meet your needs for technical assistance and support. We are also planning several other needs assessment activities in the next year.

In order to better meet the needs of our members, we are planning to have a session on doctoral training in MCH at our ATMCH business meeting on Sunday March 25, 2001. Likewise, at our Fall ATMCH meeting we will have a session on the Globalization of the MCH curriculum and plan to sponsor a Continuing Education Workshop for MCH Teachers as a pre-conference session for APHA 2002. To promote sharing of resources between members, we have begun an effort to post MCH curricula on our ATMCH website ([www.atmch.org](http://www.atmch.org)). We have already posted MCH introductory curricula and with some additional support, we hope to be able to post curricula on a range of topics from reproductive health to children with special health care needs. Our newly revised ATMCH competencies are also now posted on the website.

ATMCH has also been actively involved in advocacy over the last several months. We have joined the Friends of Title V Coalition and have ensured that the Title V advocacy efforts have included strong

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emphasis on MCH training and research. In this newsletter, Chris Goldson of the Friends of Title V Coalition provides a synopsis of the Coalition's activities to date. Also, because of our concern about research funding at MCHB we will hold a meeting on **Monday, March 26 at 4pm** to discuss the current status and future of the MCHB's research program.

On a final note, Karen Helsing has been promoted within ASPH. Thank you to Karen for all of her hard work for ATMCH. Welcome to Sandra Maldague who has very ably taken her place!!

For those of you who have received my "millions" of e-mails over the last four months and for those of you who have not, suffice it to say, I am very excited about ATMCH's future. I look forward working together with all of you to build a strong ATMCH to serve all of our needs.

**From the Desk of Peter C. van Dyck,  
MD, MPH  
Associate Administrator for MCH in HRSA**

Thank you for this opportunity to communicate with the Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health about the activities and events in the Training Branch of the MCHB. I am happy to announce that Laura Kavanagh, M.P.P. has joined the staff of MCHB as the Training Branch Chief. Laura comes to MCHB from Georgetown University's National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health, where she was the Associate Director for Evaluation. Laura brings a wealth of knowledge about MCH and the training program to MCHB. I hope that you are able to meet Laura at the upcoming Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs meeting. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Captain Nanette Pepper for serving as the Acting Training Branch Chief for the last six months. Thank you, Nanette, for so ably filling this position.

I am pleased to announce that two new projects entitled Public Health Training in Maternal and Child Health will be awarded for a three-year period beginning June 1, 2001. The purpose of this program is to strengthen the Nation's maternal and child health public health system by broadening the leadership base of the current and future MCH workforce. Emphasis will be placed on developing the public health workforce through innovative strategies that address the special education needs of health professionals

who: live in isolated geographic communities; need to enhance or advance their skills while continuing to meet their daily on site work and family responsibilities; and/or are from underserved or underrepresented populations.

As I reported previously in the spring 2000 ATMCH newsletter, I would like to update you about the training branch evaluation and needs assessment activities that are currently underway. Georgetown University has completed Phase One of the MCH Training Evaluation, tracing the history and evolution of the MCH Training Program. This report, entitled *Building the Future: The Maternal and Child Health Training Program*, is available through the MCH Clearinghouse (888) 434-4MCH or at [www.ncemch.org](http://www.ncemch.org). Findings from Phase Two of the evaluation, which included site visits to 31 training projects, a review of continuation applications from FY1999, interviews with former trainees, and focus groups with Title V Directors, will be available in late Spring 2001. Thank you to all of the projects that have participated in this evaluation. MCHB looks forward to receiving the findings. In addition to the evaluation, the MCH Institute at the University of Alabama at Birmingham is completing a needs assessment of short and long-term training needs in MCH. Findings from this needs assessment will also be available in late spring of 2001.

MCHB continues to develop a performance measurement system for its discretionary grant program to compliment the existing system for MCH block grant information, the Title V Information System. ATMCH members will have an opportunity to offer suggestions for performance measures that they feel are particularly appropriate for Schools of Public Health and to review draft performance measures as they are developed. This is a vitally important initiative for MCHB and we look forward to partnering with you to achieve a high quality performance measurement system. I am looking forward to beginning the implementation of this system later this summer.

As always I enjoy working with all of you and look forward to your continuing input. Together we can make a difference.

## **Earth Shaking News About the ATMCH Member Survey**

**by Michelle Bell**

As I sat down at my computer to compose this news item, the earth started shaking violently! Was this a sign from a greater power that this was very important news for ATMCH members? Let's assume that it was (even though this happened in Seattle, on February 28, 2001, at 10:59 am, and we were having an earthquake).

The news is that we have jump-started the membership drive. We hope to expand ATMCH membership to include faculty and students from schools of nursing, social work, medicine and other health professional schools who are teaching, or want to teach, information and skills related to the health of women, children (including those with special health care needs), and families. We sent a survey questionnaire to the ATMCH listserv in early February, and plan to send it to other listserves in the near future.

You may have already received the survey and completed it. If not, will you please take the time to complete the survey now (**see page 8**)? We would like to know about the teaching needs of our current members so that we can plan for educational opportunities for ourselves as well as for new members. Also, if you know of other groups that should receive the membership application and survey, please email Michelle Bell, [mbell@u.washington.edu](mailto:mbell@u.washington.edu), with the relevant information. Thanks!!!!

## **ATMCH Sponsors Session at AMCHP 2001**

**by Greg Alexander**

ATMCH will be sponsoring a session at AMCHP 2001 on Monday, March 26 at 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. The session is entitled *Forging MCH Community-Academic Partnerships*. The moderator is Eugene Declercq and the presenters are Noel Chavez, Barbara Gottlieb, Karen Peterson and Doug Taren. This session highlights partnerships forged between state and community partners and MCH Academic Graduate Education programs. Three presentations will illustrate the development of, and activities underlying:

- MCH continuing education in a rural mountainous

region.

- participatory action research with an urban, multiethnic population.
- a community-university coalition to reduce disparities in IMR and promote health of postpartum women.

These projects emphasize the mutual benefit to academics and practitioners from these collaborations, including changes in policies, programs, practices and graduate education.

Registration for the conference will be available on site at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. For more information about the conference, please visit [www.amchp.org](http://www.amchp.org).

## **DONNA J. PETERSEN, MHS, ScD is the Winner of the Year 2001 Loretta Lacey Award!!!!**

**by Pierre Buekens**

Dr. Petersen is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the UAB School of Public Health and Associate Professor in the Department of Maternal and Child Health. Before coming to UAB, Donna served as Director of the Division of Family Health at the Minnesota Department of Health and held an adjunct assistant professor position in Maternal and Child Health at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She received both her masters and doctoral degrees in Maternal and Child Health from the Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health. As a Research Scientist in Maternal and Child Health at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Petersen directed several grant programs designed to provide technical assistance and consultation to state MCH and related programs in the areas of data management, perinatal health, childhood injury control, juvenile delinquency and runaway youth. She has also held positions with the federal government and the state of Maryland and has served on numerous community agency boards and gubernatorial commissions and task forces.

She is a frequent lecturer on topics related to maternal and child health, health care reform, and systems change and leadership and has provided extensive technical assistance and training to

state health departments in the areas of needs assessment, data system development, and public health roles within evolving health care systems. She has devoted particular attention to public health responsibilities in monitoring health status, access, utilization, and quality of health care and in the area of systems level accountability and the development of population-based indicators.

Please join us at the awards dinner on Sunday, March 25, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lei Garden in Washington, DC (see page 7 for details). Dinner will be approximately \$25 including tax and tip. We look forward to seeing you there!

## **CAST-5 (Capacity Assessment for State Title V) --Coming Soon to a State Near You! by Holly Grason**

This year's AMCHP Annual Meeting features the Preliminary Edition of *CAST-5*, a tool for capacity self-assessment and planning by state Title V programs. The release will be at a special session held from 5-6 PM on Monday, March 26.

Over the past two years, the Johns Hopkins Women's and Children's Health Policy Center (WCHPC) and the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) engaged in a collaborative effort to develop tools to assist state Title V programs in determining what organizational, programmatic, and management resources must be developed or enhanced in order to fulfill the program's goals and objectives. Potential uses for *CAST-5*, as identified by state MCH leaders, include guidance in conceptualizing the public MCH mission in a changing health care environment and transitioning to core public health functions; as part of a strategic planning process; and as an adjunct to continuous quality improvement activities.

This assessment approach links performance of the MCH essential services (as outlined in the *Public MCH Program Functions Framework*) with related organizational resources. The organizational capacity domains assessed include information systems, data/analytic capacity, organizational relationships, staff competencies/skills, and other structural resources that support performance of core functions. *CAST-5* embodies a systems perspective, assessing not only the activities of the Title V program but also the

contributions of other governmental and private sector entities to maternal and child health and well-being. The assessment indicators are derived from a variety of sources pertaining to national, state, and local public health performance measurement and infrastructure development.

The tool is being developed under the guidance of an Advisory Group composed of Title V directors and other experts in MCH practice. Pilot testing in three states provided feedback on the content and format of the assessment tool, the time and staff resources needed to complete it, and potential applications of the tool in organizational management and planning. Additional consultation has been received from several AMCHP committees, representatives of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Practice Program Office, and WCHPC faculty.

For more information on *CAST-5*, contact Marjory Ruderman, *CAST-5* Project Director, at [mruderma@jhsph.edu](mailto:mruderma@jhsph.edu), or Holly Grason, Director, WCHPC, JHSPH, (410) 502-5443 or [hgrason@jhsph.edu](mailto:hgrason@jhsph.edu).

## **Building Bridges for Child Health Research, Policy and Practice by Holly Grason**

On October 16, 2000, the Women's and Children's Health Policy Center at Johns Hopkins University (WCHPC) convened a meeting in Baltimore, Maryland entitled "Building Bridges for Child Health Research, Policy and Practice: New Concepts and Paradigms," in partnership with and funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB).

This invitational meeting of seventy state government leaders in maternal and child health (MCH), child health researchers, and representatives of national organizations that play a role in MCH explored venues for strengthening science-based practice and policy through greater integration of efforts. Partners in convening the conference also included the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP), the Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy (AHSRHP), and the Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health (ATMCH).

The objectives of the working meeting were to:

1. Promote new and strengthen existing collaborations between public maternal and child health leaders at the State level and child health researchers;
2. Engage in focused discussion of specific contemporary challenges in child health research, practice, and policy as these relate to organization of clinical care, community interventions, system structures, and organization of services on a population basis; and to
3. Identify barriers to translating research into practice and develop strategies for overcoming these barriers.

To provide the context for deliberations, Drs. Lisa Simpson and Gontran Lamberty presented information on federal contributions and opportunities seized by AHRQ and MCHB to bring child health research to state policy and practice. Dr. Edward Schor, Medical Director for Family and Community Health at the Iowa Department of Public Health outlined the typical work schedule of a state MCH program director, and highlighted the wide range of issues for which s/he needs to use scientific evidence to inform program and policy decisions. Examples of research involving extensive collaboration with child health practitioners and policymakers were presented by Drs. Peter Margolis and Penny Hauser-Cram.

Meeting participants convened in working groups to outline an agenda for enhancing the utility and use of child health research in MCH policy and practice. Barriers to collaborative research were first identified to inform the development of action strategies and opportunities for collaboration. Upon reconvening in plenary session, the working groups shared the results of their respective discussions, which identified several cross-cutting themes and potential improvement strategies. Drs. Maxine Hayes (Washington State Health Officer) and Modena Wilson (American Academy of Pediatrics) brought closure to the meeting with commentary on the day's deliberations and the journey ahead.

An Executive Summary of the conference will be available by March 2001 on the web sites of several of the collaborating organizations mentioned above. If you would like more information, please contact the Women's and Children's Health Policy Center: Holly Grason, 410-502-5443 or [hgrason@jhsph.edu](mailto:hgrason@jhsph.edu), or Cynthia Minkovitz, 410-614-5106 or [cminkovi@jhsph.edu](mailto:cminkovi@jhsph.edu).

## Friends of Title V Report by Chris Goldson

The **Friends of Title V** is a coalition of major national organizations and associations concerned with programs funded by Congress and administered by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The coalition's objective is to support the federal role in maintaining and strengthening the national MCH infrastructure, through increased funding for the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant, Title V of the Social Security Act. The Coalition supports MCHB programs that shore-up the public health infrastructure through block grants to states for MCH services and discretionary, peer-reviewed grants to universities for leadership training and research projects.

Currently the Friends of Title V are scheduling and making hill visits with appropriators on the House side to press the need for an increase in Title V funding. Our goal is to see the Block Grant funded in FY 2002 at \$850 billion. Currently, funding is \$714 million. So far the Coalition has taken the message to Appropriations Committee Chairman C.W. "Bill" Young (R-FL) and his staff and to the chairman of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations subcommittee, Ralph Regula (R-OH), in addition to Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Nita Lowey (D-NY).

The Friends of Title V is also targeting the new Administration. During the last week of January, the groups sent out a letter to the Administration's incoming health policy team urging increased funding for the block grant. Securing the support of this team will be crucial in our efforts to realize an increase in funding for the block grant.

These are some of the activities the coalition has undertaken so far. The Friends of Title V have also put together an FY 2002 appropriations document to highlight the need for Title V. The document spotlights the research and training in MCH that the Block Grant funds and how these programs help to improve the lives and health of the MCH population.

The Friends of Title V will continue to meet regularly throughout the year to make sure that Title V programs continue to have a strong voice in Washington.

## **MCH Legislative News**

**by Chris Goldson and Deborah Dietrich,  
AMCHP**

In addition to advocating for an increase in the Title V authorization level, MCH advocates have focused on several key legislative priorities including possible Medicaid and SCHIP expansions, welfare reauthorization, mental health and childcare.

Several pieces of legislation of particular interest to the MCH community have been introduced to date. The "Family Opportunity Act" (S. 321/HR 600) has been reintroduced this year amidst high hopes that Senator Grassley, now chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and cosponsor of the legislation, will help with the bill's passage. Both Senators Kennedy and Grassley have championed this bill in the past. The bill amends Title XIX and Title V of the Social Security Act to increase the options states have to meet the medical needs of children with disabilities while allowing parents to work and earn a living wage. Family Voices has been a strong proponent of this legislation.

Legislation to reduce the number of uninsured children and pregnant women will be introduced soon by Senator Bingaman (D-NM). The legislation known as "Start Healthy, Stay Healthy Act of 2001 seeks to provide states with financial assistance to ensure that children eligible for either Medicaid or SCHIP leave the hospital insured and remain so through the first year of life. Further, it provides states with the option to cover pregnant women through Medicaid and SCHIP to reduce infant mortality and low birth weight babies.

Advocates are already preparing to be actively engaged in the welfare reauthorization debate. Clearly, several aspects of the reauthorization will have profound impacts on the health of women and their children.

For more information on the progress of MCH legislation, visit the AMCHP website at [www.amchp.org](http://www.amchp.org).

## **Obituary - Vince L. Hutchins, MD, MPH (1928-2001)**

**by Naomi Morris**

On January 15, 2001 we lost a wonderful model of the true, warm, caring, devoted, visionary MCH professional. He was a mentor and supporter of our academic MCH programs. I came to know him in that role. He had had experience in military service, private practice as a pediatrician, then as a federal program administrator at higher and higher levels. He became Director of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) around 1977. After 15 years in that role, he retired to influential private sector positions with the Carnegie Foundation, and then with the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health (NCEMCH) where at the time of his death he was Chair of the Division of Policy, Georgetown Public Policy Institute, Georgetown University.

Throughout his career he was active on boards and advisory committees, primarily for organizations related to families of children with disabilities, healthy mothers and babies, perinatal care, child advocacy, and MCH-related graduate education. He was always accessible, always generous with his time. I remember him attending ATMCH meetings to give us updates on what he thought was important for us to know about current Washington activities. One year while I was President of ATMCH in appreciation for his outstanding contributions, we presented him with a large framed print of a historical MCH event. On a visit to his office later I saw it hanging on the wall behind his seat. At the Fall, 2000 APHA meeting I saw a quilt he had embroidered, which had been copied onto postcards for use by MCH advocates; the image of a mother pushing a baby carriage up the Hill towards Congress was incorporated into it. I would like to think our print contributed to his inspiration to do this.

The last time I saw Vince was at that Fall, 2000 APHA meeting, at the Martha May Eliot luncheon. He was seated in a corner, smiling, surrounded by a cluster of people asking him questions, listening to his answers, and shaking his hand in greeting or farewell. I, too, smiled and shook his hand. I will always remember how he helped us establish our maternal and child health training program at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and his warm, wise and gentle ways.

## Spring ATMCH Meeting

Sunday, March 25, 2001 is the date for the spring ATMCH meeting in Washington, DC, to be held in conjunction with the AMCHP annual meeting. The site will be at the **Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1000 H Street, NW** in the **Renwick Room**. If you need to make reservations at the Hyatt the phone number is **202-582-1234**.

### Executive Committee Meeting

Meeting date: Sunday March 25, 2001  
Time: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
Location: Renwick Room  
Grand Hyatt Hotel  
1000 H Street NW  
Washington, DC

### Business Committee Meeting

Meeting date: Sunday March 25, 2001  
Time: 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Location: Renwick Room  
Grand Hyatt Hotel  
1000 H Street NW  
Washington, DC

### Loretta Lacey Award Dinner

Date: Sunday March 25, 2001  
Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Location: Lei Garden  
629 H St. NW  
Washington, DC  
Cross-Street: 7<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Metro: Gallery Place/Chinatown

### ATMCH-Sponsored Session - *Forging MCH Community-Academic Partnerships*

Date: Monday March 26, 2001  
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Location: Burnham Room (subject to verification)  
Grand Hyatt Hotel

### MCHB Research Program Discussion (with Dr. Gontran Lamberty, DrPH)

Date: Monday March 26, 2001  
Time: 4:00 p.m.  
Location: Renwick/Bulfinch Room  
Grand Hyatt Hotel

## Other News

- Please pay your membership dues for the 2000-2001 fiscal year if you have not yet done so.
- Help us keep our directory up-to-date! If you have any updates or changes in your contact information, please send them to Sandra Maldague at [svm@asph.org](mailto:svm@asph.org).

The *ATMCH Newsletter* is produced by Sandra Maldague, who works closely with Karen Helsing and Allison Foster to staff the ATMCH secretariat.

You may reach us at:

**ATMCH**  
**1101 15<sup>th</sup> St. NW Suite 910**  
**Washington, DC 20005**  
**Phone: 202-296-1099**  
**Fax: 202-296-1252**

**ATMCH Questionnaire**

1) Are you **currently teaching** either at the graduate or undergraduate level, information or skills related to the health of women, children, families, or children with special health care needs (MCH)?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ [go to question 1a]

No \_\_\_\_\_ [go to question 1c]

**1a. If yes**, which courses with this content do you currently teach? Please list each course by title and whether it is primarily for graduate or undergraduate students.

Course Number and Name	Graduate Course? Y/N

**1b.** Is there a web address where information (syllabi, reading lists) on these courses can be found? If so, please list the web address:

\_\_\_\_\_

**1c. If not currently teaching in these areas**, would you like some assistance to help you teach in MCH?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ [go to question 2]

No \_\_\_\_\_ [go to question 3]

2) If yes, which of the following would be useful to you? [check all that apply]:

<b>An opportunity to:</b>	
a. View curricula from other MCH programs	
b. Attend a workshop on teaching <i>basic</i> MCH	
c. Attend a workshop on teaching <i>advanced</i> MCH	
d. Receive a <i>visit(s)</i> by MCH faculty in other programs teaching MCH	
e. Receive <i>ongoing technical assistance</i> by MCH faculty in other programs	

3) Are you **currently a faculty member in an MCH program** (e.g., a defined MCH presence with one or more identified MCH faculty in a university or college)?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ [go to question 6]

No \_\_\_\_\_ [go to question 4]

4) If you **are not currently a faculty member in an MCH program**, would you like assistance in developing an MCH program?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ [go to question 5]

No \_\_\_\_\_ [go to question 6]

5) If yes, which of the following would be useful to you (check all that apply):

<b>An opportunity to:</b>	
a. View curricula from other MCH programs	
b. Attend a workshop on developing an MCH program	
c. Receive a <i>visit(s)</i> by MCH faculty in other programs teaching MCH	
d. Receive <i>ongoing technical assistance</i> by MCH faculty in other programs	

6) Please describe other services that would be helpful to have ATMCH provide for you.

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7) If you would like further information or assistance from ATMCH, please provide the following:

Name and title: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address and university/college:

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Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Web address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return questionnaire to: Sandra Maldague, MPH  
ATMCH, 1101 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Suite 910  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 296-1099  
(202) 296-1252 (fax)  
[svm@asph.org](mailto:svm@asph.org)