

Network

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A Call to Keep Public Health on the National Political Agenda

Campaigns Square Off

Public health issues may not have captured the focus of presidential polling, but Bush and Kerry campaign representatives assured a captive audience at GW that public health would have a prominent position in future national agendas. GW's SPHHS and the American Public Health Association (APHA) co-sponsored the event, "Public Health and the Presidential Election: A Discussion with the Campaigns." Former ABC News special correspondent Jackie Judd, now with the Kaiser Family Foundation, moderated the debate between Colin Roskey from the Bush-Cheney campaign and Sarah Bianchi, National Policy Director with the Kerry-Edwards campaign.

"Public health in this country must be a top priority in this election," said SPHHS Dean Ruth J. Katz, JD, MPH. APHA Executive Director Dr. Georges C. Benjamin echoed Katz' sentiment. "For much of the presidential campaigns, healthcare financing and drug reimportation have dominated the health debate. This forum emphasized the need for public health to be more visible and more engaged," he added, referring to such issues as the public health workforce shortage, sex education and the federal regulation of tobacco. Roskey said, "the President does not support FDA regulation of tobacco products." Bianchi countered, "it's unconscionable that the FDA can't regulate tobacco. It's an addictive drug; that's as simple as it gets."

The Challenge for Students

Public health and the election served as a launching pad for the second annual SPHHS student

convocation in September. Dean Ruth J. Katz, JD, MPH, and keynote speaker Dr. William Waters, associate professor, GH, both called on students to be involved in the election booth and elsewhere to ensure a broader discussion of public health's role in society.

"We should seize this moment to shine the light on what we do and put it on the political agenda," said Dean Katz. She warned that public health is too often "first on the chopping block" during budget cutting, largely because public health successes often come with the "invisible" quality of a disease or crisis averted.

"Get politically involved. Voting is important but do more if you can," echoed Dr. Waters. He also suggested four additional steps for students to take to give meaning to their profession—develop personal and professional contacts; join professional associations; join GW's Public Health Student Association; and do volunteer work and internships in the community.

Gibbs Oration & Distinguished Lectures

Nov. 4, 12:30–5 p.m.

1957 E Street, NW, 7th Floor City View Room

Keynote: Dick Davidson, President
American Hospital Association

"Healthcare, The Elections and the Future:
What Now?"

Complete details inside on the APHA
Annual Meeting, Nov. 6-10

Faculty, staff, student and alumni presentations

Network

The newsletter for and about the students, faculty and staff of the GW School of Public Health and Health Services, 2300 Eye Street, NW, Ross 106, Washington, DC 20037.

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A message from the dean

Our premier location in the heart of Washington, DC, uniquely positions our School to offer an experience unmatched by any other. Our faculty, staff and students benefit from the outstanding educational, research, community service and extracurricular opportunities, clearly setting the stage for a successful and rewarding career in the public health arena. Our connections with local and national organizations are unparalleled. Our partnerships offer a myriad of choices. Our alumni continue to maintain an active presence and foster networking. All of this gives us the **GW Advantage**—the opportunities are at our doorstep. Take the challenge—become more involved; ensure that public health and healthcare issues are at the forefront of the national agenda.

Dean Ruth J. Katz, JD, MPH



Sunday, November 7

6 p.m.

Session 281.1 —Panel: Crystalline silica exposure and public health. **Dr. David Goldsmith** (EOH).

Monday, November 8

8:30 a.m.

Session 3024.0 —Intestinal parasitic infections among pregnant women in southeast Brazil (poster). **Brettania Walker** (MPH EOH '04).

Session 3055.0 —Innovative methodology in monitoring utilization of neonatal care units in Egypt. **Dr. Ayman El-Mohandes** (PCH, MPH '89).

Session 3081.0 —Prescribing patterns of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (statins): Duration of therapy and concomitant medication use in a large, insured patient population. **Sarah Rosquist** (MPH student, Epi), **Dr. Aaron Mendelsohn** (Epi/Bio), Gianna Rigoni and **Dr. Manya Magnus** (Epi/Bio).

Session 3082.0 —Bridging the gap: The NIAMS patient liaison program facilitates minority access to research. **Nicole Schuett** (MPH student, IHProm).

10:30 a.m.

Session 3141.0 —International travelers at risk: Evaluating the incidence of neuropsychiatric adverse events attributable to Lariam as used for malaria chemoprophylaxis. **Erin Rubenstein** (MPH EOH '03) and **Prof. Susan Rose** (EOH).

Session 3096.0 —Pesticide health and prevention, collaboration with Native American communities: The Tribal Medicine Program. **Dr. David Goldsmith** (EOH), **Lisa Neel** (MPH MCH '03) and **Dr. Ana Maria Osorio**.

Session 3096.0 —Repatriation, pesticides and tribal risk communication: NAGPRA and new communication paradigms. **Emily Sherinian** (MPH IHProm '04), **Dr. David Goldsmith** (EOH) and **Thomas Oh** (MPH student, EOH).

Session 3153.1 —Dimensions of disease control in developing countries. **Sonbol Shahid-Salles** (MPH, IHPol '03).

12:30 p.m.

Session 3197.0 —Unintentional injuries among low income children aged 0-5 years that seek care at a community-based clinic: Healthcare provider knowledge and perceptions regarding unintentional injury education materials. **Dr. Karen McDonnell** (PCH) and **Heather Jordan** (MPH MCH '04).

Session 3207.0 —Improving the performance of safety net hospitals: Findings of the "Urgent Matters" project. **Prof. Khoa Nguyen** (HP), **Dr. Bruce Siegel** (HP) and **Prof. Marcia Wilson** (HSML).

Session 3214.0 — Implications of the Data Quality Act on occupational and public health (panel). **Dr. David Michaels** (EOH).

Session 3226.0 —International service-learning: Public health students contribute to global health through classroom exercises and MPH special projects (poster). **Dr. A. Seiji Hayashi** (PCH), Edward Horgan and **Jessica Eichelberger** (PA/MPH student, COPC).

Session 3227.0 —A community assessment of online health information use and access (roundtable presentation). **Amy Leader** (MPH MCH, '01; DrPH student, PCH), Terry Kind, **Karin Werner** (MPH HProm '03), Ed Robinson and **Karyn Pomerantz** (PCH; MPH '96).

2:30 p.m.

Session 3279.0 —Insurers' coverage decisions for SCHIP-enrolled children with special needs. **Dr. Anne Markus** (HP), **Prof. Sara Rosenbaum** (HP), **Dr. Jill Joseph** (Epi/Bio) and Ruth Stein.

Session 3281.0 —Implementation evaluation of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act (BCCPTA). **Dr. Kathleen Maloy** (HP), **Prof. Chaya Merrill** (HP; DrPH student, HP), Sarah Blake and **Soeurette Cyprien** (HP staff).

4:30 p.m.

Session 3308.0 —Calculating the prevalence and impact of serious alcohol problems among young people: A research-based tool for community advocates (poster). **Delia Olufokunbi** (HP staff) and Jeffrey Hon.

Session 3322.0 —Epidemiology of U.S. immunization law: Mandated coverage of immunizations under health insurance laws (poster). **Prof. Sara Rosenbaum** (HP), **Prof. Alexandra Stewart** (HP; JD '99), **Marisa Cox** (MPH student, HP), **Alexis Lee** (HP staff) and **Shawnte Mitchell** (graduate student, HP).

Session 3332.0 —Intestinal parasitic infections among pregnant women in southeast Brazil. **Brettania Walker** (MPH EOH '04).

Session 3339.0 —Quality of HIV care and reauthorization of the CARE Act. **Dr. Veronica Miller** (Epi/Bio).

Session 3339.0 —Medicare prescription drug coverage and the Ryan White CARE Act. **Dr. Jeffrey Levi** (HP; PhD '99).



Tuesday, November 9

8:30 a.m.

Session 4015.0—Outcome evaluation of a four-year alternative medicine program at a university medical school. **Dr. Caroline Sparks** (PCH), Susan Silver, *Afifa Klouj* (Epi/Bio staff), *Bunmi Sumbly* (MPH student, IHP) and Dr. John Pan (MD '70, GME '74).

Session 4026.0—Implementation of a web-based uniform data set for OMH-funded projects. **Dr. Mark Edberg** (PCH), Kwasi Frye, Kristen Corey and Violet Ryo-Hwa Woo.

Session 4053.0—District of Columbia Control Asthma Now (DC CAN): Using data to guide program planning. Edwina V. Davis, *Mary-Frances Kornak* (MPH '92) and Kerda Dehaan.

Session 4054.0—Postpartum depression: screening tools and associated risk factors. **Sona Patel** (MPH MCH '03) and *Dr. Karen McDonnell* (PCH).

Session 4063.0—Brain cancer in the semiconductor manufacturing industry (poster). **Jordana DeLeon** (MPH student, Epi).

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12:30 p.m.

Session 4132.0—Developmental disabilities and environmental toxics: Collaborating for action. **Michele Gagnon** (MPH student, EOH).

2:30 p.m.

Session 4223.0—An assessment of primary care systems in 10 healthcare safety net communities. **Prof. Marcia Wilson** (HSML), Holly Mead, *Dr. Marsha Regenstein* (HP; PhD '99), *Prof. Khoa Nguyen* (HP) and *Dr. Bruce Siegel* (HP).

4:30 p.m.

Session 4292.0—Effects of maternal intestinal parasitic infection on infant birth outcomes in southeast Brazil (poster). **Brettania Walker** (MPH EOH '04).

Session 4295.0—An assessment of coordination efforts between state SCHIP and Title V programs in the case of SCHIP-enrolled children with special needs (poster). **Dr. Anne Markus** (HP), *Prof. Sara Rosenbaum* (HP) and *Soeurette Cyprien* (HP staff).

Session 4314.0—Outreach on wheels: Health informatics and literacy training for a low-income community in Washington, DC. Stacey Downey, *Eduardo Pezo* (MPH MCH '03) and *Prof. Karyn Pomerantz* (PCH; MPH '96).

Session 4322.0—Assessing the awareness of adolescent sexual health among NEA Student Program members (poster).

Jessica Cozzens (MPH MCH '03).

Wednesday, November 10

8:30 a.m.

Session 5002.0—Treating alcohol problems through employment-based health insurance: Significant gaps in coverage exist. **Dr. Eric Goplerud** (HP) and Jeffrey Hon.

Session 5026.0—Trend analysis of environmental exposures in children: The Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units Program (poster). **Nolana Kabwit** (MPH Epi '04) and Paula Davis.

Session 5029.0—Strategic preparation for emerging drinking water contaminants (poster). **Dr. Rebecca Parkin** (EOH), *Lisa Ragain* (MPH student, Epi), Catherine Peters, Sarah Thorne and Gordon Butte.

Session 5042.0—Delivery of HIV primary care and the adoption of information technology (poster). **Dr. Manya Magnus** (Epi/Bio).

Session 5047.0—Putting the squeeze on high blood pressure: a health education project for older Latinos (poster). **Denise Benoit** (MPH IHProm '03).

Session 5054.0—Neighborhood influences and intimate partner violence: Results from concept mapping activities (poster). Jessica Burke, Patricia O'Campo, *Dr. Karen McDonnell* (PCH) and Andrea Gielen.

10:30 a.m.

Session 5084.0—Manufacturing uncertainty: contested science and the protection of the public's health and environment. **Dr. David Michaels** (EOH).

Session 5162.0—Health policy and aging. **Dr. Robert Burke** (HSML), Moderator.

12:30 p.m.

Session 5115.0—Epidemiology of occupational injuries and illnesses among emergency medical services personnel. **Dr. Brian Maguire** (DrPH '04), *Dr. Katherine Hunting* (EOH), *Dr. Tee Guidotti* (EOH), Dr. Gordon Smith.

2:30 p.m.

Session 5166.0—State approaches to monitoring the quality of lead screening and oral health services for Medicaid and SCHIP children enrolled in managed care. *Prof. Sara Rosenbaum* (HP), **Dr. Anne Markus** (HP), *Prof. Colleen Sonosky* (HP, JD '99), *Lee Repasch* (HP staff) and *Prof. Rick Mauery* (HP; MPH '96; DrPH student, HP).

Session 5171.0—Survival of neonates of preterm low birth weight and very low birth weight categories in response to the institution of nasal continuous positive airway pressure (NCPAP) in seven units in Egypt. Lamiaa Mohsen, Esmat El Sharkably, Reginald Gipson and *Dr. Ayman El-Mohandes* (PCH; MPH '89).

NOTE: **Nsedu Obot** (MPH MCH '00) is the co-organizer of several environmental health sessions. **Celeste Monforton** (MPH EOH, '04; DrPH student, EOH) is the APHA program chair for the Occupational Health and Safety section and is the organizer of several poster sessions.

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Student and Faculty Spotlight ... Kudos to

- James Hunt, president and chief executive officer of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, has been named the first Geiger Gibson Distinguished Visitor in Community Health Policy. As the first Distinguished Visitor, Hunt will teach and write on matters of community health policy and will play a major role in helping shape educational events related to the 40th Anniversary Year celebration of the health centers' founding. This includes a March 2005 symposium that will chronicle the history of every U.S. health center over a 10-year period.
- Health Information Partners (HIPS) received funding from the National Library of Medicine to promote health literacy and reduce disparities in health information access and use among working class communities in the DC area by teaching people how to access, understand and apply electronic health information for personal, family and community health. Professor Karyn Pomerantz (PCH) is the principal investigator.
- Robert Burke, PhD, interim chair, HSML, is chair-elect of the Gerontological Section, APHA.
- Tee Guidotti, MD, MPH, chair, EOH, chaired a committee of the American Thoracic Society that updated criteria for the diagnosis of asbestos-related diseases other than cancer. It was the first revision since 1986 and took four years. The statement outlining the criteria recently was published in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.
- Fitzhugh Mullan, MD, adjunct professor, PCH, was tapped to chair the Committee on Overseas Placement of Volunteer U.S. Health Professionals for the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. The committee will advise the State Department on options for the overseas placement of U.S. health professionals to support the response to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in severely affected areas. It is in response to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) legislation.
- The HSML Student Association has organized three successful site visits to local hospitals to expand their educational experience.
- Dr. Beverly Westerman has been working with the Noah's Wish organization following the devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan. Noah's Wish is a unique welfare organization dedicated exclusively to rescuing and sheltering animals in disasters in Canada and the U.S.
- SPHHS conducted a successful blood drive October 16 during Colonials Weekend—32 units of blood were collected and exceeded the American Red Cross-set goal. Blood donations have decreased during the past two years. Volunteer organizers included members of PHSA and the Exercise Science Major's Club.
- Yadira Almodovar-Diaz (IHProm) was awarded the Alida Smith Scholarship for the 2004-2005 year. It is administered by the Foundry United Methodist Church.



Coming Up!

- **November 3**—Recruiters from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention will present an information session, 5-6:45 p.m., Ross Hall Room 201.
- **November 4**—Annual HSMP Alumni Fall Meeting and Gibbs Oration, 1957 E Street NW, 7th Floor, Capitol Room; 12:30 p.m., student lecturer; 1 p.m., faculty lecturer; 2 p.m., keynoter Dick Davidson. Info: jjmiller@gwu.edu
- **November 5**—Mock interviews and resume critique by HSMP alumni.
- **November 5-6**—Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the American College of Sports Medicine.
- **November 8**—Join SPHHA faculty and staff for a reception at the APHA meeting; 6:30 p.m., Renaissance Marriott, Congressional Hall B (999 9th Street NW). GWU trolley transportation from Foggy Bottom available along with photos with *George* for all attending.
- **November 9**—Join the Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association for a *Walk the Hill for Public Health* rally, and visit Congressional offices to talk with your reps. Rally begins at 8:30 a.m., Upper Senate Park (Delaware Avenue NE & C Street); www.apha.org/legislative/walkhill/index.htm.
- **November 10**—The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) is recruiting Epidemiology, Maternal and Child Health, and Environmental and Occupational Health graduate-level students for a fellowship program; 4-6 p.m., Ross Hall Room 105.

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