

# Friday Letter



No. 1091

Dear Deans:

This *Friday Letter* #1091 covers the events of interest to ASPH members for the week ending March 24, 2000.

### CDC Prevention Research Leader Needed

The Public Health Practice Program (PHPP) for many years has had a lead role in fostering and coordinating CDC relationships with academic research institutions, especially schools of public health and departments of preventive medicine in medical schools. Jeff Koplan recently placed the Office of Prevention Research within PHPP. The mission of this new activity on “prevention research and academic partnerships” is to support the conduct of CDC’s extramural prevention research and the translation of research results into improved public health practice and outcomes. This new activity includes responsibility for all responsibilities related to the Prevention Research

Initiative (PRI) including the need for strong collaboration with other CDC components who are conducting prevention research (Note: the PRI was an ASPH initiative on Capitol Hill).

Ed Baker and Bud Nicola are asking for your assistance in casting a wide net for faculty that might be interested in this position, entitled associate director for prevention research and academic programs. There are two parallel recruitment tracks: a permanent position and a sabbatical appointment.

Regarding the latter, CDC wants a senior “distinguished prevention researcher” to be responsible for advising CDC staff on the direction of the PRI and taking the lead in establishing working “relationships with new extramural partners.”

We’ll send you WordPerfect documents that outline these two positions in some detail.

### Deans’ Retreat Update

Please plan to arrive at Cuernavaca on or before July 18. The ASPH executive committee has planned a reception at 6 pm on Tuesday, July 18 in honor of Harrison Spencer, who by then will be the new president and CEO of ASPH. The reception will be held on the Hotel Hacienda Cocoyoc grounds.

On Wednesday, July 19, we have planned an all day session with your Mexican colleague deans at the national school of public health in Cuernavaca. A draft agenda was outlined in Friday Letter #1089 (March 10).

The official deans’ retreat will begin on Thursday morning, July 20 and end at Noon on Saturday, July 22. Here is the agenda put together by the deans’ retreat planning committee (Palmer Beasley, Chair; Allan Rosenfield, Susan Scrimshaw and Al Sommer):

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## Deans' Retreat Agenda

July 18-21, Cocoyoc Resort, Cuernavaca, Mexico

### Tuesday, July 18

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Welcome reception for ASPH members in honor of Harrison Spencer, ASPH President (spouses/families welcomed)

### Wednesday, July 19

8:30 - 3:00 pm - Session with Mexican colleagues at the SPH in Cuernavaca

3:00 - 7:00 pm - Joint reception and luncheon (spouses/families)

### Thursday, July 20

7:00 am - Breakfast

8:00 am - Welcome remarks (Dean Sommer)

Amend ASPH constitution and by-laws (Dean Sommer)

Introduction/purpose of retreat (Dean Beasley)

8:30 am - "How I got in to public health" (all deans)

10:00 am - \* "Who are we?"

\* "What's the long term future of SPHs?"

\* "What's our scope?"

(Deans Beasley and Sommer)

Noon - Lunch (on your own)

3:00 pm - \* Differences between schools and programs (Dean Beasley)

\* Accreditation and credentialing initiatives (Dean Sommer)

\* ASPH membership policy on new schools (Dean Sommer)

6:00 pm - Adjourn

7:30 pm - Off-site event (Las Mananitas) in Cuernavaca (spouses/families)

### Friday, July 21

7:00 am - Breakfast

8:00 am - ASPH legislative agenda (Dean Merson)

10:30 am - Genetics and computation (Dean Penhoet)

11:30 am - Global health and the SPHs (Dean Curran)

12:30 pm - Lunch (on your own)

3:00 pm - Late breaking issues

\* NIH task force (Dean Clark)

\*Core curriculum project (Dean Clark)

\*Others

6:00 pm - Adjourn

7:30 pm - Formal dinner (spouses/families)

### Saturday, July 22

7:00 am - Breakfast

8:00 am - Late breaking issues (continued)

\* Critique of retreat

\* Logistics of 2001 retreat site

\* Selection of 2002 and 2003 retreat sites

Noon - Adjourn (sine die)

Noon - 2:00 pm Executive committee meeting

**Again, please plan to arrive on or before July 18.**

Let Catherine Guyer ([ceg@asph.gov](mailto:ceg@asph.gov)), our new conference planner, know of your arrival time so that arrangements may be made to transport you (and your party) from the Mexico City airport to the Hotel Hacienda Cocoyoc in Cuernavaca, about an hour's drive. Catherine will be sending you logistical details,

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plus information on day excursions for spouses/families, that could be taken on July 20 and 21. This information, plus registration forms, is due out of here March 31.

This summer's retreat marks the ninth time deans have gathered to assess the current status and future of the academic public health enterprise. The retreat is the brainchild of Al Sommer who first proposed the event held in the San Juan Islands, WA.

## **More ASPH Hill Activities**

Last week, we reported on ASPH activities, conducted in conjunction with other groups and associations, that are aimed at marshalling congressional support for CDC, HRSA and NIH. ASPH is also involved in helping advance the agendas of other federal agencies whose programs support faculty research and practice: the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (nee AHCPR), NIOSH and the VA.

Speaking of AHRQ, ASPH co-sponsored on Wednesday a celebration/reception honoring many members of Congress that had a hand in creating the agency a decade ago. The goal of Friends of AHQR is to "billionize" the agency in five years. This campaign is lead by Jordan Cohen, AAMC president.

## **Friends of Title V**

ASPH is also involved in supporting the activities of the Friends of Title V, the MCH bloc grant. In fact, your organization, again, was a founding member of this coalition (like the CDC Coalition and Friends of HRSA). Title V funds many of our schools' MCH training programs. The coalition is asking Congress to appropriate \$800 million for Title V in FY01.

## **Health Professions Coalition**

ASPH is also a member of the Health Professions and Nursing Coalition (HPNEC). HPNEC is an informal alliance of over 40 national organizations representing institutions, departments, programs and individuals dedicated to educating health professionals. The HRSA health professions and nursing education programs provide support to students, programs, departments, and institutions to improve the racial and ethnic diversity, accessibility, and quality of the workforce. These programs are designed to accomplish the following objectives:

- meet the nation's needs to increase the supply of primary medical and dental care providers and public health and allied health professionals
- train more health professionals in fields experiencing shortages, especially in public health
- improve the geographic distribution of health professionals and nurses
- increase access to health care for underserved populations
- enhance minority representation in the pool of health professionals

HPNEC is requesting \$335 million for HRSA health professions programs in FY01. This represents a 10 percent increase over the current fiscal year.

The President's FY01 budget request to Congress zeroed-out some HRSA programs of concern to HPNEC (primary care, health administration, among others). Public health training and education programs, however, were level funded. Albeit a minor victory for ASPH, this level funding request (\$9 million) by the President is a significant departure from previous Clinton (as well as Bush and Reagan) budget proposals. These past budgets recommended the elimination of the HRSA academic public health line which supports traineeships, PMRs, and the ASPH initiated public health training centers (PHTCs), formerly known as special projects.

A great deal of credit for the inclusion of the HRSA public health professions education and training programs in the President's FY01 budget goes to Susan Scrimshaw. We heard it from a reliable source that her meeting last December with Dan Mendelson, OMB director for health programs, "turned the tide against zeroing-out" the ASPH programs.

According to an OMB official, "Dr. Scrimshaw's articulate and detailed justifications for the need of these programs convinced us that it was in the national interest not to terminate this account." As mentioned above, OMB has consistently urged Presidents to "end this subsidy to schools of public health."

Credit is also due to many deans who weighed-in on this matter. Earl Fox, current HRSA administrator, also championed the need for increased federal investments in the training and education of public health professionals, especially those in short supply: epidemiologists, biostatisticians, behavioral

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scientists, MCH professionals, environmental health specialists, public health physicians, nurses and dentists, among others.

## January/February issue of Public Health Reports

The January/February 2000 issue of Public Health Reports is in print and has been sent to all deans. The ASPH section of this issue of the journal features an article written by Bill Roper and Rachel Stevens on the North Carolina Institute for Public Health. Launched in August of 1999, its mission is to improve the health of all North Carolinians. It certainly got the opportunity to do so when, shortly after its inauguration, Hurricane Floyd did significant damage to the east coast and caused numerous public health disasters in the North Carolina area. The Institute not only provided consultation to the local health departments, but also coordinated the efforts of student, faculty and staff at the school of public health in assisting two eastern North Carolina counties. These efforts included disseminating public health information and aiding in clean-up efforts.

## Subscription information

Public Health Reports (PHR) is available by subscription for only \$35 for individuals and \$50 for institutions. For questions about subscriptions, please contact Oxford University Press:

Oxford University Press

Journal Customer Service  
2001 Evans Rd  
Cary, NC 27513-2009  
1-800-852-7323

[jnlorders@oup-usa-org](mailto:jnlorders@oup-usa-org) <<mailto:jnlorders@oup-usa-org>>

## PHR Editor Search

By the way, the editor search for PHR closed on February 29, 2000. We have it on good authority that lots of strong applications were submitted. We will keep you informed as the selection process moves along.

## 10 Fellowship Opportunities

The ASPH Center for Graduate Practice is pleased to announce an additional 10 fellowship opportunities for graduate degree candidates and alumni (within 5

years of graduation) from ASPH schools of public health. All fellowship opportunities are at the CDC. ASPH/CDC fellowships provide a unique training experience! Complete program information, eligibility requirements, fellowship descriptions, and application materials/instruction may be accessed via the ASPH web page: [www.asph.org](http://www.asph.org) after April 1, 2000.

Program information was recently mailed to each school (dean's office, department chairs, and student affairs/career/alumni offices). Included in the information is an announcement poster which we hope you will display in a place of prominence for students to view. We hope that you will also make this information available to your alumni.

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ROUND II APPLICATION:** May 15, 2000

**WHEN:** Fellowship positions are for one to two years beginning in September of 2000.

**WHERE:** Fellowship opportunities will be located either at the CDC in Atlanta or at CDC geographical locations throughout the United States. Fellowship location is identified in the fellowship description.

**HOW:** Applications and fellowship descriptions are available after April 1, 2000, on the web at [www.asph.org](http://www.asph.org) or in the Dean's/Director's Office, Student Affairs/Alumni Office, or Department Chair's offices at your school. You may also contact the Association of Schools of Public Health at the contact information listed below.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Applications must be received no later than: May 15, 2000

## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

ASPH Center for Graduate Practice  
Phone: (770) 455-6898  
Internet Address: [www.asph.org](http://www.asph.org)

Below you will find a listing of these opportunities. Again, for a description and an application, please visit the association's web site: [www.asph.org](http://www.asph.org) after April 1, 2000.

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ASPH/CDC Round II, 2000 Fellowship Opportunities  
Centers/Institutes/Offices at the Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

*The National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention  
and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP)*

S-19/19-CCD00-007 Reproductive Health Behavior  
Fellow; S-19/19-CCD00-008 Community-based Oral  
Health Promotion, Disease Prevention, and Applied  
Research

*The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)*

S-17/17-CHS99-002 Research on Health and Health  
Care of the Elderly

*The National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention  
(NCHSTP)*

S-18/18-STP99-008-B Fellowship in Health  
Education/Instructional Design; S-19/19-STP00-006  
Epidemiology of HIV Incidence and HIV Prevention  
Services in Geographic Areas and Special Populations in  
the United States

*The National Center for Infectious Disease (NCHS)*

S-19/19-CID00-001 VHF Prevention and  
Communication Specialist

*The National Immunization Program (NIP)*

S-19/19-NIP00-004 Enhancing Surveillance of  
Vaccine Preventable Diseases: Varicella Surveillance  
and Outbreak Control

*The National Institute for Occupational Safety and  
Health (NIOSH)*

S-17/17-OSH99-001 Fellowship in Occupational  
Hazard Surveillance; S-19/19-OSH00-006 Analyses of  
Exposure and Health Effects Among X-Ray  
Technologists and Other Radiation Workers; S19/19-  
OSH00-007 Epidemiology Fellowship: Health  
Studies of Workers Exposed to Ionizing Radiation

## NIH Guide publishes program announcement

The NIH Guide has just published program  
announcement PA-00-078, "Integrating the Basic  
Behavioral Sciences and Public Mental Health." It is  
located at [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-00-078.html)

[00-078.html](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-00-078.html) and Peter Muehrer, Ph.D. (Chief, Health  
and Behavioral Science Research Branch  
Division of Mental Disorders, Behavioral Research,  
and AIDS, NIMH, NIH, [pmuehrer@nih.gov](mailto:pmuehrer@nih.gov), 301/443-  
4708) is the primary contact person.

The purpose of this program announcement is to solicit  
applications that integrate basic behavioral science and  
public health expertise in collaborative research on  
mental health and disorders. The program  
announcement addresses the February, 2000, Report of  
the National Advisory Mental Health Council  
Behavioral Science Workgroup, "Translating  
Behavioral Science into Action."

NIMH staff are happy to discuss new proposal ideas  
by telephone or comment on rough drafts sent to them  
at least one month before the planned submission date  
so applicants in turn have enough time to make  
revisions based on our suggestions if they choose to do  
so. For most grant mechanisms, applications are  
received on a rolling basis with receipt dates of  
February 1, June 1, and October 1.

Grant mechanisms support research at all stages of a  
research career, from pre-and post-doctoral fellowships  
to early-, mid-, and senior-level career salary-support  
awards (K Awards). Small Grants (RO3s, two years of  
support at up to \$50,000 direct costs per year) and  
exploratory/Developmental Grants (R21s, three years,  
up to \$125,000 average direct costs per year) are  
available for pilot research and the development of  
intervention protocols. Regular Research Grants  
(RO1s) provide support for up to five years at funding  
levels commensurate with the science proposed.

Topics for research solicited under this announcement  
include:

- Understanding basic behavioral processes in  
mental illness;
- Understanding how mental illnesses and their  
treatments affect the abilities; of individuals to  
function in diverse settings and roles;
- Understanding how social or other environmental  
contexts influence the etiology and prevention of  
mental illness and the treatment and care of those  
suffering from mental disorders;
- Examining risk and protective processes associated  
with co-morbid mental and medical disorders (e.g.,  
heart disease and depression, anxiety disorders and

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cancers), developing conceptual models of new interventions, and initial testing of the new interventions;

- Using principles and findings from the basic behavioral sciences to improve adherence to interventions for mental disorders; developing models of preventive, treatment, and rehabilitative interventions and innovative strategies to enhance adherence to them;
- Investigating various informed-consent procedures, advance directives, and other research ethics topics in groups at risk for or suffering from mental disorders;
- Examining principles and findings from the basic behavioral sciences that affect individuals' willingness to participate in interventions, response to interventions, functioning/disability, and other outcomes;
- Examining approaches to decrease stigma related to mental disorders, including studies of the social context of stigma as well as studies of individuals who are stigmatized; and
- Examining cultural explanations for disorder and how they affect receptivity and response to interventions, particularly when the client's and family's explanations differ from those of the mental health provider.

Mike Merson is largely responsible for this new program at NIMH. He has been advising the director on ways to incorporate "public health with the NIMH research agenda." Thanks are in order.

Sincerely,

Michael K. Gemmell, CAE  
Executive Director  
[mkg@asph.org]  
Association of Schools of Public Health  
1660 L Street, NW, Suite 204  
Washington, DC 20036  
Tel: 202-296-1099; Fax: 202-296-1252

**Note to friends of ASPH:** Please visit our web site at [www.asph.org](http://www.asph.org) if you have questions regarding the accredited graduate schools of public health, the ASPH member programs in public health, additional information on the Association of Schools of Public Health, or for previous issues of the *Friday Letter*.

**Note:** Not all *Friday Letter* recipients receive attachments; if you would like a copy of one or all of them

in a particular *Friday Letter*, please contact Catherine Guyer ([ceg@asph.org](mailto:ceg@asph.org)).

**To submit job descriptions for distribution with the *Friday Letter*, the submission must be:**

- clear and proofread
- sent in an electronic format
- for positions requiring an MPH or doctoral level public health degree
- sent including a closing date for the position (if no closing date is included, the position will not be posted)
- submitted to Catherine Guyer [ceg@asph.org](mailto:ceg@asph.org) in electronic format by Wednesday noon before the Friday you would like it posted (submit at least 20 working days before the closing date of the position)

ASPH reserves the right to decline posting a position for any reason.

## Job Announcements

Please see [www.asph.org/jobs.htm](http://www.asph.org/jobs.htm) for current job announcements.

## Mark Your Calendars

Associate Deans' Retreat  
July 7-10, 2000  
Hotel: Hotel Santé Fe  
Santé Fe, New Mexico  
Contact: Catherine Guyer [[ceg@asph.org](mailto:ceg@asph.org)]

Deans' Retreat  
Hotel: Cocoyoc  
July 18-22, 2000  
Cuernavaca, Mexico  
Contact: Catherine Guyer [[ceg@asph.org](mailto:ceg@asph.org)]

Public Health Informatics and Distance Learning  
Conference

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