

Dear Deans:

This Friday Letter #1179 covers recent events of interest to ASPH members.

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#### ASPH SAYS “NO” TO TOBACCO MONEY

The ASPH deans, at their annual meeting last month, made an historic decision not to accept any grant or anything else of value from any tobacco manufacturer, distributor, or other tobacco-related company. The vote was unanimous and binds the association to the special requirements set forth by the American Legacy Foundation (Legacy) in their grants available to schools of public health through the Scholarship, Teaching, and Education for Tobacco Use Prevention (STEP UP) project.

ASPH expects to award \$2.5 million in pre-doctoral scholarships, doctoral dissertation scholarships, curricular innovation grants, and small grants/pilot study grants through the

STEP UP project to eligible candidates at the 31 accredited graduate schools of public health over the next three years. ASPH is fortunate to be working with a strong public health ally at the helm of the Legacy foundation, Cheryl Heaton, formerly an associate dean at the Mailman School, who helped make this funding possible.

The STEP UP project is chaired by Jim Merchant (Iowa) with guidance from the ASPH/Legacy Review Committee. Dean Merchant also chairs the ASPH Tobacco Use Prevention Council, which met for the first time in Atlanta last month and will meet annually in conjunction with the ASPH annual meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend the annual council meeting. Contact Liz Weist at: [eweist@asph.org](mailto:eweist@asph.org) if you would like more information on the council. Letters of intent for the STEP UP project are due on January 4, 2002 and full applications are due on March 1, 2002. Please visit the ASPH website: [http://www.asph.org/fac\\_document.cfm/69/80/6327](http://www.asph.org/fac_document.cfm/69/80/6327) to view the RFA and to find out more information.

#### ASPH MEMBERS IN THE NEWS: DEAN SCRIMSHAW, UIC

This past week, dean Scrimshaw (UIC) has been quoted in two Chicago Tribune articles. In the first, "Grip of Anthrax fear squeezes out other medical research," she commented on the difficulty health departments are having with getting their normal workload done in the wake of Anthrax scares. Local health departments have had to shift their resources to deal with bioterrorism at the expense of their usual tasks.

The second, and more detailed, article focused on the public's view of their public health system "Health system's weakness exposed." Dean Scrimshaw pointed out that for years, policymakers and the populace have viewed public health as charity care for the poor. But now it's entered the realm of national defense. The evacuation of congressional buildings in Washington has proven that public health is needed at even the highest echelons of society. It is only when the system fails that people take note: when the water is undrinkable, the food is contaminated, the vaccine is unavailable; when lethal spores of bacteria are on the loose. The author of the piece used dean Scrimshaw's expertise to point out that the majority of public health personnel haven't been trained in how to recognize an epidemic or how to analyze data on a potential outbreak.

Recent coverage of public health in the news is leading to a more pronounced recognition of the need for public health training and credentialing.

#### DEANS VISIT CAPITOL HILL

In recent months, several ASPH deans have made visits to Capitol Hill to push for more funding and federal support for public health preparedness centers. We thank them for their efforts and continued attention to building up and expanding the existing network of school of public health-based centers for public health preparedness to: 1) train and educate local and state health department staff, first responders, and primary and acute care providers, 2)

inform other health care providers and other components of the health care industry, and 3) serve as an information and education resource for the general public.

Deans who have made the trek to Washington, DC include:

- ~ Dean Gehlbach - University of Massachusetts
- ~ Dean Goldstein - University of Pittsburgh
- ~ Dean Lee - University of Oklahoma
- ~ Dean Mahan - University of South Florida
- ~ Dean Merchant - University of Iowa
- ~ Dean Roper - University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill)
- ~ Dean Rosenfield - Columbia University
- ~ Dean Scrimshaw - University of Illinois at Chicago
- ~ Dean Sommer - Johns Hopkins University
- ~ Dean St. Pierre - Ohio State University
- ~ Dean Wahl - University of Washington

Other support efforts have been put out by deans Meehan (Boston University) and Bloom (Harvard University) by sending letters to their Members of Congress and to Members sitting on the appropriations committee.

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#### CDC CHIEF AND PUBLIC HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS AGREE: SYSTEM NEEDS HELP

The nation's response to Anthrax bioterrorism was hampered by a long-neglected, money-starved public health system; and the country's readiness for more such attacks is weakened by old labs, crumbling buildings and outdated technology that slows the detection of outbreaks was acknowledged by Dr. Jeffrey Koplan, CDC. The weakest links in the system are far-flung -- state and local health departments that are not trained to recognize bioterrorism outbreaks and are lacking in the proper technology and networking ability to alert each other quickly. Such a system-wide dysfunction slows the government's ability to treat people and prevent the spread of outbreaks. In this light, Congress is negotiating a package that could provide more than \$3 billion to improve the nation's preparedness for bioterrorism. ASPH and a number of partner organizations are pushing for a large chunk of that money for improving CDC facilities, and funding for training efforts. Dr. Koplan has endorsed an expansion of the Epidemic Intelligence Service program, the "disease detectives," who track outbreaks throughout the U.S. and around the world.

#### SMALLPOX: WHAT EVERY CLINICIAN SHOULD KNOW

Due to concerns that smallpox virus could be used as an agent of bioterrorism, health care professionals should be familiar with the disease and the vaccine to prevent it. In this live satellite and web broadcast, a panel of experts from the CDC will present information on

virology, epidemiology, clinical features and diagnosis of smallpox, and the characteristics and use of smallpox vaccine. Continuing education credits are available for this program. It will be broadcast live on Thursday, December 13, 2001 from 12:00 - 2:00 PM EST. The program will be re-broadcast on Monday, December 17, 2001 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM EST, in case you miss the first opportunity to view it.

The live satellite and web broadcast will address issues such as; recommendations for patient care, disinfection practices, mail handling, and other infection control issues within a healthcare facility. A toll-free audio line will be available for those unable to arrange a viewing location. A program fact sheet with technical specifications for the live satellite broadcast, webcast, and audio line is posted at: <http://www.phf.org/smallpox1.pdf> in Acrobat Reader (PDF). Information in HTML is posted at: <http://www.phf.org/smallpox1HTML.htm>. Webcast links for the entire series of bioterrorism and anthrax broadcasts since October 18 can be found at <http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/phtn>.

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#### NEW IRB RULES ON STEM CELL RESEARCH

The Department of HHS' Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) has developed new guidelines for stem cell research. Visit their official website at: <http://ohrp.osophs.dhhs.gov/references/HESCGuidance.pdf> for guidance for Institutional Review Boards (IRBs), investigators and sponsors considering research activities involving human embryonic stem cells (HESCs), HESC-derived test articles, human embryonic germ cells derived from fetal tissue, and/or human embryonic germ cell-derived test-articles.

#### NEW NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN RESEARCH PROTECTION

Health Improvement Institute (Institute) has announced a new national awards program -- Award for Excellence in Human Research Protection -- sponsored by OHRP. Institutions and individuals are eligible to enter the annual awards competition for demonstrated excellence in promoting the well-being of people who volunteer to participate in research. The Institute is planning to make the first awards in December 2002. If you have any questions about the "Award for Excellence in Human Research Protection," please contact Kristin Hollingsworth at: 301-652-1818 or by email at: [kjh@mcman.com](mailto:kjh@mcman.com). For more information on the Institute please visit their web site at: <http://www.hii.org/>

#### CYSTIC FIBROSIS NEWS FROM NIAID

NIAID, a component of NIH, conducts and supports research that strives to understand, treat, and ultimately prevent the myriad infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases that threaten millions of human lives. They have issued a news release entitled "New Theory Proposed for Cystic Fibrosis Infections," which is viewable at the following website: <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/newsroom/releases/pathogenesis.htm>. The release describes work by NIAID-funded researchers, who propose a novel explanation for why lung infections are so persistent in people with cystic fibrosis. For more information on NIAID's research priorities, publications, and newsworthy items, please visit their website at: <http://www.niaid.nih.gov>.

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#### ORAL HEALTH GRANTS AVAILABLE

Pipeline, Profession and Practice: Community-Based Dental Education is a new \$15 million grants program of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) that is designed to help increase access to dental care for underserved populations. Grant funds will be available to up to 10 dental schools for five years to develop community-based clinical programs that provide care to underserved populations and to increase recruitment and retention. The program is designed to increase access to dental care for underserved populations through: establishment of community-based clinical education programs; revision of didactic and clinical curricula to integrate community-based practice experiences into their educational programs; and actions to increase recruitment and retention of underrepresented minority and low-income students.

Letters of intent for the program are due in December. Applicants are encouraged to participate in the conference call for letter of intent applicants, scheduled for Monday, November 26, 2001 from 2:00-4:00 PM EST. Conference call participants will include staff from the National Program Office and RWJF. Following a brief presentation there will be an opportunity for potential applicants to call in with their questions. Reservations are required to participate in the call.

To reserve your space for participation, call Conference America at: 1-800-925-8000. You will be asked for your name, phone number, affiliation, number of phone lines from your institution on the call. The sponsoring institution is Columbia University. You will be provided with a toll-free call-in number and the passcode to participate in the conference call. The call will be recorded and posted on the website for later review.

#### 2002 PARTNERING MEETING UPDATE

This year marks a new collaboration of academic researchers with the addition of the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) to the established partnership of Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), Association of Teachers of Preventive

Medicine (ATPM), Minority Health Professions Foundation (MHPF), Hispanic-Serving Health Profession Schools, Inc. (HSHPs), and CDC/ATSDR.

Remember to mark your calendars for the annual "Partners in Prevention Research Conference." This three-day conference will be held from March 6 through March 8, 2002 in Atlanta, GA. More information will be shared with you in the Friday Letter as the meeting date nears.

#### EXECUTIVE NURSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

ASPH has been asked to identify senior nurse executives from our member institutions to apply for the Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Executive Nurse Fellows Program, an advanced leadership program open to nurses in senior executive roles in care and delivery, public health, and nursing education. The RWJ program is designed for fellows to remain in their current positions. The program is intended to offer those selected, experiences, insights, competencies, and skills necessary to advance in executive leadership positions. For more information on the program, and online applications, visit the RWJ program website at: <http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/rwj/html>.

ASPH staff wishes all of our members and Friday Letter readers a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Clare E. Driscoll  
Legislative & Communications Analyst  
Phone: 202-296-1099 ext. 157  
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#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2002 Partnering Meeting  
March 6-8, 2002  
Hotel to be announced  
Atlanta, GA  
Contact: Sara DeMelle      [sdemelle@asph.org](mailto:sdemelle@asph.org)

Associate Deans' Retreat

July 10-13, 2002

Hotel: Buffalo Mountain Lodge

Banff, Alberta, Canada

Contacts: Karen Helsing      [khelsing@asph.org](mailto:khelsing@asph.org)  
Mary Stickley      [mstickley@asph.org](mailto:mstickley@asph.org)

Deans' Retreat

July 24-27, 2002

Hotel: Villagio Inn

Yountville, CA

Contact: Mary Stickley      [mstickley@asph.org](mailto:mstickley@asph.org)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see [http://www.asph.org/aa\\_section.cfm/12](http://www.asph.org/aa_section.cfm/12) for current job announcements.

[http://www.asph.org/aa\\_document.cfm/12/12/6333](http://www.asph.org/aa_document.cfm/12/12/6333)

Faculty Position in Social-Behavioral Sciences and Health Promotion  
University of Illinois-Chicago School of Public Health

[http://www.asph.org/aa\\_document.cfm/12/12/6332](http://www.asph.org/aa_document.cfm/12/12/6332)

Instructional Designer  
Health Consulting Group, Atlanta, GA

[http://www.asph.org/aa\\_document.cfm/12/12/6319](http://www.asph.org/aa_document.cfm/12/12/6319)

Faculty Position, Ergonomics/Human Factors  
Colorado State University

[http://www.asph.org/aa\\_document.cfm/12/12/6320](http://www.asph.org/aa_document.cfm/12/12/6320)

Assistant Professor  
Colorado State University

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

To submit job announcements, free of charge, for distribution with the Friday Letter, the submission must be:

\*      clear and proofread

- \* written in third person
- \* sent in an e-mail
- \* 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)
- \* <<mailto:Submissions@asph.org>> in electronic format by Friday close of business 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.

Interested in receiving the electronic Friday Letter? Send your first and last name along with an email to [FridayLetter@asph.org](mailto:FridayLetter@asph.org).