

Friday July 18, 2003

This Friday Letter (#1265) features our newest dean, Dean Ruth Katz, who was appointed this week to serve at the George Washington University (GWU) SPHHS. We also thank Dean Richard Southby for his service to ASPH over the last few years. Dean Southby has been serving as the school's interim dean and will become the executive dean and distinguished professor of global health at the Medical Center. Welcome, Dean Katz and best wishes to Dean Southby!

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1. NEW DEAN AT GWU SPHHS

Effective August 15, Dean Ruth Katz will join the GWU SPHHS as their new dean. She will also serve as the School's Walter G. Ross Professor of Health Policy. Dean Katz succeeds Dean Richard Southby, who has been serving as the interim dean and now becomes executive dean and distinguished professor of global health at the Medical Center. "This is an extraordinary time to be joining SPHHS," said the new dean. "Under the able leadership of Founding Dean Richard Riegelman and Interim Dean Richard Southby -- and with the unqualified commitment of the faculty as well as the University and the Medical Center -- SPHHS is well positioned to become among the top schools of public health in the nation. I am very excited and deeply honored for this opportunity."

Dean Katz who comes to GWU from the Yale University School of Medicine, brings a wealth of experience in law, policy making at the federal level, and public health to her position. At Yale, Dean Katz has been the associate

dean for administration since July 1997. She was also an assistant professor in the departments of Internal Medicine (General Medicine) and Epidemiology and Public Health. Before becoming associate dean at Yale, Dean Katz served on the Advisory Committee on Tobacco Policy and Public Health, where she conducted policy analysis and produced reports for the public health committee formed at the request of members of Congress and charged with developing a comprehensive national policy on tobacco. She was a candidate for election to the US House of Representatives from the Second Congressional District of New Jersey in 1996. Dean Katz has also served as director of public health programs of the Henry J. Kaiser Foundation and as counsel to the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the US House of Representatives. In the early 1980s, she was legislative aide for health affairs for Congressman James Scheuer of New York and policy analyst and staff attorney for the Select Panel for the Promotion of Child Health at the US DHHS.

The new dean holds a MPH from the Harvard SPH and a JD from Emory. She is also a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

2. UPCOMING DEANS' RETREAT

The ASPH deans will gather in Santa Fe, NM at the 12th Annual Deans' Retreat next week. Their agenda covers: public health practice, legislation, undergraduate education, accreditation, the ASPH response to the IOM reports, public health preparedness, and late-breaking issues, such as the ASPH/HRSA women's health initiative and SARS. Many thanks to Dean Jim Merchant (Iowa), chair of the planning committee, and Deans Susan Scrimshaw (UIC) and Palmer Beasley (UT-Houston) for their hard work in developing the retreat. We will debrief "Friday Letter" readers on the retreat two weeks from today.

3. EVENTS OF THE WEEK

A. NALBOH Annual Meeting

ASPH staff attended and exhibited at the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland this week. The goal of the meeting was to provide current public health information and training to board of health members across the country. Dr. Hugh Tilson (UNC) delivered the keynote address in which he outlined recommendations of the IOM Committee on the Future of Public Health. In addition, Dr. Teme M. Levborg (UNC) and Dr. H. Pennington Whiteside, Jr. (UNC) provided orientation training for new members. Representatives from the A-CPHP and Building Bridges projects -- including individuals from ASPH, CDC/PHPPPO, CDC/OTPER and NACCHO -- also gave presentations on national, state and local preparedness activities.

B. HRSA Public Health Training Centers' Meeting

On Wednesday, representatives from each of the 14 HRSA Public Health Training Centers (PHTC) met with ASPH and HRSA to discuss the role of the centers and

how they can best work together and position themselves to advocate for the reauthorization of Title VII. In addition, the group discussed the "Stories of Impact" and how these can continue to be used to promote the PHTCs (to view the Stories of Impact, see <http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=780>). Dr. Josef Reum (GWU) facilitated the meeting.

On Thursday, the PHTC representatives met at HRSA for a meeting with Mr. John Kress, Dr. Doug Lloyd, and Ms. Beverly Smith to discuss PHTC development. In addition, the meeting participants heard presentations on Area Health Education Centers and the Environmental Health-Nurse Training Project, and had discussions about intellectual property and copyright issues, evaluation, and reporting. The group also had the opportunity to hear from HRSA's administrator, Dr. Betty Duke, and the deputy associate administrator of programs, Captain Kerry Nessler. Dr. Duke and Captain Nessler gave the group an overview of HRSA's workforce development training activities and expressed their gratitude for the work that the centers are doing.

C. Legacy Teams up with Avon Future and Women's Policy, Inc.

The American Legacy Foundation, Avon Future, and Women's Policy, Inc. held a luncheon Wednesday at the Columbus Club in Union Station, Washington, DC to celebrate a new partnership between "Circle of Friends" and "mark." Legacy's "Circle of Friends" initiative is a new grassroots movement of people and partnering organizations which raise awareness of the toll of tobacco-related disease on women and the importance of supporting friends and loved ones when attempting to quit smoking. "mark" is the new beauty business from Avon created for young women in celebration of the mark they are making on the world. At the heart of "mark" is the concept of "social beauty" - young women coming together to bring out the inner and outer beauty in one another. The Women's Policy, Inc. is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy organization focused on issues affecting women and their families.

E. Seminar for ASPH/CDC/ATSDR Interns and Fellows

On Wednesday, in Atlanta, GA, 35 ASPH/CDC/ATSDR interns and fellows participated in a full-day seminar, "How to Write an Effective Research Proposal," conducted by Elizabeth Tornquist (UNC). Ms. Tornquist explained the grant proposal preparation and review process and provided tips for writing the specific sections of a proposal. In addition, she outlined how to conduct effective literature reviews and how to use the literature productively in planning research. Thank you to Ms. Tornquist for providing an entertaining and informative lecture!

4. EDITORIAL

A graduate of the former University of Hawaii SPH, Ms. Nancy Partika, wrote an article entitled "Gathering Place -- Public Health Education -- A Legacy of Neglect" that ran in the editorial section of the July 9, 2003 Honolulu Star-Bulletin. She noted that: "The University of Hawaii once had a dynamic School of Public Health, which served our state and trained professionals from our Pacific and Asian neighbors as well. Hawaii now has

the unfortunate distinction of having the only school of public health in the nation to have lost its accreditation, which occurred in June 2000. Following years of systematic neglect by the state and UH administration, what was left of the school was transferred to the John A. Burns School of Medicine, shrunk into a small department with substantially narrower focus and less training capacity." She also observed that the subsequent lack of public health training and education is negatively affecting chances for public health funding and hurting the public health infrastructure in Hawaii and the region. For the full article, see <http://starbulletin.com/2003/07/09/editorial/indexeditorials.html> and click on "Commentary by: Guest Writers."

5. PUBLIC HEALTH RESOURCES

A. Screening Checklists from AHRQ

Two brand-new pamphlets from the AHRQ-sponsored U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, "Women: Stay Healthy at Any Age: Checklist for Your Next Checkup" and "Men: Stay Healthy at Any Age: Checklist for Your Next Checkup" specify what information is needed about the most important screening tests. As always, the recommendations from the Task Force are based on scientific evidence. The pamphlets also include information about how to stay healthy and allow patients to record which screening tests they have received, when, and when they should be tested again. Checklists for women and men, in both English and Spanish, can be downloaded at <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/ppipix.htm>.

Printed copies of the checklists can be mailed to you. Copies can be ordered from the AHRQ Publications Clearinghouse by calling (800) 358-9295 or sending an email to ahrqpubs@ahrq.gov.

B. Community-Based HIV/AIDS Prevention Training Program

Coming soon, the CDC/ASPH Institute for HIV Prevention Leadership is offering "Steps to Success in Community-Based HIV/AIDS Prevention," a unique series of free training programs designed to enhance the prevention capacity of organizations. Stay tuned to <http://www.ihpl.org/> for more information.

C. "Guide to Community Preventive Services" Useful in the DHHS "Steps" Initiative

DHHS has launched an initiative called "Steps to a Healthier US," the centerpiece of which is a five-year cooperative agreement administered by CDC and is designed to enable communities to reduce the burden of chronic disease.

The Guide to Community Preventive Services was noted in the funding announcement released by CDC as an important resource for applicants. A

new link on the Community Guide website provides specific information on how findings from the Community Guide facilitate the "Steps" initiative. For more information, see <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/partners/steps.htm>.

6. UPCOMING CONFERENCES

A. World Conference on Tobacco or Health -- August 3-8

The 12th World Conference on Tobacco or Health (WCTOH) will be held August 3-8 in Helsinki, Finland. The conference will bring together some 2,000 professionals from 115 countries involved in tobacco control work. The title of the conference is "Global Action for Tobacco Free Future." One of the main themes in the 12th WCTOH will be the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). Tobacco-related diseases and epidemiological figures will be discussed in detail. Conference workshops and special sessions will promote networking and new innovations within the tobacco control community as well as encouraging new people to become involved. A number of SPH faculty are presenting in this conference. For more information, see <http://www.wctoh2003.org/>.

B. Audioconference on Hospital Security Challenges -- August 18

The audioconference "Today's Security Challenges: Essential Steps for Preparing Your Hospital for Terrorism-Related Threats" will take place Monday, August 18 at 1:00 pm EST. The program will provide listeners with the crucial steps necessary to assess and improve security and emergency preparedness in the event of a terrorist attack as well as prevent or mitigate security threats at hospitals. Speakers will also discuss recent JCAHO emergency management issues. For more information and to register online, see <http://www.hcmarketplace.com/prod.cfm?ID=1811&S=EZ1480A>.

7. CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Sixth National Environmental Public Health Conference, which will address three important themes -- preparing the public health workforce for the environmental public health challenges of the 21st century; developing an all-hazards approach to preparedness and response; and, developing and retaining leaders in the environmental health field -- will sponsor the travel and related expenses for up to 75 emerging leaders from across the US and its territories to its conference, entitled "Preparing for the Environmental Challenge of the 21st Century." The event will take place December 3-5, 2003 in Atlanta, GA and is sponsored by CDC/NCEH. For more information, contact Art Schletty at 770-488-7688 or avs1@cdc.gov.

8. FUNDING FOR SMOKING CESSATION SURROUNDING PREGNANCY -- DUE AUGUST 26

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation announces a national program aimed at reducing rates of smoking in America's families by supporting research to develop and evaluate effective new interventions to help women quit smoking before, during, and after pregnancy. The program is entitled: "Smoke-Free Families: Innovations to Stop Smoking During and Beyond Pregnancy--Phase III." Eligibility guidelines state that "[p]reference may be given to those applicants who are either public entities or non-profit organizations that are tax exempt under Section 501 (c) (3)." The application deadline is August 26. For more information, see <http://www.rwjf.org/applying/cfpDetail.jsp?cfpCode=SFP>.

9. STAFF TRANSITIONS

Ms. Mary Bobbitt joined ASPH this week as Dr. Spencer's executive assistant. She earned a BA from American University in International Relations and a minor in Spanish. Mary has just returned from a trip to Zambia researching public health issues. Her previous work experience includes lobbying at the European Parliament in Brussels, working for the Center for International Policy on African Initiatives, and hosting doctors from Azerbaijan under the State Department's International Visitors Program. In her free time she enjoys trying new types of food, traveling, and going to the National Gallery.

Ms. Tamara Burnette, Dr. Spencer's executive assistant for nearly two years, has been promoted to project coordinator for the CDC-funded cooperative agreement here at ASPH. She is replacing Ms. Amanda Cash in that position. Amanda is leaving next month to pursue her MPH at the Oklahoma CPH.

Ms. Michelle Frisch, assistant programs coordinator in our Atlanta office, finished her tenure with us on Tuesday. Michelle is relocating to Philadelphia, PA.

Please join us in welcoming Mary, congratulating Tamara, and thanking Michelle!

10. ERRATUM

Dr. David Garr (Medical University of South Carolina) was incorrectly listed in last week's Friday Letter as representing the AAMC. Dr. Garr is the president-elect of ATPM.

11. MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Deans' Retreat
July 23-26, 2003
Hotel: Hotel Santa Fe
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Contacts: Allison Foster (afoster@asph.org) and Mary Stickley (mstickley@asph.org)

4th Annual Environmental Health Conference

August 10-12, 2003

Hotel: Radisson Governors Inn

Research Triangle Park, NC

Contacts: Allison Foster (afoster@asph.org) and Mary Stickley (mstickley@asph.org)

63rd Annual Meeting of the Deans

November 15-18, 2003

Hotel: Westin St. Francis Hotel

San Francisco, CA

Contact: Mary Stickley (mstickley@asph.org)

12. JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scientific Data Analyst-PHD

CDC National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention

http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=420&job_id=239

Cancer Prevention and Control Post-Doctoral Trainee

Division of Cancer Prevention and Control Research, UCLA

http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=420&job_id=240

Epidemiologist

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=420&job_id=241

Health Services Analyst

ECRI

http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=420&job_id=242

Bioterrorism and Communicable Disease Epidemiologist

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=420&job_id=243

Human Services / Research Assistants / Research Associate

Connecticut Women's Health Project at Yale University

http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=420&job_id=244

Assistant Professor of Public Health, I3

John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii

http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=420&job_id=245

13. JOB POSTING GUIDELINES

ASPH circulates free job announcements in each Friday Letter. All submissions must be:

- * clear and proofread;
- * written in the third person;
- * electronic;
- * intended for candidates with 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), and,
 - sent via e-mail to submissions@asph.org; and,
 - sent on the Friday before publication (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 Friday Letter? Send your first and last name along with an email to FridayLetter@asph.org.