



ISUH Connections

The Newsletter of the
International Society for Urban Health
Number 4 • July 2005

The goal of the ISUH is to encourage research, interventions, policies, and program evaluations that lead to healthier and sustainable cities and reduced health disparities for urban populations in the twenty-first century.

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The Centre for Research on Inner City Health, St. Michael's Hospital

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON URBAN HEALTH, TORONTO, OCTOBER 26-28, 2005



A breathtaking view of the City of Toronto skyline.

The Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital is excited to host the 4th International Conference on Urban Health, scheduled to take place in Toronto, Canada from October 26 – 28, 2005. The theme for this year's conference is "Achieving Social Justice in Urban Communities."

The conference will feature two keynote speakers, Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland and Dr. Richard Lessard. Dr. Brundtland is former Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) and is currently a Distinguished Fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. She has served as Minister of the Environment, Prime Minister of

Norway, and Chair of the World Commission of Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission), which was the impetus for the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992.

Dr. Lessard, Director of Public Health of the Montreal Regional Health and Social Services Board, and a physician specializing in community health. From 1980 to 1982, he was a professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at Université de Sherbrooke's Faculty of Medicine, and from 1982 to 1992, he headed the Community Health Department at the Cité de la Santé de Laval.

Venezuelan physician and health

The International Society for Urban Health

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ISUH Connections

ISUH Connections is a forum for information exchange among ISUH members and others interested in the health of urban populations. Articles do not represent official positions or endorsement by ISUH.

ISUH Connections is distributed by email. To request that your name be added to or removed from our mailing list, please contact Monica Serrano at mserrano@nyam.org

ISUH Connections welcomes submissions of brief articles relevant to the field of urban health (maximum 500 words) for consideration. Notices of conferences, events, research funding opportunities, positions available or sought, and other announcements are also welcome. Please submit materials to Stephen Hwang at hwangs@smh.toronto.on.ca or Evie Gogosis at gogosis@smh.toronto.on.ca.

4th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON URBAN HEALTH, 2005

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care administrator, Dr. Francisco Armada, will be a featured speaker at the conference. Dr. Armada is currently working at the Ministerio de Sanidad y Desarrollo Social, in Caracas, Venezuela. An active participant in the Bolivarian process from the beginning, he has conducted research on the health effects of neo-liberalism in Latin America.

The call for abstracts is now open. Individuals who are interested in submitting an abstract may focus on the following areas: conceptualizing social justice; environmental justice; health care availability and access; health status of disadvantaged populations; international perspectives on urban health; interventions to improve the health of urban communities; models of community-based participatory research; and policies promoting social justice. Accepted abstracts will be published in an upcoming supplemental issue of the *Journal of Urban Health*. Abstract submission guidelines are available at www.crich.ca/isuhconference2005/cal.lasp. **The deadline for submitting an abstract is July 29, 2005.**

Interested conference attendees may also submit proposals for a 90-minute workshop or panel presentation on innovative urban health research projects, including national and international community-based participatory research collaborations. Interdisciplinary teams of community-based organizations and academic researchers are strongly encouraged to apply by submitting a proposal to ICUH@crich.ca. Workshop presenters should aim to enhance participants' skills and knowledge of conducting community-based participatory research in their own communities. Proposal submission guidelines are available at www.crich.ca/isuhconference2005/cal.lasp. **The deadline for submitting a workshop or panel presentation is July 29, 2005.**

Scholarships are also available to students actively enrolled in an educational program; representatives of private, not for profit, community organizations; and individuals from developing countries. As there are a limited number of scholarships, priority will be given to applicants presenting original work at the conference. **The deadline for submitting an application is August 26, 2005.**

Pre-conference workshops are being scheduled on a variety of topics including: Addressing Urban Health Needs: Toronto Public Health Practice Framework; Ethical Challenges in Research with Marginalized Populations; How to Understand and Conduct Research on Homelessness: A Practical Guide; Introduction to Urban Health; Introductory Health Economics: An Urban Health Perspective; Learning the Research Talk: Introduction to Research Methods, Concepts and Jargon; The Politics of the Social Determinants of Health; Using Distance and Travel Time to Measure Access to Health Care and Resources for Healthy Living in Urban Neighborhoods; What's All This Talk About Community-Based Participatory Research? Building Sustainable Capacities for Urban Health Research Partnerships.

Discounted registration rates are available for students actively enrolled in an educational program, and representatives of private not for profit community organizations, and for members of the ISUH. Discounted registration rates *and* ISUH membership fees are available to all who complete an application to become a new ISUH member when they register for the conference.

To find out more about the conference or to register, visit www.crich.ca/isuhconference2005. Interested individuals can also be added to the conference mailing list to receive regular updates. ■

ISUH SEEKS ABSTRACT REVIEWERS FOR 4th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON URBAN HEALTH

Reviewers play an important role in the success of a conference as they help determine the content and quality of the presentations and posters. Conference organizers are seeking reviewers who are available from August 1-12, 2005.

The review process is fully automated and can be completed online. Each reviewer will receive no more than 15 abstracts. Each abstract is approximately 400 words

in length. Abstract topic areas include: conceptualizing and measuring social justice; environmental justice; health care availability and access; health status of disadvantaged populations; international perspectives on urban health; interventions to improve the health of urban communities; models of community-based participatory research; and policies promoting social justice.

If you are interested and available during the first two weeks in August,

please contact Kathleen Campbell at campbellk@smh.toronto.on.ca with the following information: name; phone number; email address; topic areas you are interested in reviewing; and your experience with community based participatory research. Thank you for your interest in the 4th International Conference on Urban Health and we look forward to hearing from you soon. ■

A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE ON URBAN HEALTH

Every month the International Society for Urban Health compiles and distributes abstracts on current research related to urban health. Recent editions have focused on the global environment, urbanization,

neighborhood inequalities, and urban health disparities. To join the distribution list, please send a message to mailsrv.ichru.ca. In the body of the email (not in the subject line), please type “subscribe isuh YOUR NAME.”

You should receive an automatic confirmation of your subscription to the listserv. Recent editions are also available online at <http://isuh.org/resources/resources.html#lit>. ■

International Society for Urban Health

HANDBOOK OF URBAN HEALTH NOW AVAILABLE

We are pleased to announce the recent publication of the Handbook of Urban Health: Populations, Methods, and Practice, edited by Dr. Sandro Galea and Dr. David Vlahov. The book explores the ways in which cities and city living affect population health.

More than 40 experts from around the world and from diverse disciplines present chapters discussing the health of specific urban populations. The book also addresses methods relevant to the study of urban health, and practical strategies for building health cities.

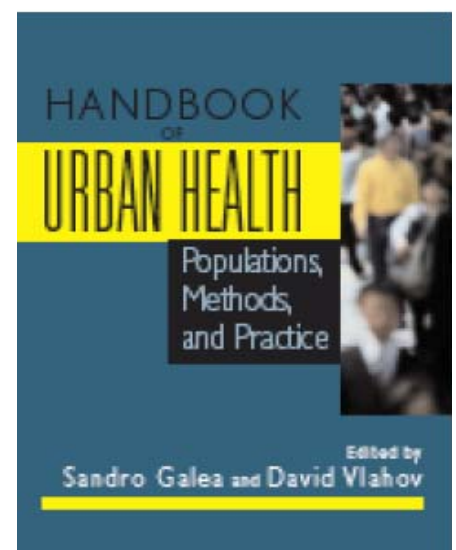
Some of the chapters: Homeless People; Sexual Minority Groups and Urban Health; The Health of Urban Populations in Developing Countries; Health Services Research in the City; Providing Health Services in Marginalized Populations; and Urban Sociology and Research Methods on Neighborhoods and Health. The

book also contains international perspectives from developing countries and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Dr. Galea and Dr. Vlahov are founding members of the International Society for Urban Health (ISUH). The idea for the book grew from discussions that took place at the Second International Conference on Urban Health held in New York City in October 2003, sponsored by the ISUH. The conference, now in its fourth year, will be hosted by the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Canada, from October 26-28, 2005.

A unique professional idea book, research resource, and teaching text, the Handbook of Urban Health challenges readers to consider the role that cities play in shaping population health and to generate solutions that can make cities healthier places for

all those who live there. For more information on the book or to order a copy, visit http://www.isuh.org/download/Handbook_of_Urban_Health.pdf ■



Profile

ANA GUILHERMINA REIS

Ana Guilhermina Reis is an occupational therapist who works with the Assistance in Health program at the Banco Central do Brasil in Porto Alegre. Ana is responsible for analyzing the activities of the Family Health Teams, a group of individuals responsible for the health and well-being of bank employees and their families. This work is primarily influenced by the work of Dr. Barbara Starfield, a public health researcher interested in the effectiveness and equity of international health services.

From 2004-2005, Ana was an urban health researcher at the Luterana University of Brazil where she received her Master's Degree in Collective Health. Her research focused on the mental health and quality of life of public health professors.

From 2000-2002, Ana expanded her research training by enrolling in the School of Public Health of the Rio Grande do Sul, Collective Mental Health and Management and Planning Program. While enrolled in the program, Ana became part of a group of researchers measuring the health

and quality of life of people in the state of the Rio Grande do Sul using the World Health Organization Quality of Life – Brief (WHOQOL-BRIEF). During this time, Ana's research focused on the Psychiatric Hospital.

From 1995-1999 Ana worked as an occupational therapist and specialist in urban mental health at the university's Clinic in Mental Health of the University Foundation Mario Martins. The clinic is named after Mario Martins, a pioneer of the psychoanalytic movement and the first officially trained psychoanalyst in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

The clinic is composed of a multidisciplinary team of clinicians, researchers, and public health professionals, and offers a specialized program in mental health for adolescents and adults, and their families. Some of the clinic's services include access to a primary health services clinic, psychoactive substance abuse treatment, individual and family therapy, and accommodations. From 1996-1999, Ana's research focused on health promotion and



education activities to help prevent the spread of illness among children and adolescents in vulnerable communities. The goal of this work was to gain knowledge on the normal and pathological development of children and adolescents. The clinic's approach stems from the work of Dr. Thomas Berry Brazelton, a researcher whose areas of interest include urban mental health and quality of life.

Through her role as a health analyst, Ana is currently working on developing and studying interventions to improve access to and satisfaction with health care services among bank employees. Ana's work is rooted in the goals of the ISUH – to improve the health of urban populations. ■

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE *JOURNAL OF URBAN HEALTH*



The *Journal of Urban Health* is a quarterly- peer-reviewed national journal and is the official journal of the International Society for Urban Health (ISUH). A hard-copy

subscription to the *Journal* is included with membership to ISUH. For more information on ISUH membership, see page 6 of this issue of ISUH Connections.

The June 2005 issue of the *Journal of Urban Health* includes various topic articles ranging from racial disparities in air conditioning prevalence, child and adolescent health, and diverse aspects of substance abuse. Additionally, accompanying the regular issue are two supplements.

The first supplement is a compilation of submitted abstracts that were awarded oral or poster presentations at the 3rd International Conference on Urban Health held in Boston, MA, in 2004.

Also included in the issue is an original paper on community-based research partnerships authored by plenary speaker Meredith Minkler, Professor of Health and Social Behavior, School of Public Health, University of California at Berkeley. The second supplement is on the methodological challenges in conducting health disparities research and was guest-edited by Dionne J. Jones, PhD, and Aria Davis Crump, ScD, of the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

For more information on the *Journal of Urban Health*, its content, submission information, and subscription and reprint details, please visit <http://jurban.oupjournals.org/>. ■

MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR URBAN HEALTH

The International Society for Urban Health (ISUH) is an association of researchers, scholars, and professionals from various disciplines and areas of the world who study the health effects of urban environments and urbanization.

The goals of the ISUH are to encourage research, interventions, and program evaluations that lead to healthier cities in the twenty-first century. Our aim is to facilitate the exchange of perspectives on the study of diseases in urban areas, to study the effects of urbanization on health, and to evaluate and help develop programs that promote the

well being of people living in urban areas.

Membership is open to anyone interested in the health of urban populations. The annual membership fee is US\$150 (US\$100 for students). Membership in ISUH includes a valuable subscription to the Journal of Urban Health.

The Journal of Urban Health has a unique focus on the emerging field of urban health and epidemiology from both clinical and policy perspectives, thus filling a previously neglected niche in the literature. The Journal, which is published quarterly, addresses health issues such as substance abuse, teenage

To become a member of the ISUH, submit your application online at www.isuh.org, or complete the application form on page 6. ■



International Society for Urban Health

NOTICES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

HOPE 2005: 3rd International Conference

November 3-5, 2005, Mumbai, India. Hope 2005 is the 3rd International Conference organized by the Drug Abuse Information Rehabilitation and Research Centre (DAIRRC), in association with the Ministry of Health, Government of India. The conference will examine 5 main issues: HIV/AIDS, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Human Rights, Environment, and Population and Sustainable Development. Topics for scientific sessions include: (1) global disparities in reproductive health/fertility trends; (2) ethnic dimensions in drug and HIV/AIDS issues; (3) epidemiological research on alcohol; (4) adequate housing and income distribution; and (5) the role of the corporate sector and the effect of globalization on natural resources. The deadline for abstract submission is July 31, 2005. For a copy of the conference program or to register, please visit <http://internationalconference2005.com/hope2005/india/index.html> ■

American Public Health Association: 133rd Annual Meeting and Exposition

November 5-9, 2005, New Orleans, Louisiana. The American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting is the premier platform to discover best practices and learn from leaders, colleagues, and peers from the world of public health. The theme for this year's conference is "Evidence-Based Policy and Practice." The conference program will include a Public Health Expo, Career-Mart, poster and paper sessions, Continuing Education Institutes, and Essential/Learning Sessions. Special sessions will explore the processes of systematically finding, appraising, and using scientific research. Policy makers and program developers will be provided with a better understanding of the science, ensuring that policy and program decisions are based on the best information currently available. Further information on the conference and the APHA can be found at www.apha.org/meetings ■

West African Health Summit: Expo 2005

September 27-29, 2005, Lagos, Nigeria. The West African Health Summit is the premier gathering of health care professionals across the world in Nigeria. The expo is sponsored by the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), and the National Assembly – Committee on Health and the Federal Ministry of Health in Nigeria. Some of the key themes that will be discussed include: infection control; corporate health care; HIV/AIDS prevalence in Africa; telemedicine, radiology and IT in health care medicine; health financing; and professional development in the health industry. The expo will also feature the latest in medical technology and equipment, pharmaceutical products, surgical products and devices, diagnostics and medical suppliers, as well as medical service providers. For exhibition enquiries, please contact Solomon by phone at 234-8023537519 or 234-1-4714155, or by email at globalrpi@yahoo.com ■

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Membership Application Form – Third Quarter

LAST NAME **FIRST NAME** **M.I.** **DEGREE**

POSITION/TITLE

ORGANIZATION **DEPT.**

STREET ADDRESS

CITY **STATE** **ZIP CODE** **COUNTRY**

EMAIL **PHONE** (please specify: ____ home ____ work ____ cell)

Our membership cycle is based on the calendar year. Please note: you may join at a prorated rate for either the remainder of 2005 (option A) or for the remainder of 2005 and all of 2006 inclusive (option B). All rates are in USD.

Amount enclosed:

Type of Membership	Option A (through 12/05)	Option B (through 12/06)
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225
Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
NYAM Fellow	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
Full-time Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75
Employee of Community-Based Org	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75
Resident of Developing Country	<input type="checkbox"/> \$7.50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$22.50

Payment type:

Check (Please make checks payable to New York Academy of Medicine and enclose check with this form)

Credit Card:

MasterCard Visa

Account number _____ Expiration date _____

How did you learn about ISUH?

Colleague

International Conference on Urban Health

Journal of Urban Health

Other (please specify: _____)