



ISUH Connections

The Newsletter of the
International Society for Urban Health
Number 8 • November 2006

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.

CONTENTS

- 1 The 5th International Conference on Urban Health (ICUH) in Review
- 3 President Profile: Dr. Anita Palepu
- 3 Highlights from the Journal of Urban Health
- 4 HIV/AIDS Knowledge Translation in West Cameroon
- 4 Global Attendance at the International Conference on Urban Health
- 5 Call for Applications: CIHR Strategic Training Program in the Health of Marginalized Populations
- 6 Globalization and Health
- 6 Notices and Events
- 7 ISUH Membership Form

The 5th International Conference on Urban Health in Review

POPULATION MOBILITY AND ITS EFFECT ON URBAN HEALTH

Luisa Frescura, St. Michael's Hospital



The 2006 International Conference on Urban Health held in Amsterdam was a great success.

The 5th International Conference on Urban Health, hosted by Municipal Health Service of Amsterdam, was held in Amsterdam from October 25-28th, 2006. This year's theme was "Population mobility and its effect on urban health", reflecting the need to understand the challenges posed by rapid migration to urban settings.

The conference was attended by over 400 delegates from 44 different countries ranging from the United States and Canada, to Nepal and Saudi Arabia. This year—thanks to a grant received from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation—28 scholars from developing countries who had an abstract accepted for oral or poster

presentation received international scholarships to attend the conference. The subject areas highlighted were: health and its determinants in multicultural urban populations, health care demand and need in multicultural populations, health promotion in the city, science and politics, health promotion and the community, the urban physical/social environment and health, and urban disasters.

The conference included nine side visits to local centers delivering health services, a keynote lecture, seven plenary speakers, one debate, fourteen workshops, ten oral sessions, and two poster sessions. About 260 abstracts

Continued on page 2

The 5th International Conference on Urban Health in Review

Continued from page 1

The International Society for Urban Health

Communications Committee

Stephen Hwang	Toronto
Wale Alabi	Lagos
Vivek S. Agrawal	Jaipur
Irina Campbell	New York
Jenifer Cartland	Chicago
Marilyn A. DeLuca	New York
Anthony J. DeLucia	Johnson City
Randall Freeman	Baltimore
Sandro Galea	Ann Arbor
Evie Gogosis	Toronto
Sara Putnam	New York
Anita Palepu	Vancouver
Maxine L. Rockoff	New York
Katherine Rouleau	Toronto
Altaf H. Sarker	Dhaka
Tania Xerri	Toronto

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 Andrew Quinn at aquinn@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.



Delegates had an opportunity to speak with colleagues and attend the oral and poster sessions to learn more about the innovative urban health initiatives.

were presented in all.

At the opening ceremony, delegates were warmly welcomed by the conference president, Dr. Arnoud Verhoeff, the Mayor of Amsterdam, Job Cohen, and co-founder of the International Society for Urban Health, Dr. David Vlahov. The keynote lecture was delivered by Dr. Agis Tsouros from the World Health Organization.

The plenary speakers focused on the following themes: Health and its determinants of multicultural urban population, presented by Dr. Gouke Bonsel of the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam; Epidemiology and control of infectious diseases presented by Dr. Roel Coutinho from the Centre for Infectious Disease Control (The Netherlands); Migration as a determinant of health in urban multicultural populations by Dr. Manuel Carballo from the International Centre for Migration and Health (Switzerland); Health care demands and needs for public mental health presented by Dr. Lloyd Sederer from the City of New York (USA); Improving the health of urban multicultural populations

presented by Dr. David Vlahov from the New York Academy of Medicine (USA); The Urban environment and health by Dr. John Spengler of the Harvard School of Public Health; and Urban Politics and Health presented by Sue Atkinson from University College London (UK).

Next year, the 6th International Conference on Urban Health will be held in Baltimore (USA) from October 31st -November 2nd, 2007. The theme of this conference will be "Harnessing the Power of Technology to Achieve Behavior Change and Improve Urban Health". This theme will challenge attendees to consider how technology influences health behaviors and outcomes and will stimulate discussion regarding the role of technology in attempting to address racial and ethnic disparities in the urban environment. Abstract submissions will open in December 2006 and registrations will be accepted online beginning in April 2007. For further information on next year's conference please visit: <http://www.icuh2007.com>. ■

President Profile

Anita Palepu

Anita Palepu is an Associate Professor, Division of Internal Medicine at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. As an Internal Medicine specialist at St. Paul's Hospital, which is an inner-city tertiary care centre, her research has been informed by the health and social problems prevalent in the patient population the hospital serves.

The foundation of her work has been building collaborative relationships with researchers locally and abroad. She conducts her work at the Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences (<http://www.cheos.ubc.ca>) with many colleagues at the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (<http://www.cfenet.ubc.ca>). Her research focuses on access to care, health care utilization and health status of vulnerable populations such as injection drug users and sex-trade workers at risk for HIV infection.

Her work has addressed the barriers to accessing and sustaining antiretroviral therapy in HIV-infected injection drug users, and issues that relate to reducing drug-related harm. She also collaborates with researchers at Boston University Section of General Internal Medicine Clinical Addiction Research and Education unit

(<http://www.bumc.bu.edu/Dept/Ho.me.aspx?DepartmentID=487>) to study the effect of substance abuse treatment on health care utilization, antiretroviral therapy uptake and adherence among HIV-infected persons with alcohol problems. She has been fortunate to be part of a network of Canadian researchers, led by Dr. Stephen Hwang at the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St Michael's Hospital (<http://www.crich.ca>), examining issues pertaining to housing, homelessness and health. She is



increasingly interested in examining the social determinants of health and the socioeconomic production of “risk factors” among urban disadvantaged populations and has a lot to learn from Past-President, Pat O’Campo. She has also been working on the development of an independent, open access, general medical journal with many of the former editors of the Canadian Medical Association Journal who resigned over editorial interference. The new journal is called Open Medicine and is available at <http://www.openmedicine.ca>. ■

Highlights from the Journal of Urban Health



The September issue of the *Journal of Urban Health* contains fascinating and ground breaking studies on a variety of urban health issues.

In a new survey of noise levels of the New York City transit system, researchers at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health found that exposure to noise levels in subways have the potential to exceed recommended guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). According to the research, as little as 30 minutes of

exposure to decibel levels measured in the New York City transit system per day has the potential to result in hearing loss.

In the first rigorous study of the prevalence of sexual victimization within a state prison system, researchers found that sexual assault is rare but present and that women are more likely to be victimized than men. Researchers invited 89 percent of the inmates from the 13 adult male prisons and one adult female prison in New Jersey to participate in the study; approximately 39 percent, or 7,528, accepted. The survey was carried out using an audio computer-administered self-interview system (Audio-CASI), considered the most reliable method of eliciting information about potentially stigmatizing behavior. Inmates were asked questions meant to deduce rates of **nonconsensual sexual acts** (forced sex acts) as well as **abusive sexual contact** (intentional touching). Previous studies of this nature have been much less

comprehensive, focusing on a single prison and/or less than 15 percent of the inmate population.

This issue also features articles on gun control, drug use, the effects of neighborhood communities, and other new urban health topics.

The *Journal of Urban Health* is the official journal of the ISUH and is published bi-monthly by Springer. The new website for the *Journal* is www.springeronline.com/journal/11524. With Springer, ISUH now offers current members not only a print subscription to the Journal of Urban Health, but also free online access to current and archived issues of the *Journal of Urban Health*, *Journal of Community Health*, and *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health* via the “members-only” section of resources page of the www.isuh.org website. Members who do not have the login and password should contact ISUH Coordinator, Andrew Quinn, at aquinn@nyam.org for login information. ■

Initiative Profile

HIV/AIDS KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION IN WEST CAMEROON

Andrew Smith, Melissa Schurter, and Milvi Tiislar, Doctor of Medicine Candidates, University of Toronto

Dschang is a bustling university city located in the West Province of Cameroon. It is the capital of the division of Ménéoua with an estimated population of 80 000. When Cameroon was handed over to the French in 1920, Dschang was declared the capital of the West Province, a title now held by Bafoussam, and was developed as a mountain tourist resort.

In July 2006, three medical students from the University of Toronto traveled to Dschang to continue a primary health project initiated by University of Toronto medical students of the graduating class of 2006. This project was coordinated with a local non-governmental organization (NGO) named PIPAD. PIPAD, or *Projet Intégré Pour l'Auto-Développement*, is a Cameroonian-based NGO that promotes self-development among the rural disadvantaged people in the West

Province of Cameroon. PIPAD's mandate is to promote sustainable self-development by making Cameroonians the actors and initiators of their own development.

Since 1998, PIPAD has focused its efforts on health promotion and education in the realm of clean water, sanitation, hygiene, and health. The primary objective of this trip was to maintain and foster the link between PIPAD and medical students at the University of Toronto. During the five weeks in Dschang, the primary health project focused on HIV/AIDS education and awareness in the rural villages within the division of Ménéoua.

Knowledge translation sessions were coordinated with community health workers who were familiar with the villages visited. These interactive sessions involved didactic teaching by the community health worker who was provided with HIV/AIDS educational manuals, the presentation

of skits emphasizing the facts and myths of HIV/AIDS transmission, the opportunity for a member of an HIV/AIDS support group based in Dschang to speak to members of the village about their experiences with the infection, and the sale of condoms at a nominal cost at the conclusion of the sessions.

Continued commitment to PIPAD and the villages of the division of Ménéoua include the construction of a potable water delivery system to supply several villages and a public school with no current access to clean water, on-going funding for the construction of latrines in the participating villages, and on-going funding and condoms for the HIV/AIDS prevention program. For more information regarding these specific projects, please contact ap.smith@utoronto.ca. For more information on PIPAD, please visit <http://www.pipad.org>. ■

International Conference on Urban Health (ICUH) Global Attendance at the ICUH

Despite its youth, the International Conference on Urban Health (ICUH) has already begun attracting a large international audience. Attendees from Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America, and Australia have flocked to the annual conference to associate with and learn from other

professionals, researchers, front-line workers, advocates, and scholars in the field of urban health.

Attendance at the conference has dramatically increased over the years. In 2002, 355 delegates attended the conference, and in 2005, 512 delegates attended. This year's conference held

in Amsterdam attracted 424 delegates from around the world.

Global attendance at the conference has also significantly increased from 6 delegates in 2002 to 93 delegates in 2005. Congratulations to all of the conference organizers for making each year's conference a success! ■



CCPH 10th Anniversary Conference
April 11-14, 2007 ■ Toronto, ON Canada

Mobilizing Partnerships for Social Change

Call for Exhibitors and Cosponsors

For more information, visit

<http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/conf-overview.html>

**CIHR Strategic Training Program
In the Transdisciplinary Approach to the Health of Marginalized Populations
An Integrated Training Program in Health and Social Science Research**

Call for Applications 2007/2008

**Centre for Research on Inner City Health (CRICH) of St. Michael's Hospital
Institute of Clinical and Evaluative Sciences (ICES)
Public Health Sciences, University of Toronto**

Students and Fellows of all disciplines are invited to apply. This training program is part of the CIHR-STIHR (Strategic Training Initiative in Health Research).

The goal of the CIHR Strategic Training Program is to promote a new generation of health researchers in a transdisciplinary approach, using both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, to understanding the health of marginalized populations. The program aims to enable investigators-in-training to: 1) develop the knowledge, skills, and mentality needed to build their own research agenda designed to improve the health of marginalized groups; 2) reach beyond the boundaries of their own disciplines and methodologies in understanding and interpreting their research; 3) translate their findings to researchers, clinicians, policy makers, community partners, and other stakeholders.

Applications due: November 15, 2006

Studentships

- Eligibility – must be enrolled in an MSc or PhD program at a Canadian university.
- A major focus of research must be on marginalized populations.
- \$20,000 per year.
- One (1) year of funding, with the possibility of extending to two years.

Fellowships

- Eligibility – must hold either an MD or PhD and must be within five years of completion of most recent degree.
- \$40,000 per year for PhD.
- \$40,000 per year for MD with 0-2 years experience.
- \$50,000 per year for MD with > 2 years of experience.
- One (1) year of funding, with the possibility of extending to two years.

Applications

Required elements to include: covering letter, at least 3 references, research description, CV, writing sample, and transcripts (including undergraduate work).

Applications or inquiries may be directed to:

**Directors, CIHR Strategic Training Program in the Transdisciplinary Approach to the Health of Marginalized Populations
C/O Brigette Williams
Center for Research on Inner City Health
St. Michael's Hospital
30 Bond Street
Toronto, ON M5B 1W8
Tel: 416-864-6060 x2528
Fax: 416-864-5485
Email: WilliamsBr@smh.toronto.on.ca**

New Journal on the Effects of Globalization on Health

Globalization and Health

“Globalization and Health” is a new open access, peer-reviewed and indexed journal that considers the positive and negative influences of globalization on health. The journal provides a platform for research, knowledge sharing and debate on the topic of globalization and its effects on health.

Globalization essentially refers to economic, political, social and technological processes, which transcend the geopolitical boundaries of the nation-state and have resulted in increased interconnectedness of the world. As a process, globalization is being driven by liberalisation of markets and technological advancements. In essence, it is about human proximity – people are now living in each other’s metaphorical pockets.

Globalization has enormous

implications in terms of healthcare systems and decision-making processes, and is represented by an increasing number of scientific publications on the topic. However, until recently, there has been no dedicated outlet for publication on this topic.

Some examples of how globalization affects health include: SARS virus and its spread; the tobacco industry; Western eating habits and their associated health implications being adopted all over the world; drug discovery and intellectual property rights; and multilateral trade agreements and their effects on health.

The journal will examine market liberalization, the changing role of nation-state, supra-national structures, poverty and equality, the changing distribution of communicable and non-communicable diseases and the

risk factors associated with these diseases, and the growing awareness of our collective responsibility for one another.

The journal will consider the following types of articles: original research; book reviews and summaries of the strengths and weaknesses of a book; commentaries and opinionated articles on a subject within the journal’s scope; debate articles that present an argument that is not essentially based on practical research; reviews and comprehensive, authoritative descriptions of any subject within the scope of the journal; and short reports of data from original research. Manuscripts can be submitted electronically.

For more information on the journal or to submit a manuscript, visit <http://www.globalizationandhealth.com> ■

International Society for Urban Health

NOTICES AND EVENTS

34th International Conference on Global Health

May 29-June 1, 2007, Washington, DC, USA

Unite with 2,000 international colleagues to build and strengthen the partnerships essential in improving the health of the world. This year’s conference is dedicated to partnerships; how they are built; what they have and can deliver; and how those living in poverty and disease can best benefit. These joint efforts are means to a common end: to tackle and find solutions to complex health problems at all levels, and in so doing, improve the health of the world. Some of the key health issues that will be addressed include child health/survival, adolescent health, women’s health, HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and other infectious diseases, disaster and refugee health. For more information on the conference, visit <http://www.globalhealth.org/conference/> ■

Assistant Professor/Instructor, Division of Health Policy, Department of Public Health Weill Medical College of Cornell University, New York City

We are seeking faculty members who plan on careers in externally-funded, clinically-oriented health policy research in an academic medical center environment. We are especially interested in recruiting new faculty with interests in urban health and health disparities, global health, and medical technology assessment, but all fields will be considered. Successful candidates will have received a doctorate in health services research, economics, decision science, public health or a related field by July 1, 2007. Interested candidates should send a letter of application including a statement of research and policy interests, a curriculum vitae, and names and contact information of three professional references to: Bruce

R. Schackman, Chief, Division of Health Policy, Department of Public Health, Weill Medical College of Cornell University, 411 East 69th Street, New York, NY 10021, brs2006@med.cornell.edu. ■

5th International Symposium on the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook

November 22-26, 2006, Ben Tre, Vietnam

Join delegates from around the world as they discuss their firsthand experiences with the “Maternal and Child Health Handbook: Ensuring the Quality of Health Care of Mothers and Children”. Aside from the plenary sessions, delegates will have an opportunity to visit the Nguyen Dinh Chien Hospital’s Maternal and Child Health Program located in Ben Tre Province. For more information or to register for the event, visit <http://volunteer.hus.osaka-u.ac.jp/mch5/index.htm>. ■



The International Society for Urban Health

New York Academy of Medicine

1216 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10029

T: 212.822.7387 ♦ www.isuh.org ♦ F: 212.876.6220

New Individual Membership Application

Rates good for applying in November and December 2006. If form has expired, see:

http://www.isuh.org/membership/membership_home.html

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	M.I.	DEGREE
POSITION/TITLE			
ORGANIZATION		DEPT.	
STREET ADDRESS (please specify: _____ home _____ work)			
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
EMAIL	PHONE (please specify: _____ home _____ work _____ cell)		

Our membership cycle is based on the calendar year. All rates are in USD.

Amount enclosed:

Type of Membership	Dues (through 12/07)
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
NYAM Fellow	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Full-time Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
Employee of Community-Based Org	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
Resident of Developing Country	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15

Payment type:

- Check (Please make checks payable to New York Academy of Medicine and enclose check with this form)
- Credit Card: MasterCard Visa
Name on card _____ Expiration date _____ Account number _____

How did you learn about ISUH?

- Colleague
- International Conference on Urban Health
- Journal of Urban Health
- Other (please specify: _____)

Please complete and return this form with your payment to:
Andrew Quinn, ISUH Coordinator, New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 5th Ave., New York NY 10029