



ISUH Connections

The Newsletter of the
International Society for Urban Health
Number 5 • December 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.

CONTENTS

- 1 The 4th International Conference on Urban Health
- 2 Community Campus Partnerships for Health 9th Annual Conference: The Promise of Authentic Partnerships
- 3 The 5th International Conference on Urban Health: Amsterdam, October 25-28, 2006
- 4 Profile: Howard Frumkin
- 4 Highlights from the Journal of Urban Health
- 5 A Word from our Executive Board
- 5 Notices & Events
- 6 ISUH Membership Form

The 4th International Conference on Urban Health in Review

ACHIEVING SOCIAL JUSTICE IN URBAN COMMUNITIES

Stephen Hwang



More than 500 delegates from various countries attended the conference

The 4th International Conference on Urban Health, which took place in Toronto from October 26-28, 2005, was an extremely successful and enjoyable event. More than 550 delegates attended the conference, which was hosted by the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital. Reflecting the global scope of urban health, about one-fourth of attendees came from outside North America, representing 32 countries from Albania to Zaire. The theme of the conference was "Achieving Social Justice in Urban Communities," and throughout the event, strong emphasis was placed on addressing the interests and concerns of both academic researchers and

community members. A total of 375 abstracts were presented at four breakout sessions and three poster sessions, and more than one-third of submitted abstracts were under the category of community-based research.

A new feature of the conference was a well-received series of 10 pre-conference workshops that offered attendees the opportunity to learn and share perspectives on focused topics such as ethical challenges in research with marginalized populations, the politics of the social determinants of health, and building capacity for community-based participatory research. Immediately afterwards, a

continued on page 3

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 | New York |
| 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 Sarah Putnam at sputnam@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.

COMMUNITY-CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS FOR HEALTH 9th ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON ACHIEVING AUTHENTIC PARTNERSHIPS

Sarah Flicker & Sarena Seifer

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) is proud to host their 9th Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota from May 31 – June 3, 2006. The theme for this year's conference is 'Walking the Talk: Achieving the Promise of Authentic Partnerships.' CCPH is a nonprofit organization that promotes health through partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions. Founded in 1996, CCPH is a growing network of over 1000 communities and campuses in North America and the world that are collaborating to promote health through service-learning, community-based participatory research, broad-based coalitions and other partnership strategies.

These partnerships represent powerful tools for improving health professional education, civic engagement and the overall health of communities. In the last decade alone, funding agencies have invested over a billion dollars in such partnerships, including more than a dozen multi-site initiatives that employ community-campus partnerships as a change strategy.

Increasingly, partnerships are being recommended by national bodies and pursued by funding agencies for achieving a wide range of significant outcomes, including: eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities; increasing health workforce diversity; closing the achievement gap in K-12 education; increasing access to health care services; developing youth civic engagement; and increasing the relevance of research.

CCPH conferences are noted for their emphasis on inclusion, experiential learning and subsequent action. Outcomes of past CCPH conferences have included national level outcomes such as principles of good practice and policy recommendations. Community level outcomes include developing new relationships and connections, new ways of thinking and relationships between communities and campuses that come closer to the principle-centered partnerships we are striving to achieve.

With the remarkable expansion and interest in community-campus partnerships, the CCPH believes that the time is right to take a critical look at these partnerships in all of their iterations and discover answers to some key questions including: How do we share resources and balance power between partners? How do we build community and campus capacity to engage in partnerships? How do we create healthier communities through partnerships? What are some of the barriers and challenges faced by communities and campuses? The conference promises to address these questions and more in order to create a vision for the future of community-campus partnerships as a strategy for social justice.

This year's pre-conference sessions will focus on the following areas: engaging campuses as authentic partners; the essentials of service-learning partnerships; community-based participatory research: developing and sustaining partnerships; practical guidance for authors writing about community-based participatory research; making your best case for promotion and tenure for community-engaged faculty members; and community-campus partnerships and rural health workforce development.

The deadline for early bird conference registration is April 13, 2006. We look forward to seeing you there. For more information about the conference and to register, visit us online at <http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/conf-registration.html> ■



The 5th International Conference on Urban Health (ICUH): Amsterdam, October 25 – 28, 2006

Maria F. Oud

The annual meeting of the International Society for Urban Health (ISUH) has become the leading international forum for the discussion of issues relating to urban health.

This conference provides ample opportunity for researchers, practitioners, community members, and policy makers to present leading-edge research and reviews relating to urban health and to discuss the translation of research into practice and policy.

The past conferences have had increasing international attendance and representation from a wide variety of research disciplines. This year's conference theme is population mobility and its effect on urban health. The conference theme will have a special interest in the consequences of migration on health and health care in urban settings.

The conference will consist of plenary lectures, symposia, workshops and poster sessions providing an

opportunity for education and discussion on the latest information relevant to all aspects on urban health.

Oral presentations and posters will be selected from abstracts submitted. Detailed information on abstract submission, registration, scholarships, and CME accreditation can be found on the website: www.icuh2006.com. You can have your name added to our mailing list and receive conference updates. ■

THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON URBAN HEALTH IN REVIEW

Continued from page 1

welcome reception gave all delegates a chance to mix, mingle, and view research posters. Delegates were warmly welcomed by the president of ISUH, Dr. David Vlahov, and by the ISUH president-elect, Dr. Patricia O'Campo.

The first full day of the conference was kicked off by a keynote address by Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Director General of the World Health Organization and former Prime Minister of Norway. Dr. Brundtland's talk highlighted the HIV epidemic and other global public health challenges that face nations around the world, and the need to address these challenges in order to achieve stability and development. Other notable plenary speakers included Loretta Jones, founder and executive director of Healthy African-American Families, who inspired the audience with her perspectives on organizing communities to achieve better health.

Dr. Richard Lessard, Director of Public Health for the Montreal Regional Health and Social Services Board, shared his important insights as a public health leader who had advocated for social interventions and policy change to improve the health of disadvantaged urban residents. Through a video-link, Francisco Armada, Minister of the Department of Health and Social Development, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, gave an outline of his government's efforts to provide the most disadvantaged members of Venezuelan society with access to healthcare.

As in previous years, the most outstanding student presentations were honored. Awards for best posters were given to Farah Mawani for her work on "Measurement of Socioeconomic Status of Immigrants to Canada" and to Poonam Kandel for her work on "Urban Health in

Kathmandu, Nepal: A Review of Innovative and Effective Programs." The award recipients for oral presentations were Julie Beaulac for her talk on "Food Deserts: Do Food Deserts Exist in More Disadvantaged Communities and How Are They Studied?" and Nina Boulus for her talk on "Making Things Work: On Being an Academic Researcher Working with a Community Partner."

As the host of the 4th International Conference on Urban Health, the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital wishes to thank all of you who attended the conference and contributed to making the conference such a spectacular success. We look forward to seeing everyone in Amsterdam on October 25-28, 2006, at the 5th International Conference on Urban Health! For more information on next year's conference, please visit www.icuh2006.com. ■



HOWARD FRUMKIN

In September 2005, Howard Frumkin joined the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as Director of the National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry (NCEH/ATSDR). With a background in clinical medicine, environmental and occupational health, and epidemiology, Dr. Frumkin is a leader in public health and environmental health innovation and strives to more firmly integrate space and place concepts into mainstream thinking in these fields.

In his role as Director of NCEH/ATSDR, Dr. Frumkin aligns the work of his department with twenty-one new CDC goals, seven of which fall under the category of 'healthy places', by identifying and pursuing key partnerships with elected officials, architects, urban planners, and like-minded organizations such as ISUH, as well as understanding opportunities to encourage community approaches to design/building and fill in existing data gaps. Dr. Frumkin's work is part of an effort to expand environmental

health from a traditional approach concentrating on exposures to toxins to a perspective that recognizes design issues like transportation, housing, energy use and physical aspects as key elements of the field. He believes that 'upstream thinking' focusing on a health-promoting environment resonates well with the goals of environmental health.

Related, Dr. Frumkin currently serves on the Institute of Medicine Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, Research, and Medicine, a forum for thinking strategically on environmental health with an emphasis on the built environment. He helped found the Healthy Places Research Group, a monthly forum in Atlanta with participants from Emory, Georgia Tech, the CDC, other government agencies, and the private sector. This group shares research and practice ideas and serves as an incubator for collaborative projects. Dr. Frumkin serves on the Environmental Protection Agency's Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee where he helped originate an effort to focus on smart growth as



a means of promoting children's health; this perspective has become a part of the agency's principles.

Dr. Frumkin co-authored *Urban Sprawl and Public Health* (Island Press, 2004), an in-depth analysis of the health implications of sprawl. His recently published textbook, *Environmental Health: From Global to Local* (Jossey-Bass, 2005), contains a chapter on urbanization, written by ISUH founding members David Vlahov, PhD and Sandro Galea, MD, DrPH, as a deliberate effort to bring urban health into the mainstream of environmental health thinking. Dr. Frumkin hopes that students can learn more about urban health as an important component of environmental health studies. ■

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF URBAN HEALTH



The *Journal of Urban Health* is a peer-reviewed national journal and the official journal of the International Society for Urban Health (ISUH). A hardcopy subscription to the *Journal* is included with membership to the ISUH. For more information on

membership, see page 6 of this issue of ISUH Connections.

The abstract supplement for the 4th International Conference on Urban Health will appear with the upcoming December issue of the *Journal of Urban Health*. The December issue will feature various topic articles on issues such as violence, HIV, urban redevelopment, and drug use, as well as editorials on Hurricane Katrina and the subway bombings in London.

Beginning in January 2006, Springer will be the new publisher of the *Journal of Urban Health*. The *Journal* will move from a quarterly to a bimonthly publication. The January issue will include six papers on HIV to commemorate 25 years since the first reported case of HIV in the US. The papers were authored by members of

the New York Area HIV Research Centers Consortium, a group of 21 research organizations founded in 2002 in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut to advance multidisciplinary collaborations between HIV/AIDS researchers in the New York area.

Beginning in 2006, ISUH members will also have online access to past and present issues of the *Journal of Urban Health*, the *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health* and the *Journal of Community Health* at no additional fee.

For more information on the *Journal of Urban Health*, its content, submission information, and subscription and reprint details, please visit <http://www.springer.com/sgw/cda/fro/ntpage/0,11855,5-40467-70-79373664-0,00.html>. ■

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sara Putnam

President David Vlahov called to order the 2005 Annual Membership Meeting on October 28, 2005, at the 4th International Conference on Urban Health in Toronto, Canada. Dr. Vlahov introduced President-Elect, Dr. M. Chris Gibbons. Dr. Gibbons is an Assistant Professor in the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and in the Department of Health, Behavior and Society. He is the Associate Director of the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute (UHI), and Director of the Center for community Health Education, Advocacy and Leadership Training at Hopkins (HEALTH).

Dr. Vlahov also announced that Dr. Nicholas Freudenberg had won the Member-at-Large vote. Dr.

Freudenberg is a Distinguished Professor of Urban Public Health at Hunter College, City University of New York, and is co-editor with David Vlahov and Sandro Galea of the forthcoming volume *Cities and the Health of Populations* (Vanderbilt Press). Former President-Elect Dr. Patricia O'Campo became acting President. Dr. O'Campo is a Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto, and Director of the Center for Research on Inner City Health (CRICH) at St. Michael's Hospital. Representatives for the 2006 conference host in Amsterdam also introduced themselves.

Meeting attendees expressed an interest in ISUH members becoming

becoming more involved in conference planning activities. The board will continue to discuss this issue over the course of the upcoming year and report to the Executive Board at the 2006 Annual Meeting. Members who are interested in being involved in the ISUH and its related activities should contact the ISUH Coordinator, Sara Putnam, at sputnam@nyam.org.

The new publisher for the Journal of Urban Health, Springer, was also announced. More information on the Journal can be found on page 4 of this newsletter or by visiting www.isuh.org. Other items that were discussed included ISUH policies and procedures, and finances. ■

International Society for Urban Health

NOTICES AND EVENTS

FENNER CONFERENCE 2006 Urbanism, Environment & Health

May 25-26, 2006, Canberra, Australia. The many facets of the urban environment exert a multitude of positive and negative influences on wellbeing and health. The Fenner Conference will take a general approach to the increasingly relevant topic of the physical and social environments in Australian cities. The conference will bring together experts from academia, government, commerce and community organizations in the fields of environmental and urban health, public health, urban planning and design, and sustainable development. Planned sessions include: linking urban and individual influences on health; principles of sustainability and health; and policy, planning, and practice from the front-line. Further information can be found at <http://www-nceph.anu.edu.au/Fenner2006/index> or by email at Fenner2006@anu.edu.au. ■

17th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm

April 30-May 4, 2006, Vancouver, Canada. After 20 years of hard reduction research and programming, many questions still remain unanswered. The conference theme is HEAR + NOW: THE PEER CONFERENCE. PEER is an acronym for protection, empowerment, equality, and respect. The program will consist of academic and poster presentations, moderated debates, facilitated discussions, question and answer opportunities, and skill building sessions. There will be plenty of time to network with international peers and colleagues. Sessions will highlight programs and international harm reduction strategies, service needs and barriers, needle exchange programs, the needs of vulnerable populations, and effective health promotion measures. The deadline for early registration is January 30, 2006. Further information on the conference or registration can be found at <http://www.harmreduction2006.ca> ■

ISEqH 4th International Conference on Creating Healthy Societies

September 11-13, 2006, Adelaide, Australia. The International Society for Equity in Health (ISEqH) is an organization whose purpose is to promote equity in health and health services internationally through education, research, publication, communication and charitable support. This year's conference offers a unique opportunity for those with a common interest in equity and health. The theme for this year's conference is Creating Healthy Societies through Inclusion and Equity, a theme which reflects the central role of social, political, and economic determinants in creating health. The conference will focus on two new topics to encourage further discussion of research and evaluation: Aboriginal Health and Arts and Equity in Health. To submit an abstract, sign up for a conference workshop, or register for the conference, visit http://www.iseqh.org/conf2006_en.htm ■

