



Community and Behavioral Health Department Newsletter

*Volume 1, Issue 1
Summer 2003*

Inside this issue:

New Faculty	2
Prevention Research Center's CHAP	3
Prairielands ATTC	3
Center for Public Health Program Evaluation	3
Iowa Tobacco Research Center	3
Pfizer Fellowship	4
Alumni Report	4

Learn more about the Department of Community and Behavioral Health

- ♦ *Check for upcoming events and seminars on the department bulletin board, located outside room E233 GH*
- ♦ *For more information about the department or the college, please visit our website at*

www.public-health.uiowa.edu

Letter from the Head

Greetings!

It is with great pleasure that I present our inaugural department newsletter. During our first three years, we have achieved a number of accomplishments. We have grown from three to eleven primary faculty, from one to fifteen students, and have initiated four centers of research and practice. Our faculty are working with communities across the state of Iowa to address local public health concerns, as well as contributing to the national research agenda. We now offer a full range of degrees including the M.P.H., M.S., and Ph.D. The growth we have achieved since our founding was no small feat, and has involved the efforts and talents of many people. We are particularly proud of our students and alumni and look forward to recognizing their future accomplishments. Alums-please be sure to let us know about honors and recognitions that you receive so we can share the good news!

Cheers,
John B. Lowe, Dr.P.H., FAHPA, FAAHB
Professor and Head

CBH Offices Move to General Hospital

In December, the department moved out of Steindler Building, and into refurbished offices in the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. We are sorry to say Steindler is no more, but our new space provides a student commons, a student computer lab, and a department conference room for meetings and seminars. The department's new address is 200 Hawkins Dr., E 225 GH, Iowa City, Iowa 52242.



Educating the Future

In November, 2002, the Iowa Board of Regents gave the final stamp of approval to the creation of three new degree programs in community and behavioral health. The new degrees include a master of science program in community and behavioral health, a doctoral program in community and behavioral health, and a doctoral program in addiction studies.

We will welcome the first cohort of students for these new programs in the fall of 2003. Questions or requests for information about the new degree programs should be directed to Amy Engelmann, Graduate Program Coordinator, amy-engelmann@uiowa.edu, 319/384-5382.

Welcome New Faculty

The Department of Community and Behavioral Health would like to introduce our newest members



Assistant Professor N. Andrew Peterson, Ph.D.

Dr. Peterson joined us in August 2002, from Rutgers University in New Jersey, where he was an assistant professor in the School of Social Work, and research director for the Center for Social and Community Development. His research is in community organization and community empowerment. This year he is co-teaching Introduction to Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, next fall he will teach a new course, Community Development and Public Health.

Assistant Professor Shelly Campo, Ph.D.

Dr. Campo joined us this January, from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where she was an assistant professor in the Department of Communication. Dr. Campo is jointly appointed in the UI Department of Community and Behavioral Health and the Department of Communication Studies. Her research is in health communication and mass media campaigns. Next fall she will teach a new course, Persuasion and Health.



Visiting Assistant Professor Anne Baber Wallis, Ph.D.

Dr. Wallis joined us from Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore, Maryland, where she recently completed her Ph.D. in maternal health. Dr. Wallis has 15 years experience in Washington with policy analysis and evaluation research focused on national, state, and local health programs. This year she co-taught Evaluation I and Evaluation II. Dr. Wallis is also the assistant director of the Center for Public Health Program Evaluation in the Department of Community and Behavioral Health.

Department Research

Prairielands Addiction Technology Transfer Center

The mission of Prairielands Addiction Technology Transfer Center is to disseminate and enhance adoption of empirically supported assessment and treatment methods to its five state region: Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. The director of the PATTC is Anne Helene Skinstad, Ph.D. Regional coordinators are Kate Speck for Nebraska; Duane Mackey for South Dakota; Julie Rohovit and Ken Winters for Minnesota; United Tribes Technical College for North Dakota. The PATTC Program Manager is Judy Rohwedder.

The PATTC provides training for professionals working with substance abusing clients. The center focuses on issues related to women and substance abuse, substance abuse in persons with co-occurring mental health disorders, substance abuse among Native Americans and among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender persons. Future focus areas will include binge drinking on college campuses, nicotine addiction, treatment of adolescents with substance use disorders, and substance abuse co-occurring with gambling addiction. Future plans include work with the Veterans Administration and the Iowa Center for Public Health Preparedness to disseminate empirically supported treatment for post traumatic stress disorders.

Center for Public Health Program Evaluation

The mission of the Center for Public Health Program Evaluation is to provide support to the university, local, and national governments, and community-based organizations in designing and conducting research to explore the efficacy of public health systems and strategies. Our goal is to advance the science of evaluation research by working with colleagues and program stakeholders. The director of CPHPE is Dr. J. Jackson Barnette; the assistant director is Dr. Anne Baber Wallis.

The center is currently working on several projects including outcome and process evaluations of the University of Iowa's Child Health Specialty Clinic's (CHSC) Adolescents in Transition: Healthy and Ready to Work Program, on-going evaluation consultation and support to the CHSC's Iowa Medical Home Initiative, and national and local evaluation consultation to the Bioterrorism Preparedness Centers funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In addition, the CPHPE evaluates the Prairielands Addiction Technology Transfer Center (PATTC), offers evaluating consultation and analytical support to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's *Making Connections* program in Des Moines, Iowa, and evaluates the Heartland Center for Occupational Health and Safety. Funding by Pfizer Pharmaceutical allows the CPHPE to study the effectiveness of easy-to-read pharmaceutical information guides for Glucotrol.

PRC's Community Health Action Partnership (CHAP)

Community Health Action Partnership, or CHAP, is a CDC Prevention Research Center with the theme of improving health in rural communities. Initiated in October 2002, CHAP began working with community leaders in Sigourney, Iowa, a rural community in Keokuk County. The director of CHAP is John Lowe, Dr.P.H., FAHPA, FAAPH, deputy director is Farlye Nothwehr, Ph.D., and investigator is Andrew Peterson, Ph.D. Key staff include Project Manager and Sigourney resident Shellie Striegel, and Research Assistants Jana Peterson, M.P.H., and Jill Welch, M.P.H. The initial demonstration project is intended to improve eating and exercise habits through a variety of intervention activities throughout the year. Residents from Sigourney will participate in physical measures and surveys related to body weight, eating habits, exercise, and attitudes toward their community at baseline and one year later.

Iowa Tobacco Research Center

The mission of the Iowa Tobacco Research Center (ITRC) is to promote health and reduce illness and death in Iowa, the Midwest, the nation, and the world through commitment to innovative research and education on tobacco use and prevention, as well as provision and support of culturally-competent and accessible smoking cessation services. The director of the ITRC is John Lowe, Dr.P.H., FAHPA, FAAPH, deputy director is Mary Aquilino, Ph.D., FNP, investigator is Shelly Campo, Ph.D. Several research projects are currently underway. Dr. Lowe is currently investigating smoking cessation and smoking relapse prevention among pregnant women and new mothers while Dr. Aquilino's work focuses on smoking cessation in the pharmacy context. Dr. Campo is presently studying occasional smoking using data collected from a web-based survey of undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Iowa and Cornell University.

The ITRC also operates Quitline Iowa (866-U CAN TRY), the statewide smoker's helpline staffed daily from 8 a.m. to midnight. The Quitline's 12 counselors offer medium- and high-intensity smoking cessation counseling over the telephone, with special protocols for adolescents and pregnant women.

**Department of Community
and Behavioral Health**

College of Public Health
University of Iowa
200 Hawkins Drive, E225 GH
Iowa City, IA 52242

Phone: 319-384-5380
Fax: 319-384-5462

Our Mission:

In collaboration with communities, promote health and quality of life by developing, evaluating, and disseminating evidence-based practices (through research, training and innovative policy).

Pfizer Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Community Health



The Department of Community and Behavioral Health, in the University of Iowa's College of Public Health, is currently accepting applications for a three-year doctoral fellowship. The Pfizer Fellowship in Community Health is funded by an unrestricted educational grant from Pfizer Inc.

The Pfizer Fellow in Community Health will:

- Be an outstanding student who intends to focus their future research on rural community health
- Receive support for three years that will cover tuition and living expenses
- Have an opportunity to work with distinguished research scientists who are currently working with rural populations in Iowa on the public health issues of health literacy, chronic disease prevention, tobacco cessation and control, addiction prevention and treatment, youth risk behaviors, and community empowerment.

For eligibility and application process, please visit our website at <http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/cbh/index.html>

Alumni Report...

- Congratulations to Tracy Gillespie, who graduated with her M.P.H. in December, 2002. Since graduation, Tracy has continued her work as a research assistant in the PATTC with Dr. Anne Helene Skinstad.
- Congratulations to Rachel Moreau J.D., who graduated with her M.P.H. in May, 2003. Rachel currently works at a law firm in Chicago, and is working with the CDC to develop their public health law programs for students.
- Maren Bear, M.P.H. 2002, lives in St. Louis, Mo., where she is a medical student at the University of Washington.
- Jeremiah Garza, M.P.H. 2002, lives in California, and is working as a health educator for Kaiser Permanente. He travels with a team of health educators across southern California, working on community interventions.
- Patty Gillette, M.P.H. 2001, continues to work on the Iowa Agricultural Health Study with Dr. Charles Lynch.
- Kristen Kidd, M.P.H. 2002, lives in Atlanta, Ga., where she is completing her first year as a CDC Prevention Specialist.
- Susan Kinzer, M.P.H. 2002, works in the Department of Pediatrics, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. This February, Susan and her husband Sam welcomed a baby boy into their family!
- Maureen Orwa, M.P.H. 2002, is completing her first year in the Communication Studies doctoral program at the University of Iowa. Maureen also continues to work as a graduate assistant in the PATTC with Dr. Anne Helene Skinstad.