

# Public Health Happenings

The official electronic newsletter of the  
University of Connecticut Graduate  
Programs in Public Health

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**Climate change is causing, and will increasingly cause, a wide range of adverse health effects, including heat-related disorders, infectious diseases, respiratory and allergic disorders, malnutrition, mental health problems, and violence.**

*Barry S. Levy, MD, MPH  
Tufts University School of Medicine*

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## CEPH REACCREDITS UCONN MPH PROGRAM

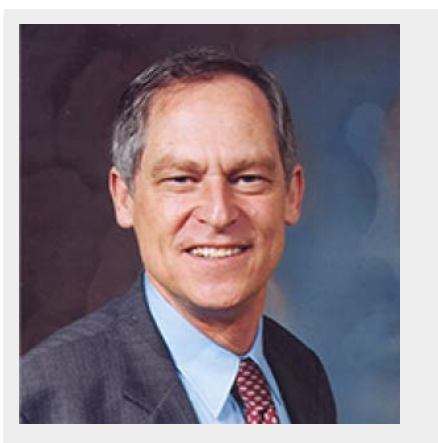
The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) met on June 15-18 in New Orleans to make accreditation decisions and to discuss ongoing criteria revisions. At that time, the UConn MPH Program was one of 10 public health programs and six schools of public health to be reaccredited. To

maintain its accreditation, the programs and schools had to demonstrate that they met specific educational quality standards defined by CEPH. These standards relate to 1) organization; 2) instructional programs; 3) creation, application and advancement of knowledge; and 4) faculty, staff and students.

In a letter to Dr. David I. Gregorio, Director of the UConn Master of Public Health Program, CEPH affirmed the program's accreditation for seven years, the maximum accreditation period. However, the program will be busy over the next year fleshing out our interprofessional education concentration, and will have to report back to CEPH on our progress. Program administrators and the Curriculum and Advisory Committees will also have to pay close attention to some anticipated changes in accreditation criteria, which are currently under review prior to final CEPH approval.

We wish to thank the many people responsible for our successful reaccreditation efforts, including all the faculty, students, alumni and program staff without whom this would not have been possible. We want to especially thank Susan Addiss, the long-standing former chair of the MPH Steering Committee, who has been helping us through the accreditation process from the very beginning, and Bruce T. Liang, MD, FACC, Dean of the School of Medicine, for ensuring we had the resources necessary to be successful in the reaccreditation process.

**David I. Gregorio, PhD, MS, Program Director**  
**Morgan H. Spencer, MPH, MPA,**  
**Program Coordinator**  
**Joan Segal, MA, MS, Editor**



BARRY LEVY TO PRESENT KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT 2016 CONVOCATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

The UConn Graduate Programs in Public Health will welcome incoming MPH and PhD students at our **New Student Convocation and Reception on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m.**, at UConn Health in Keller Auditorium. We are honored to

have former American Public Health Association President Barry S. Levy, MD, MPH as our keynote speaker. Dr. Levy's talk on "**Climate Change and Human Rights**" will undoubtedly be of interest to all of us.

Dr. Levy is currently Adjunct Professor of Public Health at Tufts School of Medicine and Consultant in Occupational and Environmental Health. He is co-editor of *Climate Change and Public Health*, which was the 2015 Environmental Health Book of the Year. He has served as President of the American Public Health Association and has received the organization's highest honor, the Sedgwick Memorial Medal.



**Raul Pino, MD, MPH (2010)**, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), will present the welcoming address to the new students on behalf of the UConn public health alumni. Prior to his position as Commissioner, Dr. Pino was Director of Health for the City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services. He was also formerly an epidemiologist for the DPH STD unit, and worked in Hartford at the Institute for Community Research, the Hispanic Health Council, and Hartford Hospital.

The Convocation will conclude with a reception. The UConn Public Health Programs hope to see a large representation of alumni, current students, and faculty there. The wider UConn Health and public health communities are also invited to attend. Please RSVP to [publichealth@uchc.edu](mailto:publichealth@uchc.edu).



UConn Health Alumni Event  
Cheer for your alma mater with other UConn Health alumni, friends and family from the Public Health Program and the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine at the UConn vs. Syracuse football game

on **Saturday, September 24** at Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field in East Hartford. The cost of the event, \$45 per person, includes tickets at the Club Level and a buffet. If you have questions, contact Liz Krueger, Director of Alumni Relations, UConn Health, at [lkrueger@foundation.uconn.edu](mailto:lkrueger@foundation.uconn.edu), or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 888-822-5861. To register online for this event, go to [https://www.events.foundation.uconn.edu/ehome/index.php?eventid=177182&&utm\\_source=Luminate&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=07.18Email](https://www.events.foundation.uconn.edu/ehome/index.php?eventid=177182&&utm_source=Luminate&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=07.18Email), click "New Registration" in the top left-hand corner of the page, and fill out the registration form.

#### LEND FELLOWSHIPS

The **Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Program** is an interdisciplinary leadership training program aimed at preparing trainees from a wide variety of professional disciplines to assume leadership roles in the delivery of services to children with autism and other neurodevelopmental disabilities in clinical practice, research and public policy. The LEND provides funding for full-time doctoral and master's level students and other community-based trainees to participate in weekly seminars, clinical practica, research, and advocacy projects over the course of a year. Doctoral students will be required to participate in LEND activities for 20 hours per week. Other trainees may choose from a variety of enrollment options.

Those eligible to apply for a LEND Fellowship include UConn doctoral students in Public Health, Audiology, Communication Disorders, Nursing, School Psychology, Social Work and Special Education. Advanced MPH students are also invited to apply.

Applications for the 2016-2017 cohort of LEND Trainees are currently being accepted. To download an application, go to [www.uconnucedd.org](http://www.uconnucedd.org). For questions about the LEND program, contact Mary Beth Bruder, PhD, at [bruder@uchc.edu](mailto:bruder@uchc.edu), or call 860-679-1500.

#### HEALTH AND WELLNESS COORDINATOR

The Eastern Highlands Health District has a job opportunity for a **Community Health & Wellness Coordinator**. This full-time position performs professional work in planning, designing, and managing a wide range of both employee wellness and community health programs.

The position requires experience and knowledge of individual nutrition and fitness, health and wellness promotion, employee wellness programming, public and population health, community networking, program evaluation, and grant writing. Candidates must have excellent communication and supervisory skills. A Bachelor's degree in nutrition, kinesiology, health education, public health, nursing or a related field supplemented by at least four years of relevant experience, including supervisory duties, are required. A Master's degree and certification as a registered dietician or Certified Health Education Specialist is highly desirable.

The annual salary range is \$59,000 to \$70,000, with a competitive benefit package. Interested applicants must submit a letter of interest, resume, and a list of at least three professional references to [HR@mansfieldct.org](mailto:HR@mansfieldct.org) and an employment application at [www.mansfieldct.gov/jobapp](http://www.mansfieldct.gov/jobapp). The application deadline is **July 22nd at noon**.

#### COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH COORDINATOR

The Wheeler Health and Wellness Center in Bristol is seeking a full-time Community Health Outreach Coordinator to engage the community in the services and activities of the Center and to provide education, outreach and support to the community as well as individuals and families served. The position requires a BA/BS degree plus 3 years of related experience or an MA/MS degree plus 1 year of related experience in community organizing, marketing, prevention/health promotion or other social service field. The successful candidate will also have the ability to work on a team to ensure program goals are met; to communicate effectively verbally and in writing, to work on a team to ensure program goals are met, to manage time effectively, and to represent the Clinic in a professional manner. The applicant should also be committed to personal and program growth.

For further details on essentials duties and responsibilities and employee benefits, or on how to apply online, go to: [https://www.healthcaresource.com/wheelerclinic/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.jobDetails&template=ds\\_p\\_job\\_details.cfm&cJobId=100933](https://www.healthcaresource.com/wheelerclinic/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.jobDetails&template=ds_p_job_details.cfm&cJobId=100933).

## PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

### ADMINISTRATOR

The City of Meriden Department of Health and Human Services is hiring a full-time, 40-hour per week Public Health Nursing Administrator. This is a professional position responsible for administering the comprehensive school nursing program at public and parochial schools in Meriden. Primary functions of the position include coordinating, implementing, and evaluating the school nursing program and supervising school health nurses and health aides. Work is performed with a considerable amount of independence under the general direction of the Health and Human Services Director or Associate Director of Health.

Requirements for the position include:

- License as a Registered Nurse issued by the State of Connecticut.
- Baccalaureate and relevant master's degrees with at least 2 years' experience as a school nurse
- At least 1 year of experience in a public health setting, and at least 2 years of supervisory experience in school health
- Valid Connecticut driver's license

Starting salary is \$36.19 per hour. Send resumes to the Personnel Department, City Hall, 142 East Main Street, Meriden, CT 06450, or apply on line at [www.meridenct.gov](http://www.meridenct.gov). The last date to apply is **Monday, July 25, 2016**.

If you have any questions, please contact Lea Crown, MPH, CHES, Director, Meriden Department of Health and Human Services, (203) 630-4221.

### RAC & HEALTH PROMOTION DIRECTOR

Serving the Greater Bridgeport region, the Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership (RYASAP) is searching for a Regional Action Council (RAC) and Health Promotion Director. Covering the municipalities of Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford, and Trumbull, the full-time Director provides vision and leadership in setting the regional substance abuse prevention and health promotion agenda. The individual in this position needs to have experience and/or training in leadership and youth development, community mobilization, relationship building and group facilitation, along with grant writing skills. Candidates with a Master's Degree in social work

or human services administration are preferred, but applicants with a Bachelor's degree and at least 3 years of experience in a nonprofit organization who are Certified Prevention Professionals (or willing to acquire certification) are also invited to apply. The position is full time, with flexible work hours a must. The salary is competitive with benefits including healthcare, dental and 403B plan. Please send resume and cover letter to Janice Andersen at [jandersen@ryasap.org](mailto:jandersen@ryasap.org).

### WOLCOTT OFFICE ASSISTANT:

#### SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

Are you looking for half-time work (20 hours per week) while attending school full- or part-time? The Wolcott Citizens Against Substance Abuse Coalition (CASA) for the Wolcott Public School District has an opening for an Office Assistant. This person will be tasked to:

- Organize and coordinate work so as to complete projects in accordance with established deadlines.
- Prepare and publish a monthly newsletter.
- Update the CASA website and Facebook page.
- Coordinate newspaper submissions/advertisements/scrapbook, etc.
- Prepare and distribute Board agendas, postings, reminders and minutes.
- Attend monthly Coalition meetings.
- Write minutes for ad hoc committees.
- Maintain volunteer time logs, board logs, and donations account.
- Act as membership coordinator and conduct new member orientations.
- Enhance Coalition branding.
- Take charge of registration and event setup.
- Prepare student surveys.
- Be willing to learn about the CASA Coalition, the Strategic Prevention Model, Drug-Free Communities Grant, prevention, Coalition goals, the different Coalition committees, and the standard operations of CASA.
- Assist with special projects as required.
- Perform other duties as assigned by Project Director.

Desired qualifications include:

- Knowledge and experience in public health, communication, business, and/or marketing; Bachelor's degree preferred.



- Administrative skills with proficiency in computer skills including Microsoft Office, Excel, PowerPoint, Websites, Constant Contact, and data entry and the ability to operate office machinery including fax machine and copy machine.
- Effective communications and writing skills.
- Ability to assume responsibility for assigned task (s) and to work independently.

Apply online at [www.wolcottps.org](http://www.wolcottps.org) by **July 21, 2016**. Interviews will be held the week of July 25<sup>th</sup>.

CT AHEC AMERICORPS PROGRAM  
Health360 is currently accepting applications for the **CT Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Network AmeriCorps program**. This program aims to improve academic engagement of economically disadvantaged students through participation in the Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC) and Collegiate Health Service Corps (CHSC) service learning programs. The YHSC and CHSC programs are health careers recruitment programs that engage diverse high school and college students as leaders in meaningful service learning that addresses community health issues.

The AmeriCorps members will recruit, train and manage students in the YHSC and CHSC programs for volunteer work in health care settings that serve the underserved. These student volunteers gain exposure to entry level health care careers and learn how to enter onto upwardly mobile health care career ladders.

AmeriCorps members will be placed with specific schools in each AHEC region in Connecticut. Each AmeriCorps member will work with a group of 10 to 15 students and closely with school personnel to identify appropriate students who are willing to join the YHSC/CHSC program. AmeriCorps members will instruct students in the YHSC/CHSC curriculum to prepare them for cooperative, problem-solving activities and guide them through service learning projects that address community health needs. AmeriCorps members will meet with their students on a regular basis and will guide them through the service learning model. AmeriCorps members will also be responsible for setting up health workshops with different schools throughout the service term.

The AmeriCorps positions require a Bachelor's degree and are full time starting August 1, 2016 through July 31, 2017. However, applications will

be accepted now through November 15. AmeriCorps participants receive training, health coverage, a living allowance, an education award upon successful completion of service, and childcare assistance if applicable. For more information, please go to <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=50056>. Interested applications should email their resumes to Celia Meyer at [meyer@health360.org](mailto:meyer@health360.org).

## HEALTH EQUITY CONFERENCE

The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities invites you to attend a health equity conference, **Barriers to Health Equity**, that it will hosting on **July 28, 2016**, 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Ave., Hartford. Light refreshments will be served.

## STUDENT NEWS

**Tara Lutz, MPH (2013)**, currently a PhD in Public Health student, received the 2016 American Public Health Association (APHA) Disability Section Student Incentive Award.



MPH student **Shannon McClure** recently received The Marcia Trape Memorial Award from ConnectiCosh, and The Dennis J Chapron Preceptor of the Year Award from the UConn School of Pharmacy Class of 2016.



When the semester starts on August 29, four MPH first-year students will be working as graduate assistants for Jolene Nevers, Associate Director and Health Education Coordinator, Department of Wellness and Prevention Services, on the Storrs campus. The four students-- **Katherine Straka, Katie Roane, Cory Loftis** and **Kathleen McHugh**—represent the largest number of MPH graduate assistants that have worked with Jolene at any one time.

Under her leadership in health education at UConn, Jolene Nevers has developed an engaging and interactive office that interacts with thousands of students each year. She is also responsible for creating, implementing and supervising the regionally and nationally recognized UConn Sexperts peer education group. Joleen supervises professional staff, graduate students,

undergraduate student workers, volunteers and interns at UConn. She is a certified health education specialist and a certified sexuality educator through the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists. She has taught an MPH elective in health education for several years.

#### ALUMNI NEWS

**Zygmund Dembek, PhD, MPH (2005)** was appointed a Deputy Editor of *Public Health Reports (PHR)* in 2009, and has been a member of the *PHR* Editorial Board Executive Committee since 2012. “We invariably read a dozen or so articles for review every week,” Zyg reports, “but it’s a labor of love!” The Editorial Board met in person with the Surgeon General in March in Washington, DC, the first time the Editorial Board has met in person. “We were honored that Surgeon General Murthi also met and spoke with us,” Zyg wrote.



*The PHR Editorial Board with Surgeon General Murthi. Zygmund Dembek is in the center of the back row.*

*Public Health Reports* is the flagship journal of the US Public Health Service (and therefore the USPHS Surgeon General).

**Shir Lerman, PhD, MPH (2015)** received a doctorate degree in May 2016 in Medical Anthropology from UConn. Her dissertation title was “Un Pueblo Tan Dolce”: Diabetes, Depression, and Obesity Syndemics in Puerto Rico. She is currently a Research Affiliate at UConn.

**Alyssa Norwood, JD/MPH (2009)** has a new position as Energy Technical Specialist at the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern

Connecticut State University. Prior to this, she was at Connecticut’s Legislative Commission on Aging, the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health, and Robinson and Cole.

**Luigi Sartori, MPH (2016), RS** is the new Director of Health, Town of South Windsor. He was previously Sanitarian for the City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services.

#### FACULTY NEWS

Our heartfelt condolences to **Judy Lewis** on the recent death of her beloved husband, Stuart Sakovich, 67. Judy describes Stuart as a true “soulmate.” He often documented her public health work by traveling with her to such far-flung places as Sri Lanka (where they married) and Haiti, filming and photographing many of her activities and projects. Our thoughts are with Judy at this time. To see the full obituary, go to the following link:



<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/hartfordcourant/obituary.aspx?n=stuart-sakovich&pid=180675266>.



**Helen Swede, PhD** has been granted tenure and promoted to the position of Associate Professor in the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care. Congratulations, Helen!

**Joan Segal, Editor**

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