

President's Welcome



During March and April I was able to spend a month visiting Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Melbourne and Sydney, Australia, in my new role as a Visiting Professor at Monash University and The University of Sydney. The first week I was with Professor Anuar Zaini at the new campus of Monash University, Malaysia. The campus is a stunning design and it will be a wonderful environment for expanding Monash's academic activities in Malaysia. At Anuar's invitation, I was privileged to give the first public lecture in this new facility. In addition, I had several meetings with faculty members to discuss their ongoing research and new proposals. I also met with Professor Wahyun Low, the new Editor-in-Chief of our journal.

In Melbourne, I participated in the first Monash Global Health Forum, "Building Research Capacity to Improve Global Health – Lessons and Challenges", organized by Professor Brian Oldenburg and other Monash colleagues. It was also an opportunity to celebrate the founding of the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine in 1968, now the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine. Professor Basil Hetzel, the Foundation Professor, was also able to be present and deliver a Keynote Address. Brian Oldenburg had gathered a very influential group for this forum and in my address I included an overview of our APACPH activities.

A major part of my visit to Sydney was to participate in a National Health Policy Seminar and Launch, "Leadership for Health: Lessons and Challenges", organized by Brian Oldenburg in his role as Director of the Australian Institute of Health Policy Studies. I was able to discuss my experience in running a Leadership Institute for senior federal health executives in the United States over the past twenty three years with Australian health colleagues. I hope that, as a result, we will be able to offer an annual Health Leadership Institute, in collaboration with APACPH, in our region in the near future.

As we will be commencing the new publishing agreement with Sage Publications, Inc in 2008, I want to encourage all our members to give serious attention to submitting articles for consideration. This is especially important as we will be moving to four issues of the journal per year and we want our journal to be recognized as the leading public health journal for the region.

I am very pleased to confirm that, following recent discussions in Melbourne and Washington, the University of Auckland in New Zealand and the University of Maryland in the United States will be submitting their formal applications for membership of APACPH in the near future. I look forward to welcoming both universities to APACPH and know that they will bring great strengths to our efforts to improve public health in the Asia-Pacific region.

I look forward to our meeting of the Executive Board in Indonesia in July and the APACPH conference in Japan this November.

With best wishes.



Dr Richard F. Southby
President, APACPH

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Background: The Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health

APACPH is a consortium of over 50 public health institutions in 18 countries across the Region. The Vision of the Consortium is to achieve the highest possible level of health of all the people of the nations of the Asia-Pacific region. APACPH aims to enhance Regional capacity to improve the quality of life and to address major public health challenges through the delivery of education, research and population health services by member institutions.

APACPH supports activities that forward its five main objectives:

- (i) To enhance the quality and relevance of educational and training programs in public health;
- (ii) To expand knowledge, improve skills and demonstrate effective interventions;
- (iii) To raise awareness of current, emerging, and re-emerging public health issues and develop programs of action for their resolution;
- (iv) To enhance the capacity and sustainability of public health systems;
- (v) To assist in policy and leadership development for health;

APACPH has five Regional Offices, holds an Annual conference on a topical public health issue and publishes the Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health, the only English language journal of its type in the Region.

APACPH Member Reminders

- **Draft Minutes from General Assembly Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand, 3 December 2006**
These Minutes can now be downloaded from the '**Members Only**' section of the APACPH website - www.apacph.org
- **Annual Subscription Payments**
Invoices have been sent. Please process your 2007 subscription payment as soon as possible. Payments of invoices are due on 15 August 2007.
- **APACPH Conference 2007 - 23-25 November 2007 - Saitama, Japan**
Please put this date in your diary and logon to the conference website www.apacph2007.org for updates
- **Member Update forms**
Please complete the 'Member Update form' (found on the '**Members Only**' section of the APACPH website) and return to the Directorate Office for inclusion on your Member Institution page on the website.

For more information or to advise of a change of details at your institution, contact Desmond Gul at the APACPH Directorate Office - Email: desmond@apacph.org

Changes in APACPH Membership

West China University of Medical Sciences has now merged with Sichuan University and is now renamed as the West China School of Public Health. The Dean is still Prof Xiao Ma.

Prof Devi Shrestha has left B.P.Koirala Institute of Health Sciences. The new Director of the School of Public Health has not been appointed yet.

Dr Ed Cadman, Dean of the John A Burns School of Medicine at University of Hawaii, has retired and Dr Gary Ostrander now serves as the interim dean.

Dr Masashime Jimba now heads the School of International Health at the Faculty of Medicine, Tokyo University and is the new Regional Director of APACPH Tokyo.

Dr Jarupoonphol Phitaya has assumed the position of Dean, Faculty of Public Health of Mahidol University and serves as the Regional Director (APACPH Bangkok). Dr Chalermchai Chaikittiporn who has served on various capacities in APACPH over the past decade has been appointed as Vice-President of Mahidol University.

At the University of Malaya, Dr Mohd AMin Jalaludin is the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor who along with Dr Ikram Shah Ismail, the new Dean of the Faculty of Medicine will serve as the APACPH contacts for the University of Malaya.

Dr K E Karunakaran has been appointed as the new Dean at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

For information on joining APACPH please contact Desmond Gul at the Directorate office - desmond@apacph.org

A Word from the New Editor-in-Chief, APJPH



Professor Wah-Yun Low

Ph.D, AFBPsS, CPsychol
Editor-in-Chief, APJPH

I am very privileged to be involved in APACPH since the early 1980s when I joined the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur upon returning from the UK after the completion of my postgraduate studies there. Currently, I am Professor of Psychology at the Health Research Development Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I obtained my B.A (Hons) from the National University of Malaysia and both my M.Sc and Ph.D (Medical Psychology) from the University of Surrey, England. I am actively engaged in teaching both under- and post-graduate students at the University. I have served as a consultant for both the local and international agencies on many aspects of public health.

Throughout my years with APACPH and the APJPH, I have seen the journal grown and transformed under the strong leaderships of the past editors, and they deserved much praise for the stewardship thus far. I wish to thank the APACPH EXCO members for nominating me to be the Editor-in-Chief of the APJPH, and this is indeed an honor for me.

My role as the new Editor-in-Chief is to uphold APJPH's vision to be the most influential and widely read public health journal in the Asia Pacific. In order to do this, we need to anchor APJPH, this monumental flagship of APACPH, as a fully-fledged scientific journal to showcase to our membership across the Asia-Pacific region. We need to maintain a high standard of the journal as a well-respected academic publication. With the advent of the electronic information age, APJPH should be moving towards the direction of developing an electronic submission and review, and subsequently obtaining its impact factor. It is hoped that APJPH will be a leader in promoting the integration of medical, social and behavioral research into public health issues. The journal should encompass interdisciplinary, international, and integrative approaches and fill an important niche for the community of public health researchers.

Small Seed Grant

Small Seed Grant (SSG) - Initiative to kickstart collaborations and work to improve public health in LEDC countries

At the Bangkok 38th Assembly meeting held last November, members unanimously endorsed our commitment to service especially those from LEDCs countries with critical public health needs. It was also decided that funds, as seed grants, will be provided to initiate much needed activities and enable members to work collectively together. What was envisaged was to sponsor projects that will serve the needs of communities in the less economically developed countries. The strategy was to pool and utilize resources and skills in member institutions to jointly address problems impacting on health inside a country or region. Consultations with colleagues, visits to several member institutions and feedback on current activities/projects with multi-member participation have provided significant evidence on the potential for ongoing activities to be expanded. Additional and timely financial and technical support is also needed.

A number of collaborative project ideas have emerged from these consultations. Member institutions and lead faculty have identified possible topics of common interest that could mutually benefit members and APACPH in fulfilling our mission. In the short run, these mini projects will demonstrate APACPH interest in local needs and a real commitment to build networks and competent multi-national work groups. In the long term, it will enable APACPH and interested members to seek larger research projects or humanitarian service grants. In consultations with faculty, the criteria that emerged as most useful to identify projects were: (i) multi-university member interest on a topic/problem, (ii) evidence of ongoing activities on the problem or topic/area, (iii) commitment to share resources and expertise and, (iv) potential to expand the project and seek larger grants from funding organizations. Though not exhaustive or complete, this first round of consultations captured a list of needs and interests of nearly a third of our membership and stimulated interest in collaboration among our membership. This process of consultations and feedback will be expanded to cover all LEDC member countries over the next few months. Small Seed Grant (SSG) Request for funding projects is expected to be submitted by interested faculty/institutions. The Secretary-General (SG) and Treasurer in consultation with the Executive/Management committee will work out mechanisms to expedite the review, approval and release of funds. At the last management committee meeting in March, the SG provided feedback on member interests and it was agreed in principle to provide funding as authorized by the General Assembly. The request for funding SSG format has been developed and is expected to be sent to members shortly. The SSG application is a simplified 2 page user friendly document that can be emailed to the SG office: walterp@hawaii.edu or apacph@hotmail.com with copies to the Secretariat and the Treasurer to expedite the process. I would like to thank the treasurer, several executive and general assembly members and faculty for their input.

All those interested in submitting their SSG proposals, kindly respond as soon as possible. If you have any questions please email the SG office.

Mahidol - Monash Collaboration

Monash and Mahidol Universities collaborate to build occupational health capacity

Colleagues at Monash University in Australia and Mahidol University in Thailand have received funding from the Australia-Thailand Institute (ATI) for a collaborative project to build capacity in occupational health surveillance. This is a particularly important project in Thailand, where there is rapidly increasing development in manufacturing and other industries.

The project will be co-ordinated by **Professor Malcolm Sim**, Director of the Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health (MonCOEH) in Melbourne, Australia, and **Associate Professor Orawan Kaewboonchoo** of Mahidol's Department of Occupational Health and Safety in Bangkok, Thailand. They will organise study tours in Australia and Thailand to share knowledge and experience in occupational disease surveillance and prevention. They will also conduct workshops for medical and other occupational health staff in Thailand, with a focus on case studies of the major types of occupational diseases occurring in Thailand. The aim of these workshops will be to improve diagnosis, reporting rates, prevention measures and health care of workers with occupational diseases. The project should also develop cooperative links for future collaborations between the two universities in areas relevant to APACPH's strategic plan.

The Australia Thailand Institute is a division of the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and was established by the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs in June 2005. Through a competitive selection process the ATI provides financial support to projects which aim to build community links between Australia and Thailand, particularly with regards to public policy, health and science and culture and the arts.

More information:

<http://www.coeh.monash.org>

http://www.ph.mahidol.ac.th/academic/the_departments/occuhshp/

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/ati/index.html>

Further Activities at Mahidol University



Earlier this year, Mahidol University was engaged in a faculty exchange programme with University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA. From May 22 to June 5, 13 students and 3 professors from the USA will be coming down to Faculty of Public Health at Mahidol University for an exchange.



Graduating class (2006-2007) of Master of Public Health (MPH) students from Mahidol University. The student body comprised of 49 students out of which 12 were local students. The other 37 international students came from 15 different countries, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Pakistan, USA and Vietnam.



Prof Pornchai Matangkasombut, President Mahidol University addressing MPH students at their closing ceremony on April 18.

APACPH Conference, Saitama, Japan - Update

Abstracts for the conference are being received. The dateline is June 15 and more than 300 papers are expected. Please visit the website www.apacph2007.org to submit your abstracts and registrations for the conference.

Highlights of Keynote Speakers

Dr. Chizuru Nishida, Scientist, Dept. of Nutrition for Health & Development in WHO/HQ, will present current data and strategies "**tackling the Double-Burden Malnutrition**". **Dr. Liming Li**, Vice President of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences/Former President of APACPH, will give a keynote speech on "**Non-Communicable Diseases in China**". This is a very important issue in this century with a huge growing population in the country and the strategies formulated to tackle this issue will be presented. **Dr. Kenji Hayashi**, Vice President of the National Institute of Public Health in Japan, will give a speech on "**Health Policy Towards an Aging Society in Japan**", referring to the public health systems and lessons learnt from evidence-based and community-based approaches in Japan.

Other Symposium and Theme Sessions

Top level researchers and professionals on each field of study have been invited. They include **Prof. Jorn Dyerberg** from Denmark, a pioneer in the discovery of Omega-3s in food (such as fish oil) and their health benefits, who will give a lecture in the session on "**Lipid Nutrition**". **Prof. Hideoki Fukushima** from Developmental Medical Sciences in Tokyo University will present his findings about the effects of fetal malnutrition on the development of obesity in childhood and metabolic compromises. **Dr. Paul Erik Petersen** who is the officer responsible for oral health at WHO/ HQ will talk about "**Teeth and Nutrition**".

The National Institute of Public Health in Japan who is a Co-Organizer of the conference will organize a workshop entitled "**Field Training in Public Health**" as a pre-conference workshop, utilizing their expertise. Your participation and contribution is most welcome.

Modest accommodation and travel grants will be offered to participants from low economic resourced countries. Details can be found on our website www.apacph2007.org Please note that there is a limit for these grants and a selection committee involving APACPH Board members will decide on successful applicants.

Cancer and Public Health

Cancer is emerging as one of the most important public health problems in our region. This applies to all societies, regardless of their level of socio-economic development. As our population ages it will become even more important. Ten years ago the World Cancer Research Fund published its landmark report on Cancer and Nutrition. Now a decade (and \$40 million) later the World Cancer Research Fund/American Institute for Cancer Research will be publishing a new report "**Food, Nutrition, Physical Activity and the Prevention of Cancer**" on Nov 1, 2007. They have developed an excellent system of assessing the quality of scientific studies to prepare a truly evidence-based report of around 1000 pages. This will be the definitive report on Cancer for use by public health and health promotion professionals for the next decade. The best news is that public health professionals can order a free copy that will be mailed to you after its release. Just go to: www.aicr.org/ordernow and place your order.

I was able to mention a few of the preliminary findings in my talk at the Bangkok APACPH meeting and from the perspective of my favourite area of research, the preventive role of breastfeeding in ovarian cancer and pre-menopausal breast cancer will be included. There will be an increased emphasis on obesity, physical activity and cancer. Its rare that we have access to free copies of such a landmark report soon after its release, so I urge all members to order a copy for their library and for their own use.

Prof Colin Binns

Curtin University

Monash Inaugural Global Health Forum

On April 4, under the auspices of Monash University, **Prof Brian Oldenburg** and his team organised the Monash Inaugural Global Health Forum which attracted more than 150 participants with some coming from inter-state Australia as well as Asia and the Pacific region. Students and health professionals from a number of non-profit organisations and governmental agencies were present at this event which will spearhead Monash University's involvement in global health.

The theme of the forum was "**Building Research Capacity to Improve Global Health - Lessons & Challenges**" and lots of discussion was stimulated among the participants. It was an engaging forum and brought about an exchange of ideas as well as opportunities to refresh relations and built new connections.

The forum also provided the opportunity to launch the inaugural **Monash Global Health Oration**. This was presented by **Dr Basil Hetzel** who gave his speech on '**The Development of Research Capacity to Meet the Challenges of Global Health**'. Dr Hetzel is well known for his work in the control of iodine deficiency disorders and was the former chairman of the International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD). Some of the other keynote speakers include **Prof Andy Haines** (Director, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), **Prof Tony McMichael** (Australian National University, Australia) and both our President and Past-President of APACPH. Our President, **Prof Richard Southby** gave a keynote presentation in which he also mentioned the activities of APACPH. The Past-President, **Prof Anuar Zaini** delivered his keynote presentation on '**Global Health Challenges and Emerging Health Threats - Regional Perspectives**'.

The afternoon was focussed on panel discussions and a wide range of leaders and expertise was introduced. **Prof Lenore Manderson** and **Assoc Prof Bebe Loff** from Monash University provided a brief overview of their expertise and experience in public health training and human rights respectively. **Prof Terry Dwyer** (Director, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute), **Prof Garry Jennings** (Director, Baker Heart Research Institute), **Prof Steve Wesselingh** (Director, Burnet Institute), **Dr Jane Thomason** (CEO, JTA International), **Dr Jim Tulloch** (Principal Health Advisor, Aus AID) and **Prof Jan Pryor** (Director of Research, Fiji School of Medicine) were the other members of the panel. Responding to comments and questions raised by the audience, the afternoon proved to be a very stimulating discussion for all and prompted different perspectives and ways of improving global health through building research capacity.



Group photo of keynote presenters and panel speakers at the forum



Prof Richard Southby giving his presentation which covered the activities of APACPH



Dr Basil Hetzel (left) and Prof Brian Oldenburg (right)



Participants enjoying a catered lunch on the gardens of the forum venue

You can also visit the website to download the presentations - <http://www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/iphu/symposium.html>

1st Asia-Pacific Conference on Healthy Universities, Hong Kong

Promoting Health at University and Community at Large Asia-Pacific Network of Healthy Universities Established at the 1st Asia-Pacific Conference on Healthy Universities



Representatives of 35 institutions from 10 Asia-Pacific regions including Mainland China, Singapore, Korea, Australia, Philippines, Thailand, Ghana, Pakistan, Taiwan and Macau, together with the representatives of all eight UGC-funded universities in Hong Kong, summoned at the 1st Asia-Pacific Conference on Healthy Universities held from 8 to 10 March at the School of Public Health of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). The Conference is organized by the School of Public Health, in collaboration with Advisory Committee on Health Promotion and Protection, University Health Service, and WHO Collaborating Centre for Sports Medicine and Health Promotion of CUHK.

With the support of World Health Organization (WHO), the Conference establishes an ongoing collaborative network among universities in the Asia-Pacific region, namely the Asia-Pacific Network of Healthy Universities (APNHU), which puts health high on the policy and learning agenda of member institutions, and promotes and facilitates a healthy lifestyle through:

- Leadership and commitment;
- Innovation and partnership-building;
- Knowledge exchange and sharing of experiences; and
- Capacity-building and active engagement.

Dr. Shigeru Omi, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific; **Dr. Linda Milan**, Director, Building Healthy Communities and Populations, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific; **Dr. York Chow**, SBS, JP, Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food; **Dr. P.Y. Lam**, JP, Director of Health; and **Mr. Anthony Ting-yuk Wu**, JP, Chairman, Hospital Authority; **Professor Jack C.Y. Cheng**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of CUHK; **Professor T.F. Fok**, Dean, Faculty of Medicine of CUHK and **Professor Sian Griffiths**, Director of the School of Public Health of CUHK officiated at the Closing Ceremony of the 1st Asia-Pacific Conference on Healthy Universities. The highlight of the Closing Ceremony was the signing of a joint declaration. By this declaration, member institutions of the APNHU call on relevant parties to advocate for and invest in the health and well-being of university students and staff, as well as in their communities and environments.



CUHK is committed to promoting the health of all staff and students by playing a key role in shaping people's attitudes towards health. The University Health Service of CUHK has developed the Campus Health Ambassadors programme since September 2003 to foster a culture of health awareness and practice among student groups. The main objective of the programme is to develop a positive attitude in health among participants and to influence their peer groups, and more importantly, to establish a leadership role in the campus and then in the community. Since 2004, the Campus Health Ambassadors have started activities outside the campus to promote health to the wider community.

Universities and Institutions in the Asia-Pacific Region are cordially invited to participate in the Network. Please visit the Conference website at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/uhs/healthyu> for further information.

APACPH welcomes stories, updates or events listings from members who would like to see them on the APACPH website and future newsletters. Please send them to the Directorate office at desmond@apacph.org

Regional Office of the Americas Inaugural Conference

Submitted by Prof Walter Partick, University of Hawaii

Dr. Andy Johnson serves as the Director of the APACPH Regional Office of the Americas (ROA) with Deputy Director **Dr. Paula Palmer** and one support staff member and a full complement of administrative and support staff at the Institute of Preventive Research (IPR) for the conduct of conferences including a package of services for foreign visitors and participants at meetings.

The ROA held its inaugural conference at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles Davidson Conference Center from April 17-18, 2007. Among the 140 participants who attended the meeting on "**Health Promotion in South Asia and the Pacific Rim in the Era of Globalization**" were several faculty from member institutions in Asia, including four Regional Directors. The two day program had several expert panels with 40 speakers. There was also a poster session with major contributions from faculty and students including a very insightful one on Child Soldiers in Asia. The presentations and abstracts will be available at the conference website.

The session on **Health & Peace: Violence & Injuries** had internationally recognized researchers on its panel and included distinguished author on school violence, **Dr. Ron Astor**, who had recently published a book on "**School Violence: Culture & Contexts**". **Chancellor Varagunam** of the Eastern University of Sri Lanka a distinguished medical educator and professor of medicine crystallized the sentiments of an audience on the day shocked by the Virginia Tech Massacre in his introductory remarks "**War is a disease, a terrible disease**".

Other presentations from APACPH members including **Dr. Indika Karunatilake** faculty from the Colombo Medical College, captured the efforts in curriculum development APACPH members are doing and the plans to teach courses on Peace and Health in several APACPH universities and in at least 5 countries.

About thirty faculty members from 7 APACPH member institutions in the USA and Asia attended the consultative meeting on Global Health & Role of Academic Institutions on April 17. In addition, academics and administrative leaders from the US, South & Central American countries also attended the session. Two central themes emerged with relevance to US international health programs and universities that maybe of equal relevance to our members from economically developed countries (EDC). One is the changing perspective that globalization has brought to the equation for health and the greater interdependence for health among countries. The second was the rapid improvement of public health training in Asia/South America with robust models in field training and research with opportunities for faculty and students from developed countries. These observations have important implications for APACPH to support policies to encourage advanced level public health training in LDCs. As a first step, USC is planning to collaborate on a field training site in Central America. They have already initiated projects in Sri Lanka and Kerala, India.

Three priorities were identified in our discussions:

- i) **Enhancing the Research Agenda in Health Promotion** - Chronic Diseases with behavioral emphasis in areas such as smoking prevention, teenage sexuality, injuries etc. through partnerships including APACPH networks in member countries. The USC model being developed in Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh demonstrates how research projects can stimulate participation from previously dormant as well as new members.
- ii) **Supporting the "Peace & Health" agenda as a major Public Health & Medicine initiative.** Funds to enhance curriculum development, course offerings, and research project networks are to be sought. Several schools at USC –The Annenburg School, School of Social Work as well as other interested organizations such as Claremont College, Hollywood Script Writers Association are expected to be involved in future discussions to support ROA.
- iii) **New APACPH membership in the US mainland, Canada & Central America.** About five new members are expected to be recruited in the next two to three year period including two from Canada.

Early Career Network Workshop, Saitama, Japan

The third annual workshop of the Early Career Network (ECN) will take place on 22nd November 2007 as part of the 39th APACPH Conference (21st-25th November) hosted by Kagawa Nutrition University and the National Institute of Public Health (Japan). The ECN workshop is particularly aimed at improving the skills of students and early career professionals and this year focuses on qualitative research methods. The workshop title is:

'Application of qualitative research methods to the public health challenges of the Asia and Pacific Regions'

The workshop will run from 9am-5pm. The venue is the National Institute for Public Health, 2-3-6 Minami, Wako City, Saitama 351-0197.

More information will be available on the ECN section of the APACPH website

http://www.apacph.org/site/pages/ECN_Annual_Workshop

Participants will need to register for this workshop as places are limited. Please email **Sonja Firth** for more information and a registration form- s.firth@qut.edu.au

ECN students may also be interested in the **Field Training in Public Health** being run by the National Institute of Public Health, immediately after the ECN workshop from 3pm-5pm. The workshop will be an opportunity to present cases/activities at respective institutions and discuss the implications for field training as a method of educational training in public health.

To have the opportunity to access accommodation at NIPH at a reduced rate of 2,700JPY, submit abstracts and reference reports for discussion. More information can be found at <http://www.apacph2007.org/preconference.html>

ECN Launches 'Reflections' Photography Competition

The Early Career Network of APACPH is proud to announce an exciting new creative initiative for 2007- the **"REFLECTIONS" photography competition!**

We are inviting public health professionals, researchers, staff and students to submit selections of their photographic work, which illustrate the theme of the 2007 APACPH conference **Lifestyle Related Disease Prevention: The Challenge for Nutrition and Public Health**.

The contest is dedicated to drawing attention to health issues that have a significant global and regional impact. The organizers recognize the ability of photography to convey the great emotional depth and understanding of issues that may often be too difficult to explain or discuss. The competition also seeks to highlight the important contributions to understanding and action made by the photographers through their experience in the field of public health.

Please visit APACPH website www.apacph.org/site/pages/ECN_Photo_Competition where entry forms and submission guidelines can be downloaded.

The competition is being organized to coincide with the 39th APACPH conference in Japan (21st-25th November 2007) and the photos need to be a "reflection" of at least one of the themes of the 9 parallel sessions of the conference - see conference website for more information on the themes: www.apacph2007.org

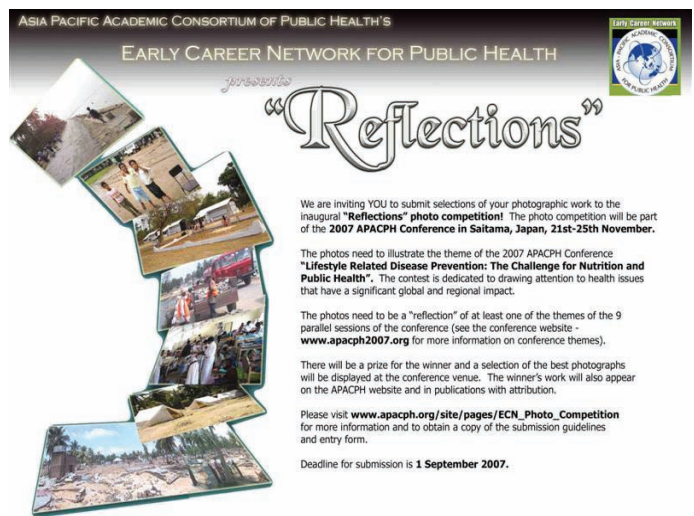
Email for digital submissions: apacphphotoex@gmail.com

Email for technical assistance: ashanpathirana@gmail.com

Email for ECN enquiries: s.firth@qut.edu.au

For more information about the Early Career Network visit the website –

www.apacph.org/site/pages/Early_Career_Network or contact Sonja Firth – s.firth@qut.edu.au



ASIA PACIFIC ACADEMIC CONSORTIUM OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S
EARLY CAREER NETWORK FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
presents
"Reflections"

We are inviting YOU to submit selections of your photographic work to the inaugural "Reflections" photo competition! The photo competition will be part of the 2007 APACPH Conference in Saitama, Japan, 21st-25th November.

The photos need to illustrate the theme of the 2007 APACPH Conference "Lifestyle Related Disease Prevention: The Challenge for Nutrition and Public Health". The contest is dedicated to drawing attention to health issues that have a significant global and regional impact.

The photos need to be a "reflection" of at least one of the themes of the 9 parallel sessions of the conference (see the conference website - www.apacph2007.org for more information on conference themes).

There will be a prize for the winner and a selection of the best photographs will be displayed at the conference venue. The winner's work will also appear on the APACPH website and in publications with attribution.

Please visit www.apacph.org/site/pages/ECN_Photo_Competition for more information and to obtain a copy of the submission guidelines and entry form.

Deadline for submission is 1 September 2007.

Public Health Triumphant: the 2007 Reith Lectures

Submitted by **Prof Colin Binns**, Curtin University, Perth, Australia. May 2007

This should be the headline we read regularly in the newspapers. It should be on a banner over the entrances to our Schools of Public Health. Yet rarely do we receive or hear such accolades. People who don't die, who don't fall ill or who are not disabled can't be counted and don't thank us. On the other hand clinicians receive "thankyou cards" and bottles of wine frequently. Its human nature - you know you are sick, so you are grateful when you are well again, or even if you die, the family is grateful that "everything possible was done". Budgets announce large dollar amounts for new treatment facilities, while public health lags behind. Sometimes it takes scandals like the present Esperance lead debacle to highlight the impact of the neglect of public health in WA.

Yet there is some good news. Each year the BBC broadcasts the **Reith Lectures**, a series of lectures by famous people. This years lecturer was **Prof Jeffrey Sachs**, the renowned economist (and Professor of Public Health) from Columbia University, NY. The five lecture series was given recently in the UK, USA and China and the transcripts are available from the BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/reith2007/>). Jeffrey Sachs is an optimist and while acknowledging the potential disasters facing the world, he is optimistic about finding solutions. He points out that less than one day's budget for the US military would provide impregnated malaria nets for all who need them (300 million) for the next 5 years. All we need is to be optimistic enough to make the right decisions.

"Life expectancy at birth is probably the best single indicator of overall human wellbeing that we have. Life expectancy is not only a crucially important goal in its own right, but is also an excellent indicator of overall social organization - for example, the quality of the health system, the presence or absence of war, the reach of infrastructure, and the extent of food insecurity. Life expectancy at birth is also relatively easy to measure and to compare across countries.

The worldwide improvements in life expectancy on the planet have been dramatic. In 1960, 105 countries, with two-thirds of the world's population, had a life expectancy at birth of less than 60 years. By 2004, that list had shrunk to only 47 countries, with a mere twelve percent of the world's population. And virtually all of those 47 countries are in Africa (with the exceptions being Afghanistan, Cambodia, Haiti, Laos, and Papua New Guinea)."

How does a School of Public Health continue to contribute to a University and a society who do not always understand? What we are about is:

- A population based approach to health, risk and prevention
- An emphasis on prevention
- A passion for equity (the rural poor) and the environment
- A respect for culture and traditional beliefs
- A longer timeframe that emphasises a "lifecourse" approach to wellbeing

To do this we have always emphasised epidemiology and health promotion as providing the core knowledge for public health. We then add the content from the various subject disciplines that are important for prevention and primary care, including nutrition and health services management.

Please read Jeffrey Sachs lectures. Take pride in the public health approaches that have lead to the triumphs he describes. Then read the challenges that he presents to enable the human race to survive. We teach and research the skills that are needed for his approach to work.



Jeffrey D. Sachs is the Director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. From 2002 to 2006 he was also Director of the UN Millennium Project and Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals, the internationally agreed goals to reduce extreme poverty, disease, and hunger by the year 2015. Sachs is also President and Co-Founder of Millennium Promise Alliance, a non-profit organization aimed at ending extreme global poverty.

Professor Jeffrey Sachs is widely considered to be the leading international economic advisor of his generation. For more than 20 years he has been at the forefront of the challenges of economic development, poverty alleviation, and enlightened globalization, promoting policies to help all parts of the world to benefit from expanding economic opportunities and wellbeing. He is also one of the leading voices for combining economic development with environmental sustainability and as Director of the Earth Institute leads large-scale

Calendar of Events

Global Health Summit II

Date: June 3, 2007

Location: Cincinnati, Ohio

Website: <http://www.phscofevents.org>

Global Health Summit II: "**Improving Global Health and Safety Through Diplomacy**" will be held June 3, 2007 at the Millennium Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Building on the tremendous success of the original Global Health Summit in 2005, this year's meeting will explore the role of health diplomacy in global health enhancement and safety. The Summit will draw public health leaders from around the world. Presenters will include the Surgeon General of the Australian Defence Force; the 17th Surgeon General of the United States, the Honorable Richard Carmona; Dr Thomas Novotny of the University of California Center for Global Health, Dr. Rus Munandar, Director, Zainoel Abidin General Hospital, Banda Aceh; Maurice I. Middleberg, Vice President for Public Policy at the Global Health Council; and Dr Boo Kwa, chair of the Department of Global Health at the University of South Florida; Dr Roland Oritsejafor, former secretary of Defence of Nigeria and Dr. Hakan Sandbladh, Senior Advisor, Public Health in Emergencies, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

One of the primary outcomes of the event will be to identify effective strategies for increasing the capacity of health professionals as well as the uniformed services, legislators, academia, the media, and others to serve as agents of health diplomacy. The Summit, which is being organized by the PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation, is open to anyone involved in public health and/or who has an interest in global health.

Visit www.phscofevents.org for more information or to register.

The 19th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education

Date: June 11 - 15 2007

Location: Vancouver, Canada

Website: <http://www.iuhpeconference.org/>

"Health Promotion Comes of Age: Research, Policy & Practice for the 21st Century"

The themes of the conference are:

- Reducing health inequities
- Assets for health and development
- Enabling systems transformations
- Assessing the effectiveness of health promotion

4th Summer Institute for New Global Health Researchers

Date: 13-20 August 2007

Location: Trivandrum, Kerala

Website: www.ccghr.ca

The Canadian Coalition is pleased to announce the call for applications for the 4th Summer Institute for New Global Health Researchers, to be held in partnership with the Centre for Development Studies in Trivandrum, Kerala, India. Please visit the CCGHR website for more information, including the guidelines and application.

Calendar of Events cont.

Joint Scientific Meetings of Australasian Epidemiological Association (AEA) and the International Epidemiological Association (IEA)

Date: August 27-29 2007

Location: Hobart, Australia

Website: <http://www.cdesign.com.au/aea2007>

Theme: Making an Impact

Something exciting is happening in Hobart in August this year, and we are pleased to invite your participation in it.

This year, AEA has combined forces with the Western Pacific Region group of the International Epidemiological Association (IEA) to host the 2007 Joint Scientific Meetings of the AEA and IEA – Western Pacific Region. For the first time, the annual meeting of AEA will be enhanced by the presence of international colleagues who share the passion for epidemiological research. There will be time to renew acquaintances and make new friends in a stimulating environment.

Students – We have an active programme planned with special workshops and statistical support sessions in addition to the diverse scientific programme.

6th Annual International Scientific-Practical Conference

Date: September 27-28

Location: Almaty (Kazakhstan)

Website: <http://www.ksph.kz>

Theme: Contemporary Aspects of Public Health and Healthcare

Every year this conference assembles healthcare managers, specialists of public health and healthcare throughout Kazakhstan and Central-Asian Republics, as well as international organisations, pharmaceutical companies and representatives of private sector. This conference will be focused on contemporary issues and perspectives of public health and healthcare development on our countries. Participants will be acquainted with new ideas, approaches and specific research results.

Official language: Russian (English interpretation will be provided)

Dateline for registration of participants: August 1

Dateline for abstract submission: June 28

For a more comprehensive listing of Calendar of Events visit the APACPH website - www.apacph.org - 'Events'

Contact

For further information on any of the items mentioned in the newsletter, to include items for the next newsletter, or to enquire on any APACPH-related business, please contact:

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