



The 3rd Annual Summer Institute

July 10-14, 2006
Houston, Texas

Dr. Barney Turnock, MD, MPH,
author of *Public Health: What it
is and How it
Works*, to be
Keynote Speaker
for 2006 Summer
Institute



Dr. Bernard J. (Barney) Turnock MD, MPH is currently Clinical Professor of Community Health Sciences and Director of the Center for Public Health Practice and Illinois Public Health Preparedness Center at the School of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago. He is board certified in Preventive Medicine and Public Health and has extensive practice experience and has served in a number of public major roles relating to a wide variety of public policy and public health issues in Illinois since 1978. His widely read text on public health practice, *"Public Health: What It Is and How It Works"*, now in its third edition, is complemented by his newly published work titled *"Public Health: Career Choices That Make a Difference"*. He has received awards for Excellence in Health Planning and Practice and Excellence in Health Administration from the American Public Health Association. He is also a recipient of the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health's "Golden Apple" award for excellence in teaching.

news @ tphtc

Published by the Texas Public Health Training Center

Summer 2006

3rd Annual Summer Institute Announced

Meeting the Public Health Challenge: *Strategies to Protect and Improve the Health of Communities*

The Texas Public Health Training Center has announced the 3rd Annual Summer Institute to be held in Houston at The University of Texas School of Public Health from July 10 – 14, 2006. The Institute promises to be an exciting and in-depth learning experience for attendees.

The Institute offers a unique learning environment for Texas public health workers as well as others who have responsibility for the health of the public. Through faculty presentations focusing on strategies and methods, class discussions, case studies, work group exercises, and panel presentations participants will build their knowledge and acquire tools and methods to enhance their competencies in a specific area.

The Summer Institute experience is built around a practitioner-oriented curriculum offered in a week-long intensive learning format. Participants will register for one learning track for the entire week. Faculty from all three Texas schools of public health have worked together to design and develop curricula for the three learning tracks offered this year:

- **Managing Public Health Emergencies**
- **Building Community Capacity for Public Health**
- **Environmental and Occupational Health Responses to Public Health Emergencies**

Recent public health emergencies have dramatically demonstrated that public health challenges are met by a diverse group of organizations and individuals including: state and local health departments, community-based organizations, city and county officials, hospitals, and businesses. Workforce personnel from state and local health departments as well as members of community-based organizations and businesses with responsibility for emergency preparedness, environmental and occupational health and community development are encouraged to participate in the TPHTC 2006 Summer Institute.

There are limited scholarships to support registration, travel and accommodations for Texas Bio-Terrorism Coordinators to attend the week-long Summer Institute 2006 through the UT Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness. Interested parties should contact: Robert T. Joyce at Robert.T.Joyce@uth.tmc.edu

To find out more details about the tracks and to register online, consult: www.txphtrainingcenter.org. Additional information is also available from: Robert Daniel at (713) 500-9394, robert.daniel@uth.tmc.edu or Carol Galeener (713) 500-9399, cgaleener@uth.tmc.edu.

Suzanne Adair, PhD
Director, TPHTC Summer Institute



Certificate Programs Address the Needs of the Texas Public Health Workforce

Most public health workers in Texas, as throughout the nation, lack foundational education in the core public health disciplines. There are many reasons: people begin their careers in one discipline and become called at a later time to a vocation in public health; the time and financial commitment to a full degree is too daunting for the working professional; distance poses a serious barrier.

While the education gap may be surprising, Texas Schools of Public Health have seen and are addressing the need. The Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health (SRPH) developed an academic program specifically for those working professionals in the public health field.

The Rural Public Health Certificate Program

was first offered in

the fall of 2002 and is designed to meet the needs of the existing public health workforce by providing an overview of the

core functions and disciplines of public health and providing the tools that are fundamental in serving rural and underserved communities. The program is composed of six core courses, including: Rural Public Health Systems; Introduction to Epidemiology; Biostatistics; Principles of Environmental and Occupational Health; Social and Behavioral Health Determinates of Health; and Introduction to Health Policy and Management.

In addition to the certificate program, since its inception in 1998 SRPH has been committed to educating individuals in the public health workforce throughout the State of Texas. Early distance-education Master of Public Health (MPH) programs were established in Corpus Christi, McAllen, Temple, Kingsville, Mount Pleasant, and Tyler. In the fall of 2003 a new distance-education program was launched at Texas A&M International University in Laredo. Fall 2004 saw the

initiation of a new distance-education location in Austin in collaboration with the Texas Department of State Health Services. Demand proved to be strong and within a year more than 60 students were pursuing graduate degrees through the School's distance-education program across Texas. More information is available: www.srph.tamhsc.edu/default.htm

In 2005 the University of Texas School of Public Health inaugurated a graduate level *Certificate in Public Health*, a 16-hour program of study consisting of five courses covering the core disciplines of public health: epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health,

Public Health

administration and behavioral sciences. The target audience for the certificate program includes: public health workers who lack formal public health training; health care deliverers who need public health foundational knowledge but who are not interested in a graduate degree; students who will convert their certificate credits toward a degree at a later time; exceptional seniors in affiliated undergraduate degree programs who have an interest in public health. Certificate and MPH students participate in face-to-face core classes together, enriching the experience for both. Beginning in summer 2006, students will also have the option of taking core courses in an online format. Classrooms are located at the five UTSPH campuses (Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, El Paso and Brownsville) and at the Department of State Health Services and the University of Texas School of Nursing in Austin. Upgrades in video classrooms are in progress at all sites. There are currently about 100 enrollees in the UTSPH certificate program. Many certificate students have already applied to the MPH program, and if they are

accepted, they will be able to apply their certificate hours toward their degree requirements. To learn more about the UTSPH Certificate in Public Health program, please consult:

www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/cert/

In addition to foundational education in public health disciplines, the Texas public universities have responded to emerging training needs with certificate programs in specific areas that may be of interest to members of the public health workforce. For example, for those managers with a need for graduate level education in homeland security issues that are beyond the first responder level, TAMU's Bush School of Government recently inaugurated a unique distance-education certificate program in homeland security. This "leader level" offering consists of four 3-credit courses followed by a directed study. The content touches on every phase of security strategy: Prevention, Protection, Response and Recovery. More information may be found at: <http://bush.tamu.edu/academics/distance/chls/>

The University of Texas El Paso's Center for Inter-American and Border Studies offers an online *Border Studies Certificate* for those who wish to enhance their knowledge of border culture, institutions, problem areas, legal systems and environmental studies. The certificate can be taken through the Professional Development option as well as for undergraduate credit. For further information: www.telecampus.utsystem.edu/index.cfm/4,1149,82,56,html

Carol A. Galeener, PhD
Program Manager, TPHTC
University of Texas School of Public Health

The Texas Public Health Training Center (TPHTC) is a workforce development consortium of the University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston; the University of North Texas Health Science Center, School of Public Health and the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, School of Rural Public Health. TPHTC is a formal partner with the UT Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness. Principal funding for the Center provided through a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the US Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS).

www.txphtrainingcenter.org

The Importance of Reaching the “Expanded Public Health Workforce”

Guest Columnist: Barbara J. Quiram, PhD

Reaching out to the expanded public health workforce is particularly important for Texas, because of the lack of public health infrastructure. 196 of 254 Texas counties are classified as rural. The majority of Texas counties, 154 of 254, are without a local public health department. At best, these communities rely upon the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Regional Office for assistance in emergencies. Therefore, it is imperative to strengthen the public health infrastructure in Texas by reaching out to the expanded public health workforce.

The expanded public health workforce includes individuals who are not associated with a local health department but occupy a range of positions in counties that have them highly interactive with

the community at large. This group of individuals includes nurses, veterinarians, local health providers, school nurses, pharmacists, clergy, EMS, local officials, and others, all of which influence public health at the local level. These individuals are placed in a variety of locations and are involved in some aspect of the ten essential public health services. However, they do not perceive themselves as part of the public health system, because they do not have a public health job title and do not work in a public health department.

It is important for all of us to include these individuals in our public health training activities to encourage them to explore how they can enhance the public health of their community and to provide opportunities to bring together diverse unofficial players so they can think of

themselves as part of the local public health system of their community.

For the past six years, the School of Rural Public Health (SRPH) at Texas A&M Health Science Center, as a member of the Texas Public Health Training Center collaborative, has provided the expanded public health workforce with public health knowledge, skills, and abilities even though they do not perceive themselves as part of the public health system. Examples of trainings and activities developed and presented by the School of Rural Public Health include Public Health Grand Rounds; Case Studies in Environmental Health; Principles of Public Health Practice: A Webbased Training; Infection Control in the Field; and Hazardous Materials and Public Health Responders.

For more information on any of these activities, please e-mail Sherry Falgout, SRPH TPHTC Project Coordinator, at Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health at sfalgout@srph.tamhsc.edu.

Barbara J. Quiram, PhD

Director, Office of Special Programs

Director, USA Center for Rural Public Health Preparedness

Associate Professor, Health Policy and Management

School of Rural Public Health - Texas A&M

We Want to be Among Your Favorites!

The Training Center has been hard at work improving our website so that we can better serve you. Not only does the website have a new, brighter “look and feel” it also provides content and functionality not previously available. For example, now you can not only check out the calendar for impending TPHTC training events, you can register online for most courses.

We have also been working on making available training courses that are tailored to the public health practitioner’s interests and that can be taken at your own pace via the internet. Some of these will provide material on disciplines taught in the schools of public health. Others will cover topics of current interest, such as: pandemics; emerging social trends with an impact on health;

updates on key public health methods and approaches. In addition we will make available “big picture” lectures that provoke thought about the public health profession and issues of public health environment and policy.

So, check us out at: www.txphtrainingcenter.org -- and to be sure you can find us easily again, make us favorite in your browser.

Robert Daniel

TPHTC Webmaster, Robert.Daniel@uth.tmc.edu

University of Texas School of Public Health



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

PUBLIC HEALTH LAW

June 13-14, 2006 - Irving, TX

July 6-7, 2006 - Round Rock, TX

For more information and registration details, please contact Minnie Zavala at 817-735-0174 or mzavala@hsc.unt.edu

Texas Conference on Health Disparities

June 2-4, 2006

*University of North Texas
Health Science Center*

Fort Worth, Texas

This conference will feature nationally recognized speakers and experts in health disparities to highlight and develop strategies for the elimination of challenges related to access to healthcare in medically

See **Health Disparities**, *continued on page 4*

Resource Guide for Public Health Preparedness

Trying to keep up with the most current information is vital in public health preparedness. Unfortunately, sorting through the vast number of credible (and not so credible) resources can be daunting for even the most intrepid searcher. Fortunately, librarians at the New York Academy of Sciences have taken on the task of creating the "Resource Guide for Public Health Preparedness"

(<http://www.phpreparedness.info/>) which is designed to provide "a single point of access to essential information resources in public health and disaster preparedness, selected and cataloged by information specialists."

How does this site differ from other PH

preparedness sites? First and foremost is the database the librarians have created. This collection of approximately 1,400 resources includes reports, congressional testimonies, planning and assessment documents as well as other web sites. Many of the resources included are considered "grey" literature.

These are documents that are not part of the commercial publishing industry but are rather non-conventional documents. For example, Web-based reports would fall into the category of grey literature. This certainly does not negate the value of these materials, however, as can be demonstrated by this list of just a few of the items this database contains: the Rand Corporation's 61 page report on the post-Katrina repopulation of New Orleans; a report on legal issues concerning volunteer health personnel from the Center for Law and Public Policy at Georgetown University; a home health services pandemic influenza

planning checklist from the US Dept. of Health and Human Services; and a report on precautions to take to prevent sabotage of drinking water from the World Health Organization.

The Guide is easy to use; the database allows you to search by simple keywords if you so desire. You can also perform an advanced search with the option of limiting to a specific type of event (biological, chemical, natural disaster, etc.). If you prefer, you can choose to browse by topics instead of performing a keyword search. Each link provided goes to a full report, database, or Web site that is specific to the topic of public health preparedness. The Guide can go a long way in helping you stay on top of key information.

For questions, please feel free to contact Helena.M.VonVille@uth.tmc.edu

Helena M. VonVille, MLS

University of Texas School of Public Health

Health Disparities *continued from page 3*

underserved areas. Of specific focus will be disparities at the community level, primarily inner city areas, and unique health issues along the border region. Didactic and interactive presentations, panel discussions and question/answer sessions will identify the challenges and bring conference attendees closer to developing a prospectus for the future.

Some of the speakers for this conference include: Former Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Dr. Louis W. Sullivan; Dr. Eduardo Sanchez, Commissioner, Texas Department of State Health Services; Dr. Paul Villas, University of Texas System; Dr. Ciro Sumaya, Dean, TAMU School of Rural Public Health; and Mr. Mike Moncrief, City of Fort Worth Mayor, among others.

For more information and registration details, please contact Carol Scott at 817-735-2539 or Annie Mathew at amathew@hsc.unt.edu

On-Line Resources to Note

Education and Training

- **TB Education & Training Resources:** A searchable database of materials from national and international organizations. At this "one-stop" site of tuberculosis (TB) education and training resources, you can search for materials by language, target audience, and format. <http://www.findtbresources.org>

Health Data Tools and Statistics

- **DATA 2010**
<http://wonder.cdc.gov/data2010>
An interactive database system developed by staff of the Division of Health Promotion Statistics at the National Center for Health Statistics that contains the most recent monitoring data for tracking Healthy People 2010.
- **Profiles of America**
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/ProfilesofAmerica/> This Internet system allows you to manipulate various socioeconomic data series used in many Economic Resource Service (ERS) products. Use the interactive tools to create and manipulate charts, maps, and tables-including multidimensional tables, such as poverty rates by metro/nonmetro status.
- **Surveillance Research: Where can I find cancer incidence statistics?**
<http://surveillance.cancer.gov/statistics/types/incidence.html>.
- **State Snapshots: The 2005 State Snapshots are dashboards of health care quality measures and include detailed, customized tables for each State.**
<http://www.qualitytools.ahrq.gov/qualityreport/2005/state/summary/intro.aspx>

Health Promotion and Health Education

- **Healthy Roads Media**
<http://www.healthyroadsmedia.org/index.htm> This site contains free audio, written and multimedia health educa-

tion materials in a number of languages.

Legislation and Policy

- **AMCHP Legislative Center:** AMCHP works to strengthen national policy for maternal and child health, <http://www.amchp.org/legislative/index.php>

First Responders

- **A Web Version of the National Library of Medicine's WISER is Now Available:** <http://webwiser.nlm.nih.gov/getHomeData.do> WISER is an application designed to assist first responders in hazardous material incidents. WebWISER provides the WISER functionality via the Internet, without downloading of software or data.

Online Training Opportunities

The following web trainings (English and Spanish) are offered by the Pacific Public Health Training Center and can be accessed at www.pphtc.org

- **Obesity and Overweight:** provides background on the overweight problem as it relates to children and adolescents in the US. It also gives an overview of important prevention strategies and recommendations for health care providers.
- **Foodborne Illness:** describes the different contaminants, specific illnesses, and prevention techniques related to foodborne illnesses.

Elizabeth Trevino, DrPH

*University of North Texas
School of Public Health*