

Leadership in Action: Strategies for Communities Summer Institute '05 July 18-22 Houston Details on page 2

# news@tphtc

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Summer 2005

## Dan's Column

By **Dan Culica, MD, PhD**  
Editor

A permanent and consistent goal of the Texas Public Health Training Center (TPHTC) is to integrate its work with the overall state effort to develop the public health workforce. The contribution of the TPHTC to the statewide workforce development strategy was highlighted by its early participation in the Texas State Strategic Partnership (TSSP) initiative. The TPHTC mission is focused on public health development through continuous education and training aligned with other partners to help enhance the health of Texans. In its *Declaration of Health* the (TSSP) partnership outlined 12 priority goals for public health improvement: six addressing population health status, and six concerning the public health system. Within the latter group Goal J enforces the need to "train the workforce of the public health system to meet the evolving public health needs". This responsibility rested on the shoulders of the TPHTC to (a) provide quality public health training based on National Public Health Performance Standards and essential public health services, (b) to transform and strengthen the Public Health infrastructure, and (c) to provide policy makers with scientific based evidence to implement health care legislation.

The partnership established a framework for developing each goal by articulating six key elements known as the 6 P's: principle, partners, plan, policy, practice, and per-

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## From the Project Director

*To Friends and Supporters of the Texas Public Health Training Center:*

In my first communication to you as Principal Investigator and Project Director I want to announce several changes in the leadership and day-to-day operations of the Houston-based component of the TPHTC. The retirements of Hardy Loe and Sue Randers have prompted new appointments to the positions of Principal Investigator and Project Manager/Coordinator. Beth Quill and I have worked closely with Hardy and Sue over the last year to ensure a smooth transition into our new roles as Co-principal and Principal Investigator, respectively. We are most fortunate that Barbara Quiram and Bob Galvan will continue to serve as Associate Project Directors and anchor the other two TPHTC components at the Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health and the University of North Texas School of Public Health. The Training Center's partnership with the UTSPH Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness will also continue.

We owe special debts of gratitude to both Hardy and Sue. Without Hardy's leadership and determination over the last half decade, the Training Center might not exist. We are also extremely grateful to Sue for her steadfast dedication to the Center. Steven Rich, who has served ably as Training Coordinator for the last year, will succeed Sue as Project Manager.

Further, I am pleased to announce that we received notice from the Health Resources and Services Administration, our main funder that our application for a 5-year renewal of the TPHTC was recommended

for approval. We should receive notification of our funding level on/or about July 1.

I see several areas of special emphasis



*Kennedy*

for the TPHTC over the next five years. First, we expect to strengthen the ties among our academic and practice partners in the interest of increasing the Center's ability to respond to unique local and regional

learning needs as well as those that are experienced uniformly across the state.

Second, we must achieve financial sustainability by the end of the second Public Health Training Center funding cycle. Toward this end we will undertake intensive, simultaneous efforts in marketing, institutional membership programs, continuing education providership and grant funding.

Finally, we will devote significant attention to the provision of assistance to the Center's trainees in identifying and overcoming barriers to successful demonstration of new competencies acquired through training that may exist in their workplaces. Our first steps in this direction will be taken at the July 2005 Summer Institute.

These new emphases will enable us to build upon the solid foundations established over the last five years. I look forward to working with each of you in this enterprise.

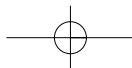
**Virginia C. Kennedy, PhD**  
Project Director, Texas Public Health Training Center.

The 2nd Annual  
**Summer Institute**  
July 18 - 22, 2005

**An intensive learning environment focused on:**

- Leadership in public health
- Emergency preparedness
- Community assessment & community information systems.

Special Topics and Building Blocks



# TPHTC New Developments

## Workforce Development Interns

The Texas Public Health Training Center has developed three internships emphasizing public health workforce development. These internships are available each semester and provide opportunities to: master the literature in the field, participate in training activities and explore public health workforce development strategies in Texas. This experience includes a week in Austin working with partners at the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) and Texas Department of State Health Services. The summer interns are: Tabitha Anderson-Service and Robert Daniel. Tabitha is a doctoral student at Penn State and Robert is an MPH student at UT School of Public Health. They are participating in the development and implementation of the Summer Institute 2005.



Quill

## Summer Institute 2005

The Summer Institute 2005, a major training activity of the Texas Public Health Training Center, will occur **July 18-22** in Houston at the host school: University of Texas School of Public Health. The theme is "**Leadership in Action: Strategies for Communities.**" This week long learning includes 33 courses in three formats. The first is a week long learning intensive in three areas: a) Community Assessment and Community Information; b) Leadership Development and c) Emergency Preparedness. The second trainings are

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.

[www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/tphtc](http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/tphtc)

day long sessions in: a) Introduction to Epidemiology; b) Program Evaluation and c) Public Health Law. These courses will be complemented by three special topics: a) Thinking like an Ecosystem; It's not nice to fool Mother Nature; b) Occupational Health Nursing: An exciting career opportunity and c) Occupational Health and Safety Post 9/11: Strategic impacts and adjustments. CEU will be provided. Eighteen Co-sponsors are supporting this event organized by the TPHTC (University of Texas Health Science Center-School of Public Health; University of North Texas Health Science Center, School of Public Health and the Texas A&M University Systems, School of Rural Public Health. TPHTC is a formal partner with the UT Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness. This training is expected to attract about 300 public health practitioners, faculty, students and community members. The Summer Institute is a foundation for many training activities conducted throughout the year by the TPHTC and funded by HRSA and CDC.

Registration information can be obtained by emailing: [tphtc@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:tphtc@uth.tmc.edu) or call 713-500-9399.

**Beth Quill, MPH**

## Dan's Column

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formance. It was stated elsewhere that a competent workforce is the central element of the Public Health system infrastructure. Strong evidence regarding the need for training of existing and future public health workforce creates premises for the TPHTC to integrate in the overall state effort to prepare a competent workforce. The list of 8 competencies based on essential public health services was recently enriched with the 8 core competencies developed by the Institute of Medicine to highlight current and future needs for a competent workforce. As strategies for new degrees in Public Health are designed at state level the TPHTC is an active partner in implementing this comprehensive strategy following the framework designed by the TSSP.

## Specific Activities

This year, the School of Rural Public Health (SRPH), a component of the Texas Public Health Training Center, provided training to the public health workforce through six trainings utilizing resource materials developed for the public health workforce. SRPH activities for the current program year included Public Health Grand Rounds, Case Studies, Telehealth Conferences, a Web-based Toolkit developed by SRPH, a Self-Study CD Program, and two sessions presented at a live conference. These activities provided continuing education opportunities to Public Health Nurses, Occupational Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, School Nurses, Social Workers and other Health Professionals principally located in rural Texas.

### Trainings Included:

- \* *Public Health Grand Rounds: Risk Assessment and Precautions of Diseases Shared by People and Animals* by James Wright, DVM, MPVM and Floron C. Fories, DVM, MS on September 9, 2004 (SRPH in cooperation with Public Health Region 4/5 North and College of Veterinarian Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Texas Cooperative Extension, TAMU).
- \* *Case Studies in Environmental Medicine: Pediatric Environmental Health* (Self-study Mail-out) December 1, 2004.
- \* *Public Health Grand Rounds: Linking Research to Health Promotion* by Kirby C. Donnelly, Ph.D. on March 24, 2005 (SRPH in partnership with Public Health Region 11 collaboration).
- \* *Infection Control in the Field: Essentials of Infection Control, and The Application of Infection Control* by Kit Halvorson, MS, M, MT (ASCP), CIC, Infection Control Coordinator, (at the Annual Caregiver's Conference) on April 20, 2005 (SRPH in partnership with the College of Veterinarian Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, TAMU).
- \* *Perspectives in Public Health* (web-based toolbox) June 3, 2005, developed by SRPH
- \* *HIV/AIDS Prevention, Early Intervention, and Health Promotion* (Self Study CD Program) June 3, 2005

In addition, the three member schools of the Texas Public Health Training Center have been participating in the development of Practicum Survey designed to increase the Number and Quality of MPH Student Practicum in Health Departments. The results of the surveys will be presented at a conference in the fall of 2005. Both these issues are detailed below.

For information on future training opportunities click on the SRPH website at [www.srph.tamhsc.edu/centers/osp/default.htm](http://www.srph.tamhsc.edu/centers/osp/default.htm)

**Gail Treece**  
TAMUHSC-SRPH

## Training Center Director Retires

**Hardy Loe, MD, MPH** has served as the TPHTC Director since the inception of the TPHTC. In addition to his commitment to UTSPH, Hardy has brought the energy and vision to this academic/practice partnership resulting in multiple trainings for public health practitioners in Texas.

Frank Moore, PhD, noted the following: Above all, Hardy tries to engender a social conscience. There are wrongs that need attention. There are people who are poor and who need help. Through no virtues and accomplishments of our own, we have been fortunate enough to be born in the midst of plenty under the most comfortable conditions. Thus, Hardy believes, we have a responsibility to others who are less well off."

What he teaches us is what he said, what he did and what he stood for. Hardy knows and often says there is discrimination in this world and slavery and slaughter and starvation. Millions are trapped in poverty while the nation grows rich. These are differing evils, but they are common works of man. They reflect the imperfection of human justice, the inadequacy of human compassion, our lack of sensibility toward the sufferings of our fellows.

Hardy's hope is that we can perhaps remember--even if only for a time--that those who live with us are our brothers and sisters; that they share with us the same short moment of life; that they seek--as we do--nothing but the chance to live out their lives in

purpose and happiness.

In his career as a teacher and mentor Hardy believed deeply that we must rely on youth--not a time of life but a state of mind, a quality of imagination, a predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for adventure over the love of ease. He feels the cruelties and obstacles of this swiftly changing planet will not yield to obsolete dogmas and outworn slogans and Hardy was fond of challenging anyone who had "the pat answer".

Some believe there is nothing one man or one woman can do against the enormous array of the world's ills. Hardy thinks otherwise.

He taught his students that few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Hardy believes that each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those

**Hardy believes that each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.**



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Few are willing to brave the disapproval of their fellows or the censure of their colleagues. Moral courage is a

rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change a world that yields most painfully to change. Hardy is an exemplar of moral courage.

Hardy challenged his students and colleagues that the future does not belong to those who are content with today, apathetic toward common problems and their fellow man alike, timid and fearful in the face of new ideas and bold projects. Rather it will belong to those who can blend vision, reason and courage in a personal commitment to the ideals and great enterprises of a fair Society. We wish you well, Hardy and appreciate your efforts to improve public health in Texas.

**Frank Moore, PhD**  
*UTSPH, San Antonio*

## New TPHTC Project Manager

Steve Rich grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah, and northern Arizona, where he worked in a family-operated resort business during the summers. His love of sports and the outdoors was fostered during this time. He played basketball in high school and became an avid camper, hiker, backpacker and fisherman.

After a semester at the University of Utah Steve volunteered to go on a mission for his church and spent the next two years in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. He says the experience had a profound effect on him and gave him a different way of looking at the world.

Upon his return Steve enrolled at the University of Utah to pursue an increasing fascination with biology and medicine. The following summer he met his future wife, Melissa, and ultimately completed his biology degree. Aiming for medical school, Steve concluded that a degree in public health would enhance his application and give him a perspective on healthcare that would be an asset as a physician.

Steve entered the University of Texas School of Public Health in the fall of 2001 and is presently completing his master's thesis. He and Melissa have two children, Kate and Jacob.

## Partner's Contribution

The Texas Public Health Training Center, in its fifth year of funding by the Department of HHS, Health Resources and Services Administration, was jointly organized and brought into operation by The University of Texas School of Public Health, The University of North Texas School of Public Health, The Texas A & M University School of Rural Public Health and the Texas Department of Health. The University of Texas serves as the grantee and administers the program. The purpose of the Center is to assure that the present and future Texas public health workforce has access to quality learning programs. The present public health workforce is defined as public health workers at local level and in state regional offices, members of boards of health, elected officials at state and local levels and workers in health-related agencies. The future public health workforce includes graduate students of schools of public health. Prior to the inception of the TPHTC, the public health workforce did not have a local, organized or recognized resource for continuing education.

The Center has accomplished a number of objectives in the last year:

- \* Since the last report on March 1, 2003, the TPHTC has conducted 25 training sessions, attended by over 1100 participants.
- \* A formal functional relationship has been established between the TPHTC and the public health workforce development training projects of the University of Texas School of Public Health Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness (CBPHP).

The CBPHP is the recipient of two major preparedness grants: the HRSA funded Health Professions education in preparedness and the CDC funded Academic Preparedness Center. The TPHTC infrastructure has been incorporated as part of the resources of those initiatives, thus augmenting those programs and avoiding duplication of effort in public health workforce development.

- \* The TPHTC has received an award of \$160,000 from a TDH initiative to develop and present a face-to-face and internet course on the Principles of Public Health Practice over 14 months. The course will be developed in collaboration with all TPHTC partners, but with TALHO as well, thus strengthening the working relationship with this statewide professional agency representing all local public health workers.
- \* The very successful Environmental Nurse Training Course implemented by Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health has continued since the last report and will continue during this project year.
- \* The TPHTC continues as a member of the Steering Committee and the Executive Committee (a statewide action group that meets monthly by conference call to keep the program moving) of the Texas State Strategic Health Partnership as it moves toward implementation of its six Health Status and six Health Systems goals for Texas for 2010.

*Sue Randers, PhD*  
TPHTC Past Project Manager

## Public Health Grand Rounds

The TPHTC is offering a series of one-hour, bi-monthly training programs on contemporary public health issues aimed at training public health professionals in Texas. The programs are delivered via the Health Alert Network (HAN) and interactive televideo (ITV). This represents collaboration between the Center, Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) and The Texas Association of Local Health Officials (TALHO) as a means of strengthening technical, scientific, managerial, and leadership competencies and capabilities of public health professionals in Texas.

Grand Rounds for the fall 2004 -2005 are usually scheduled for the 2nd Thursday from 1:30 PM -to 3:00 pm every other month starting in Sep, 2004. Information on a variety of topics will be presented by experts in each content area. Grand Rounds are open to public health professionals from local, state, national government agencies, health care providers, boards of health, community-based health organizations, academic institutions, and others who seek to learn more about public health.

Participants must register at least 2 business days in advance of the broadcast to enable the HAN network to prepare for the link to your agency. Registration will be available online through the TPHTC website or by fax. Please visit TPHTC's website for the latest information on the dates, and topics for the Public Health Grand Rounds at: [www.txphtrainingcenter.org](http://www.txphtrainingcenter.org). Call 817-735-0311 if you would like to suggest a topic for a Public Health Grand Round Session.

Some of the past Public Health Grand Round Topics include:

- \* Risk Assessment and Precautions of Diseases Shared by People and Animals
- \* Community Preparedness for Influenza Season 2004-2005 in Texas.
- \* Public Health Preparedness: Testing Your Emergency Plans
- \* Linking Research to Health Promotion.

Topic and date for next Public Health Grand Round to be released soon.

*Elizabeth Trevino, MPH, PhD*  
UNTHSC, Fort Worth

# 8.25.2005

## Mark Your Calendars

### PH LAW WORKSHOP: The Legal Basis for a Response to a Bioterrorist Attack in Texas

Thursday, August 25th, 2005

La Posada Hotel

1000 Zaragoza Street

Laredo, TX 78040

Contact and Registration Information: Minnie Zavala,  
mzavala@hsc.unt.edu, Tel: 817-735-0174