The list below highlights sessions at the American Public Health Association (APHA) 2005 annual meeting related to improving access to information, including presentations by staff from the National Library of Medicine (NLM). NLM will also have booth #337/436 in the exhibit hall.

Note that this list is not exhaustive and that there may be other sessions related to information access in public health. APHA provides a complete list of sessions through their Web site at http://www.apha.org/meetings/schedule.htm.

**NLM Exhibit, Booth #337/436.**

Exhibit hours:
- Sunday, December 11, 2:00 pm – 7:30 pm
- Monday, December 12, 8:30 am – 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, December 13, 8:30 am – 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 14, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

To learn more, visit NLM’s Web site at http://www.nlm.nih.gov NLM is also an active contributor to the PHPartners.org Web site.

**Monday, December 12**

8:30 - 10:00 AM

*A comparison of publication and funding patterns regarding bioterrorism to patterns following previous sentinel events*

Roundtable - Table 2, Session 3053.1, Abstract #108122

Marcus A. Banks, MLIS, Ehrman Medical Library, New York University Medical Center, 550 First Avenue, New York, NY 10016, 212-263-3184, banksm01@library.med.nyu.edu

Following the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, the medical and public health communities began to focus on how to respond to an incident of bioterrorism. This focus accelerated following the events of 2001. Many members of the public health community believe that the focus on bioterrorism has diverted attention and resources from other worthy pursuits, and that this represents an unprecedented distortion of the mission of public health. This belief deserves empirical scrutiny, which is possible through an understanding of the typical publication and funding patterns that emerge following sentinel medical events. I will first trace the publication and funding patterns for the seven years following the discovery of Legionnaire’s and toxic shock in the 1970s, and compare these to publication and funding patterns in the broader domain of public health over the same period. This analysis will serve as one measurement of the way that these discoveries dislocated prevailing priorities. An initial hypothesis is that these two cases will follow a similar arc: rapid and temporary dislocation of public health priorities, followed by a return to previously prevailing concerns. I will then compare these patterns to the publication and funding arc pertaining to bioterrorism, from 1995 to the present. I hypothesize that this contemporary case will diverge noticeably from the earlier trend. This divergence will portend a profound and lasting transformation in public health practice.
Learning Objectives

- Describe common publication and funding patterns that emerge following sentinel medical events.
- Construct an argument about whether current publication and funding for bioterrorism preparedness follows this pattern.

American Indian Health Information Web site: A source for quality health information

Paper Presentation, Session 3005.0

Gale Dutcher, MLS, MS, Lucie Chu Chen, BS, MLS

According to the 2000 census over 4 million residents of the United States claimed American Indian or Alaska Native ancestry, in whole or in part. American Indian tribes are culturally distinctive, diverse, and complex; they are living on nearly 300 reservations in the lower 48 states, several hundred villages in Alaska, and speak more than 300 different languages. Unfortunately, health statistics show serious disparities between these populations and the white, non-Hispanic population of the United States. Higher than average mortality and morbidity is due to a wide range of conditions including diabetes, tuberculosis, mental illness, and substance abuse. The American Indian Health Web site of the National Library of Medicine is designed to bring together health and biomedical information resources for and about these populations, into one organized, readily accessible location. The site is intended to include a wide range of health information that is appropriate for the consumer as well as useful for clinicians, researchers and policy makers. The site was designed in consultation with the National Congress of American Indians President’s Task Force on Health Information and Technology. The site will be maintained and updated with assistance from several ad hoc groups around the country, including a users group in North Dakota. NLM plans to partner with representatives of American Indian and Alaska Native communities to continue to identify new material to add to the site, including information not currently in digital format.

At the conclusion of this session the participants will be able to:

- Describe how to navigate the American Indian Health web site
- Identify indicators of quality health information on the web
- Recognize ways they might use the Web site in their own settings


Learning from Experience: A Three Year Report

Roundtable - Table 9, Session 3130.0, Abstract #116089

Deborah McFarlane, DrPH, MPA, MPH, Political Science, University of New Mexico, 1215 Barksdale Dr. NE, Leesburg, VA 20176-4912, 703-443-8368, dmcfarla@jhsph.edu

This paper reports on a project dedicated to the preservation of primary information about the history of international population and reproductive policies and programs. The preservation of this information is not an idle, academic interest; instead, it is intended to contribute to the effectiveness of future programs and policies. To a large extent, family planning and reproductive health programs represent enormous achievements in public health. To better understand the
dynamics of successful programs, the accounts of those who developed and managed these programs offer valuable experience and lessons. The period of study is roughly 1965 to 2000. The material for this project has been collected by 2 principal means: oral histories and personal papers. The former are or will be at the Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College and the latter are or will be at the Countway Medical Library at Harvard University. Oral histories have been collected from population and reproductive health pioneers in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America. Interviews were conducted with each person who has headed USAID's population and reproductive health program as well as several individuals from CDC's reproductive health division. Interviews were also conducted with individuals from IPPF and UNFPA. Several communications experts also contributed interviews as have persons involved in public policy. Most, but not all, oral histories will be available by the end of 2005.

Learning Objectives
- Discuss the purpose and process of oral history.
- List the subfields of population and reproductive health in which interviews were conducted.
- Retrieve oral histories on-line.
- Describe how archives store information and how individuals can access that material.

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Promoting equity in health information: A community outreach collaboration

Poster - Board 6, Session 3139.0, Abstract #107070

Karyn L. Pomerantz, MLS, MPH, GW School of Public Health & Health Svcs., 2175 K St. NW #716, Washington, DC 20037, 202/416-0408, kpomerant@gwu.edu, Eduardo Pezo, MPH, School of Public Health & Health Services, GWU, 2175 K Street NW #716, Washington, DC 20037, and The Health Information Partners, DCPL, PIA, SEA, CHC, MWPHA, Health Centers, AHEC, Himmelfarb Library, MAPHTC, Right, Inc., ISCOPEs, HSC Fnd., 2175 K St. NW #716, Washington, DC 20037.

In 2000, Partners for Health Information launched a community health information literacy program to bring electronic health information resources into the neighborhood health centers. Since 2000, Partners collaborated with health centers, service learning students, and community advocates to reach 4500 people. In 2003 with funding from the National Library of Medicine, our collaborators created Health Information Partners (HIPS), a coalition of 18 organizations dedicated to advancing health information literacy and equity. Members include the state adult education agency, primary care coalitions, HIV advocates, public libraries, the AHEC, a university library, a public health school, the local public health association, peer educators, and health centers. Our members contribute skills and knowledge from the fields of adult education, library science, and health; material resources including a mobile technology classroom, libraries, training centers, and staff; and vast community relationships. These contributions enable us to reach a diverse, multi-jurisdictional region with formal classes, outreach visits, and health advocacy. The principles of community based participatory research (inclusion, multi-racial/ethnic collaboration, and shared decision making) guide us. HIPS members meet monthly and serve on committees to develop training curricula, promotional materials, funding proposals, and evaluations. A community assessment affirmed community interest in improving health information access and skills. During its first year, HIPS held 14 monthly planning meetings, bimonthly community forums, and a minimum of two training classes and ten outreach visits each month. Successful outreach and collaboration require frequent onsite presence, involvement in health issues, principles of inclusion and adult learning, relationship building, and resource sharing.

Learning Objectives
- Explain a community-campus strategy for health information literacy outreach and collaboration.
- Identify key organizations that advance health literacy in the community.
- Describe the components of a community outreach planning process.

12:48 - 1:06 PM

**Accessing the evidence base in public health nursing: A statewide collaboration**

Paper Presentation, Session 3220.0, Abstract #109322

Roberta L. Lyons, MPH, CHES(1), Josephine L. Dorsch, MALS, AHIP(2), Kathleen A. Baldwin, PhD, RN(1), Sallie Klipp, MS, SLP, MLIS(2), Sandra DeGroote, MLIS, AHIP(2), Kristin Hitchcock, MSI(2), Margaret L. Beaman, RN, PhD(3), Rita E. Arras, RN, PhD(3), Kathy Behm, PhD(4), and Thea Chesley, MA, MSLIS(5). (1) College of Nursing, Peoria Regional Program, University of Illinois at Chicago, One Illini Drive, Box 1649, Peoria, IL 61656-1649, (309)495-8164, bobbil@uic.edu, (2) Library of the Health Sciences - Peoria, University of Illinois at Chicago, One Illini Dr., Box 1649, Peoria, IL 61656-1649, (3) School of Nursing, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Room 2339, Edwardsville, IL 62026-1066, (4) Library & Information Services, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Box 1063, Edwardsville, IL 62026, (5) Training and Resource Center, Illinois Department of Public Health, 828 S. Second St, Room 102, Springfield, IL 62704-2650

The purpose of this paper is to articulate the goals of the “Evidence Base in Public Health Nursing” (EBPHN) project funded by the National Library of Medicine to improve statewide public health nurses’ access to the evidence base for public health nursing and increase their knowledge and skills to evaluate the evidence. The need to improve access to and understanding of this evidence base was identified by a state-wide collaborative of academic and practicing public health nurses. With the information explosion on the Internet, accessibility to evidence is available, but to such a degree that strong navigational skills are required to locate authoritative evidence. Therefore, project personnel created a) an EBPHN web site with instructional modules for increasing knowledge of and skill level in literature retrieval and critical appraisal; b) a database to disseminate integrative literature reviews conducted by public health nursing graduate students from various universities throughout the state; and c) a desktop reference and document delivery services for public health nurses not affiliated with a health science library. Ultimately, as public health nurses discover the ease of accessing, retrieving, and applying the evidence to their practice, the informational gap will decrease, thereby improving interventions used to promote healthy lifestyles for communities served.

Learning Objectives

- Identify two goals of the Evidence Base in Public Health Nursing project.
- Summarize the methodology used to provide public health nurses' access to the evidence base.
- Identify the EBPHN web site as a tool to access, retrieve, and evaluate the evidence base in public health nursing.

Related Web page: [http://ebphn.lib.uic.edu](http://ebphn.lib.uic.edu)
Animals as Sentinels of Human Environmental Health Hazards: The Canary Database

Paper Presentation, Session 3318.0, Abstract #109565

Lynda Odofin, DVM MPH(1), Zimra Gordon, DVM, MPH(2), Peter M. Rabinowitz, MD, MPH(1), and Joshua Dein, VMD(3). (1) Yale Occupational and Environmental Medicine Program, Yale University School of Medicine, 135 College Street, 3rd Floor, New Haven, CT 06510, 203-785-6440, sentinelstudies@yale.edu, (2) Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine, 135 College Street, New Haven, CT 06510, (3) USGS National Wildlife Health Center, 6006 Schroeder Road, Madison, WI 53711

Despite widespread recognition of the potential for animals to provide early warning of human environmental health hazards (i.e.: the concept of the ‘canary in a coal mine’), there are few evidence-based protocols for the incorporation of animal sentinel data into public health decision-making. Concepts such as “One-Medicine” stress the overlap between human health and non-human animal health, but communication barriers and knowledge gaps persist between researchers and practitioners in the animal health and human health fields. As efforts expand to create better surveillance systems for animal disease events, it will become increasingly important to overcome such barriers. We report on a National Library of Medicine-funded project to create a web-accessible database of studies of animals as sentinels of human environmental health hazards, both toxic and infectious. The project represents a collaborative effort of veterinarians, human health clinicians, toxicologists, vector ecologists, and field biologists. The database, freely available to the public health community via the Internet, facilitates evidence-based searching for linkages between animal sentinel events and human environmental health threats. Examples from the database will be presented, including evidence-based reviews of animals as sentinels of biological and chemical terrorist agents as well as methodologies to link human health and animal health data.

Learning Objectives

- Understand concepts of evidence-based linkages between animal and human health regarding animal sentinel health events.
- Understand current knowledge and communication barriers to developing such linkages
- Understand electronic database strategies to overcome these barriers

Related Web page: http://canarydb.med.yale.edu

Tuesday, December 13

8:45 - 9:05 AM

Standards for Coded Clinical Data Essential to the Electronic Health Record

Paper Presentation, Session 4024.0, Abstract #115493

Claire Dixon-Lee, PhD, RHIA, Vice President for Education, American Health Information Management Association, 233 N. Michigan Avenue - Suite 2150, Chicago, IL 60601, 312-233-1183, claire.dixon-lee@ahima.org

While the electronic health record (EHR) is the goal of the federal government through efforts toward a National Healthcare Information Infrastructure, and a goal of most healthcare organizations today, realization of its practical implementation and the universal need for clinical data standards remains a barrier to true interactive connectively across healthcare information...
systems. Within the US two primary nosology systems are felt to be the foundation of electronic data interchange to capture clinical information. They are SNOMED-CT and the commonly used ICD-9-CM systems. Efforts are being made on a national scale to move from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10 in tangent with international use of the tenth revision for morbidity and mortality reporting. Within the US, the ICD system is mired in controversy as the primary system for healthcare reimbursement. SNOMED-CT recently licensed through the National Library of Medicine, is considered to be fundamental to operational usefulness of electronic health records. This presentation introduces the clinical nosology systems most commonly used by healthcare organizations, how clinical data is codified, and the resulting impact on epidemiological studies that rely on clinical data access, completeness and accuracy.

Learning Objectives

- Identify the major clinical data standards currently supporting electronic data interchange fundamental to the electronic health record (EHR)
- Describe at least three challenges to widespread development of an EHR
- Discuss the advantages and barriers to a National Healthcare Information Infrastructure linked to a Public Health Information Network
- List the difficulties in obtaining timely, accurate, complete and useful clinical data for epidemiological research and surveillance needs

Related Web page: http://www.ahima.org

REACH 2010 faith-in-health library initiative: Diabetes information taken to a higher power to eliminate health disparities

Paper Presentation, Session 4298.1, Abstract #104111

Barbara A. Carlson, MLIS(1), Carl Grant, Pastor(2), Michael Frost, Rev(3), Jacquetta Grant(2), Florene Linnen, CHA(1), Beverly Highland, CHA(1), Marilyn Robb(4), Gerald B. Moore, MLIS(5), Gayenell Magwood, RN, MSN, PhD(Cand)(1), and Carolyn M. Jenkins, MSN, DrPH(1). (1) REACH 2010, College of Nursing, Medical University of South Carolina, PO Box 250160, 99 Jonathan Lucas Street, Charleston, SC 29425, 843-792-5874, carlsonb@musc.edu, (2) Greater St. Peters Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ Apostolic Faith, Inc., 2062 Savage Road, Charleston, SC 29414, (3) Nazareth AME Church, PO Box 750, Georgetown, SC 29440, (4) Andrews Branch Library, Georgetown County Public Library, 105 North Morgan Street, Andrews, SC 29510, (5) Cooper River Library, Charleston County Public Library, 3503 Rivers Avenue, North Charleston, SC 29405

The REACH 2010 Faith-in-Health Library Initiative strengthens an urban/rural partnership among inter-denominational African American churches, multi-type libraries, and community groups to develop, implement, and evaluate a community based health information technology train-the-trainer program. By increasing technical skills and the use of recommended diabetes Internet and library resources, people with diabetes may increase their diabetes knowledge, self-management, and quality of care. The REACH 2010 Charleston and Georgetown Diabetes Coalition guides this project, and works to improve diabetes outcomes and eliminate health disparities. Health information needs assessment surveys (306), focus groups (3), the work of an experienced partnership, and a faith leader's health mission provide the basis for this approach. Each of 2 lead churches hosts an Internet computer and printer, and invites the involvement of 3-4 neighborhood churches. Internet instructors from churches and public libraries teach participants through a 3-phase curriculum, tailored to skill levels and needs. A pastor-initiated web site, aimed at church leaders, provides diabetic patient safety tips and recommends supplies to stock at church to assist persons with diabetes. Journals, logs, scrapbooks, and pretest-post tests evaluate the training program, as well as, use and satisfaction with Web sites, such as MedlinePlus, American Diabetes Association, and CDC. The program trains 150 individuals and spreads information
resources to 1,000 individuals over 18 months. Lessons learned will be shared. Digital divide gaps related to health information literacy and disparities, in a population disproportionately impacted by diabetes, are expected to reduce. A film of a REACH faith-based activity will be shown.

Learning Objectives

- Discuss the role of faith leaders as partners in working to improve community health information technology skills through church activities.
- Articulate the positive role of libraries as partners in community and public health.
- Describe a community-driven, evidence-based approach to improve access to quality health information.

Related Web page: http://www.musc.edu/reach

Wednesday, December 14

8:30 - 9:30 AM

What works: Environmental health information outreach to African American faculty, graduate students, and community organizations

Poster - Board 6, Session 5005.0, Abstract #117307

Gale Dutcher, MLS, MS, Specialized Information Services Division, Office of Outreach and Special Populations, National Library of Medicine, 6707 Democracy Blvd., Suite 510, Room 518, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301/496-5082, DUTCHERG@mail.nlm.nih.gov, Cynthia B. Love, MLS, Specialized Information Services, Office of Outreach and Special Populations, National Library of Medicine, 6707 Democracy Blvd, Suite 510, Bethesda, MD 20892, and Stacey J. Arnesen, MS, Specialized Information Services, National Library of Medicine, 6707 Democracy Blvd., Suite 510, Bethesda, MD 20892.

For more than a decade, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) has worked with Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) and community organizations to promote the use of Web-based environmental health, environmental justice, and toxicology resources by health professionals, researchers, students, and community organizations that are predominantly African American. Based on a variety of programs and projects, the types of outreach that work and don't work will be described. NLM has funded outreach efforts that included training, computer equipment, Internet connectivity, conference sponsorship, Web site development, student activities and faculty development. Funding recipients range from small community-based advocacy groups to a coalition of minority-serving health professional schools, formed in 1991, and the United Negro College Fund Special Programs Corporation. Successes, difficulties and lessons learned will be discussed. Projects in Louisiana and nearby states will be highlighted.

Learning Objectives

- Describe US environmental justice issues as they affect African Americans, and understand the wide range of toxicology and environmental health interests among diverse organizations.
- List key online resources that provide information on these issues.
- Describe NLMs approach to enhancing access to toxicology and environmental health information for minority-serving schools and organizations.
8:30 - 9:30 AM

Lessons learned: Environmental health information outreach to Native Americans

Poster - Board 8, Session 5005.0, Abstract #117363

Cynthia Love, MLS(1), Gale Dutcher, MLS, MS(2), and Stacey J. Arnesen, MS(1). (1) Specialized Information Services, National Library of Medicine, 6707 Democracy Blvd, Suite 510, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-496-5306, cindy_love@nlm.nih.gov, (2) Specialized Information Services Division, Office of Outreach and Special Populations, National Library of Medicine, 6707 Democracy Blvd., Suite 510, Room 518, Bethesda, MD 20892

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) has worked with tribal governments, American Indian organizations and tribal colleges to develop interest and skills in using online environmental health, toxicology, and consumer health resources. Outreach efforts have included mid-career internships, training, Internet access and computer equipment, Web site development, sponsoring the efforts of the National Congress of American Indians Task Force on Health, and attending powwows and tribal functions to promote use of online health information. NLM also sponsors the Arctic Health and American Indian Health Web sites that provide health information for and about American Indians and Alaska Natives. Progress and barriers in connecting American Indians to the world of online health information will be discussed.

Learning Objectives

- Describe tribal and American Indian interest and involvement in environmental health issues, emphasizing the tremendous range of interests across the US.
- List key online resources that provide information on these issues.
- Describe NLM’s approach to partnering with American Indian organizations, schools, and governments to enhance access to health information.

12:30 - 2:00 PM

Enhancing evidence-based information access to inform public health practice

Paper Presentation, Session 5134.0, Abstract #108127

Nancy R. La Pelle, PhD(1), E. Hatheway Simpson, MPH(1), Roger Luckmann, MD, MPH(2), and Elaine Martin, MLS, DA(1). (1) Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School, 55 Lake Avenue North, Worcester, MA 01655, 508-875-1393, nancy.lapelle@umassmed.edu, (2) Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Massachusetts Medical School, 55 Lake Avenue North, Worcester, MA 01655

It is clear from the trend towards evidence-based practices in many fields that public health (PH) practice can be better informed if credible information about effective practices is accessible. Comparing sources of evidence-based information in clinical medicine to what is available for PH, we found fewer examples of readily accessible sources in PH. This project was conceived to identify desirable enhancements to evidence-based information access for PH professionals. A qualitative study identified how PH professionals currently access information and what enhancements they need. Nineteen individual interviews were conducted across two state health department bureaus – communicable disease control and community health promotion. Follow-up focus groups were conducted to gather additional data on preferences for information accessing models and features. An information maturity continuum emerged ranging from fast-breaking news about emerging health threats to evidence-based practice guidelines. Needs within this continuum varied somewhat across bureaus, but both groups expressed needs for improved information access such as better organizing/filtering of information, access to systematic reviews
and/or summaries as well as full text of articles, one portal access with a good search engine, and broader access to best practice information. Both groups identified a need for PH-specific filters to create more efficient access to relevant information either delivered to their desktops via listservs or sought via search engines. Informants stated a preference for making enhancements to systems with which they were already familiar such as PubMed.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the evolution and maturation of work-related public health information as part of a continuum from breaking news to evidence-based practice guidelines.
- Compare variations within stages of this continuum related to two areas of public health practice - communicable disease control and community health promotion related to chronic disease control.
- Identify and make recommendations for enhancements to evidence-based information resources needed by public health professionals.

Related Web page: http://library.umassmed.edu/ebpph

12:30 - 2:00 PM

Public Health Information and Data Tutorials: Development of Web-based Resources for the Public Health Workforce

Paper Presentation, Session 5134.0, Abstract #111909

Nancy J. Allee, MLS, MPH, AHIP(1), Gillian Mayman, MILS(1), Monique Uzelac, MILS(1), Stephan Burdick, BFA(1), and Keith W. Cogdill, PhD(2). (1) Public Health Library & Informatics, University of Michigan, 109 Observatory, M2030 SPH2, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2029, 734-763-5678, nallee@umich.edu, (2) National Network Office, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894

This project is a collaborative effort between the National Library of Medicine and an academic health sciences library to develop web-based training modules for the public health workforce. The course materials represent a rich variety of digital resources, including web modules, online bibliographies, case studies and exercises, and other supplemental resources. Topics covered include News and Current Awareness, Health Education, Health Statistics, and Supporting Decisions with Best Evidence. The development process included usability testing and focus group surveys of public health faculty, students, practitioners and librarians. The usefulness and effectiveness of the learning modules, including content, design and navigation were assessed. Other evaluative measures, such as statistics on access of the web-based learning modules, will be used to determine both the level of the use and the utility for the target audience. Additional project outcomes are the development of effective strategies for creating online resources and evaluative criteria for successful design of web-based learning modules. These strategies and criteria are applicable to other online learning initiatives. The tutorials are based on information competencies and will enable public health workers to better access, evaluate, manage and use information needed to respond to public health issues and problems.

Learning Objectives

- Learn effective strategies for developing online learning resources.
- Apply evaluative criteria for successful design and development of web-based learning modules.
- Recognize important issues in converting print resources to an online environment.
- Identify key public health information resources developed by federal agencies, non-profit organizations and professional associations.