Winter Headlines

MPH Student Writes National Water Safety Policy

NACCHO has definitely changed my outlook on public health. I have a much broader sense of the public health system, and can better understand how public health initiatives are spread across the country. On a more personal level, I uncovered an interest in policy and I strengthened and refined my interest in environmental health.”

MPH student Samantha Iovan completed her MPH Practicum Experience as a Policy and Practice Scholar with NACCHO (National Association of County & City Health Officials). Samantha worked with the environmental health director and the environmental health committee to write the recreational water policy statement that was released in March, 2015 by NACCHO and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Samantha is working to complete two other policy statements related to water quality and sustainability and will later present them to the NACCHO board for approval.

Read the full March 18, 2015 Prognosis E-News article by Andrea Westfall, Wayne State University Office of Public Affairs.

Bridges to Equity Program Hosts Emergency Preparedness Conference

On Friday, May 1, the WSU Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences Bridges to Equity Program hosted a CME event “Update on Emergency Preparedness: What Clinicians Need to Know”. The event featured keynote addresses from Mouhanad Hammami, MD, Wayne County Health and Human Services Chief of Health Operations, and Bechara Choucair, MD, MS, Senior Vice President for Safety Net Transformation and Community Benefit for Trinity Health Livonia. Speakers Ruta Sharangapani, MD, MPH, Wayne County Health Department Medical Director, Lance Gable, JD, MPH, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, WSU Law School and Veronica Rodriguez, MPH, Wayne County Health Department Emergency Preparedness Administration, led activities related to Ebola and measles outbreaks.

National Health Disparities Student Winner

Tanya Troy’s (MPH, 2014) research project “Advance Directives in an Older African American Population: What Are the Attitudes and Barriers to Completion?” won first place at the Annual National Health Disparities Student Forum in California in November, 2014. Tanya is now a Henry Ford Health System epidemiologist and the Epidemiology Section of the Michigan Public Health Association Secretary.
**Bragging Rights**

**Internships Create Opportunities**

I’m so intrigued by chemistry because some chemicals are completely harmless, while others take a devastating impact on humans and the environment, just because of a seemingly simple rearrangement of the same 118 elements.”

Following her summer internship at NSF International (National Sanitation Foundation) in Ann Arbor, Kasey Mohan (MPH, fall, 2014) was hired as a toxicologist to review chemical formulations of materials that come directly in contact with food to ensure compliance with FDA regulations. Kasey recently co-wrote an article for the Kids + Chemical Safety Website describing how laundry detergent packets resemble candy and present a risk to young children. Read the complete article at [http://kidschemicalsafety.org/health/laundry-detergent-pods-need-know/](http://kidschemicalsafety.org/health/laundry-detergent-pods-need-know/)

MPH student Adam Hart studied the impact of implementing a $5 fee for Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic Services during his summer internship with the Oakland County Health Department Communicable Disease Unit. Adam presented his findings to Oakland County Administrators, the Southeast Michigan Epidemiologic Committee, and presented his poster at the Michigan Epidemiology Conference on March 27. He later completed his MPH practicum at the health department and helped plan the World TB Day Conference on April 2, 2015.

MPH student Elizabeth Sullivan interned at the Urban Neighborhood Initiatives (UNI) in Springwells Village in Southwest Detroit during the fall and spring and assisted with an attendance initiative aimed at decreasing chronic absenteeism in Southwest and other Detroit neighborhoods. Elizabeth had the opportunity to meet with community partners and apply public health theories including the Trans-Theoretical Theory and community-based participatory research during her internship. UNI is a nonprofit corporation that works with communities in urban neighborhoods to build safe and thriving environments where people want to live, work, and play.

**Wayne State University Graduate Student Showcase Winners**

- MPH student Arun Mallapareddi won second place for his oral presentation “Active Surveillance for Early Stage Prostate Cancer: What do Men and Their Partners Think?” Jinping Xu, MD, was Arun’s faculty advisor.

- MPH student Sukhesh Sudan won second place for his poster presentation “Trends in Antibiotic Susceptibility of Acinetobacter baumannii isolates from Long-term Acute Care Hospitals in Metropolitan Detroit”.

We hope you enjoyed this issue of *Public Health Matters*. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact the editor Elissa Firestone at MPHprogram@med.wayne.edu.