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PA/HA News Website: <http://phha.mlanet.org/newsletter.html>

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From the Editor

Linda M. Spitzer, Editor/Chair of Newsletter Committee, ispitzer@lrmc.usuhs.mil

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this newsletter and to Christine Marton who has done a wonderful job of redesigned the newsletter website. I am currently recruiting for Grey Literature and GIS contributors. If you are interested, please e-mail me.

I'd like to point out that version 2 of the Core Journals Project is now available (see Kris Alpi's submission for more information on this project). Also, several grants and scholarships are available through MLA. In addition, the PH/HA Section will sponsor the first ever research award for the section.

The deadline for the Spring *PH/HA Newsletter* is February 15th, 2007. I look forward to receiving your submissions which help to keep our membership informed.

From the Chair

Marcus Banks, Chair of PH/HA Section, banksm01@library.med.nyu.edu

I hope that everyone enjoyed a refreshing summer. Now that fall is here, many of us are busy traveling to various meetings and we are all attending to numerous responsibilities. In the midst of this activity, it is worth taking a moment to reflect on the continued vitality of PH/HA.

Section Program

Chair Elect Lisa Wallis has coordinated another exciting PH/HA program, "Filling the Void: Creating Access to All from Anywhere." Please submit an abstract by November 6, 2006, via the MLA '07 web page, at: <http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2007/index.html>.



Research Award

PH/HA is also going to sponsor a first ever research award for the section, beginning next year. We will award both completed research and proposed research; proposals must be completed to receive award funds. Full application details are available on the PH/HA web site, at: <http://phha.mlanet.org/activities/PHHAResearchAward.pdf>.

Many thanks to Jon Eldredge for agreeing to chair the research awards committee, to Prudence Dalrymple for joining the committee, to Christine Marton for working with on many drafts of the application, and to Helen Look, Nancy Schaefer, and Kris Alpi for their helpful suggestions.

Welcome to New Members

Finally, a special welcome to all new members of PH/HA. We are glad that you have joined our section. Please feel free to contact me at banksm01@library.med.nyu.edu or 212-263-8482 if there is anything you would like to know about the section.

Membership Committee Report

Margaret Basket, PH/HA Membership Chair

mbasket@mac.com

As of 10/18/06, the PH/HA Section has 171 individual members and 2 institutional members. We have gained 29 new members in 2006; 12 of them have joined since the last newsletter in May.

Please welcome these new colleagues who have joined the PH/HA section as new members. Their names and affiliations are listed on the next page.

PH/HA News

**Newsletter of the Public Health/Health Administration Section
of the Medical Library Association
Fall 2006**



Lorely Ambriz	PAHO/WHO US, El Paso, TX
Jane Blumenthal, AHIP	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Karen Bulow	NN/LM-South Central Region, Houston, TX
Holly Ann Burt	NN/LM-Greater Midwest Region, Chicago, IL
Amber Burtis	Kent State University, Columbus, OH
Paul E. Dahl	Minnesota Department of Health, St. Paul, MN
Amy Harper	University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Gail Kouame	NN/LM-Pacific Northwest Region, Seattle, WA
Mellanye Lackey	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
Joseph Nicholson	University of California, Berkeley, CA
Janette Halsey Schueller	Battelle Seattle Research Center, Seattle, WA
Elizabeth Tanner	Brookline, NH

We extend a warm welcome to these new members and look forward to their participation in our section.

New members are always welcome to the PH/HA section! Access an application online and join or renew by mail or online at: <http://www.mlanet.org/joinmla/mbrappf.html>

From the Immediate Past Chair

Nancy Schaefer, Immediate Past Chair, PH/HA Section [NancyS@library.health.ufl.edu]

Thanks to all the 2005-2006 officers -- especially Christine Marton and Margaret Basket who very efficiently updated our membership brochure <http://phha.mlanet.org/membership/phhabrochure.pdf> for membership activities at MLA 2006 in Phoenix, to Teresa Hammett for producing our section block for the MLA quilt (which was used to create section stickers for our MLA meeting badges), to the 5 people who provided input to our section's response to the potential privatization of *Environmental Health Perspectives* and to the 9 who provided input for our section's response to the changes in MeSH subheadings.



I also appreciate the efforts of all committee members during the past year. Special thanks to Kris Alpi for her valuable guidance as Immediate Past Chair and to Marcus Banks for his help as Chair-Elect.

Thanks to all of you for giving me the opportunity to lead a section with such good energy and generous, helpful, innovative people!

MLA '07 Section Program Planning
Fill the Void! Submit an Abstract for MLA '02
Submitted by Lisa Wallis, lwallis@uic.edu



The deadline for MLA '07 meeting abstracts is quickly approaching. All entries must be electronically submitted by midnight (central time) **Monday, November 6, 2006** to be considered for the May 18-23, 2007 meeting in Philadelphia.

PH/HA will sponsor one contributed papers program. Please take a look at the description below, and submit an abstract online at <http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2007/index.html>

“Filling the Void: Creating Access to All from Anywhere”

(PH/HA, lead sponsor; Federal Libraries, International Cooperation; Outreach SIG, co-sponsors)

Increasingly libraries and librarians are being asked to serve more diverse and dispersed users. This program will showcase new models for providing access to information from anywhere in the world, through the use of tools like PDAs and promotion of open access electronic publications.



On the topic of abstracts, while I was only able to (randomly) select three of you, I very much appreciated the large number of people who volunteered to review abstracts. PH/HA members always step up when asked. Thank you.

Good luck with your submissions!

Core Public Health Journals Project

Submitted by Kris Alpi kalpi@att.net

It's Ready!! The 2006 Core Public Health Journals Project List is Open for Service

The 2006 Core Public Health Journals Project has released version 2 of its Core Public Health Journals List. Selection of journals is based on a peer-review process involving close to fifty librarians from institutions across the United States. Access to the Core Public Health Journals List is freely available online at:

<http://publichealth.yale.edu/phlibrary/phjournals/v2/>.

The site includes a listing of all participants, many of whom are PH/HA members.

The final list of journals represents the breadth and depth of the public health field and the variety of public health concerns. Journals are organized by public health subject area (for example, biostatistics, environmental health and sciences, epidemiology, etc.) and are further categorized as either a journal that is essential for the subject specialization, important for collections that support researchers or fall under the category of grey literature.

Librarians will find the list useful in guiding the collection or evaluation of libraries that serve public health organizations or specialties. Public health professionals will find the Core Public Health Journals List helps them find journals that are focused on their area of specialty. Researchers will use the list as a starting point for conducting systematic reviews of the literature. Students of public health will find the Core Public Health Journals List will help them understand the vast literature that comprises the field of public health.



Feedback is welcomed through the Comments/Suggestions form on the site or you may contact any member of the project team:

Kris Alpi, Weill Medical College of Cornell University
Marie Ascher, New York Medical College
Barbara Nail-Chiwetalu, University of Maryland
Melissa Rethlefsen, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine
Debra Revere, University Of Washington
Matt Wilcox, Yale University

News from the Medical Library Association

Grants and Scholarships

Submitted by Helen Look, PH/HA Section Council Representative hlook@umich.edu

MLA CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT - APPLICATIONS DUE DECEMBER 1, 2006

Consider applying for an MLA CE Grant of \$100-\$500 to develop your knowledge of the theoretical, administrative, and/or technical aspects of librarianship. An applicant must hold a graduate degree in Library Science, be a practicing health sciences librarian with at least two years of experience and a citizen or permanent resident of the United States or Canada. Visit www.mlanet.org/pdf/grants/ce_app_20050712.pdf for an application and information or contact Lisa C. Fried, Credentialing, Professional Recognition, and Career Coordinator at 1.312.419.9094 ext. 28 or mlapd2@mlahq.org.



2008 MLA Cunningham Memorial International Fellowship - Applications due December 1, 2006.

The award is given annually to citizens or permanent residents from countries outside the United States or Canada who have both an undergraduate degree and a master's level library degree and are working or preparing to work in a health sciences library in their countries. The program provides a learning experience that may consist of a stay in the United States at one or more medical libraries. Based upon the upcoming 2007 pilot program, the format and duration of the 2008 program could vary from two weeks up to a period of three months. For a fact sheet and application visit http://www.mlanet.org/pdf/grants/cun_fact_20050712.pdf; http://www.mlanet.org/pdf/grants/cun_app_20060627.pdf.

For more information contact Lisa C. Fried, Credentialing, Professional Recognition, and Career Coordinator at 1.312.419.9094 ext. 28 or mlapd2@mlahq.org.

EBSCO /MLA ANNUAL MEETING GRANT- APPLICATIONS DUE DECEMBER 1, 2006.

The EBSCO/MLA Annual Meeting Grant sponsored by EBSCO Information Services enables up to four medical librarians to attend the MLA Annual Meeting and pays up to \$1,000 in travel and conference-related expenses. An application form and criteria can be found at http://mlanet.org/pdf/grants/ebSCO_app_20050712.pdf. To be eligible, an applicant must be currently employed as a health sciences librarian and have between two and five years experience in a health sciences library.

For more information, contact George Wahlert, Jury Chair, gwahlert@chpnet.org or Lisa Fried, MLA Professional Development department at mlapd2@mlahq.org. Please share this information with your colleagues who may be eligible for this award.



Apply Today for the MLA David A. Kronick Traveling Fellowship

This \$2000 fellowship is given for studying a specific aspect of health information management by traveling to three or more medical libraries in the US or Canada. The application deadline is December 1, 2006. More information and an application can be accessed online at http://www.mlanet.org/pdf/grants/kronick_app_20050712.pdf. For additional information, contact Laura K. Cousineau, Jury Chair, 843-792-2368, cousinel@musc.edu or Lisa Fried, MLA Professional Development at mlapd2@mlahq.org or 312-419-9094 ext. 28.

Applications for the Donald A. B. Lindberg Fellowship due November 15, 2006

MLA is now accepting applications for The Donald A. B. Lindberg Research Fellowship established by MLA to fund research aimed at expanding the research knowledge base of health sciences information management and enhancing the role of health sciences librarians and other information professionals in health care access and delivery, public health, consumer information, health professions education or biomedical research. The endowment will provide a \$25,000 grant, awarded annually by MLA through a competitive grant process, to a qualified health sciences librarian, informatician, health professional, researcher, educator, or health administrator. An application and more information about the fellowship can be accessed online at www.mlanet.org/awards/grants/ or by contacting Lisa C. Fried, MLA's Credentialing, Professional Recognition and Career Coordinator at <mailto:mlapd2@mlahq.org>.

Apply for the MLA Research, Development, and Demonstration Project Grant, Deadline December 1, 2006

The grant provides financial support for research, development, or demonstration projects that will help to promote excellence in the field of health sciences librarianship and information sciences. More information and application form can be found at http://www.mlanet.org/pdf/grants/res_app_20050712.pdf.

Please email Howard Silver, Jury Chair, at hsilver@mit.edu if you have additional questions, or Lisa C. Fried, Credentialing, Professional Recognition and Career Coordinator at mlapd2@mlahq.org.



Apply today for the 2007 MLA Scholarship - Application Deadline December 1, 2006

Applications are now being accepted for the MLA Scholarship. This scholarship provides up to \$5,000 to a student who shows excellence in scholarship and potential for accomplishment in health sciences librarianship. Further information and criteria are available at http://www.mlanet.org/pdf/grants/schol_app_20050712.pdf or email Anne Heimann, Jury Chair at anne.heimann@otsuka.com.

News from / about the National Library of Medicine

Update from the National Library of Medicine, Division of Specialized Information Services

Submitted by Colette Hochstein, D.M.D., MLS (Colette@nlm.nih.gov), Division of Specialized Information Services, NLM

The [Division of Specialized Information Services](http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/) (SIS, <http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/>) at the [National Library of Medicine](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/) (NLM) creates information resources and services in toxicology, environmental health, chemistry, and HIV/AIDS. Another component of SIS, the [Office of Outreach and Special Populations](http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/), seeks to improve access to quality and accurate health information by underserved and special populations. Many SIS products help to address the toxicology and environmental health information needs of the general public.

TOXMAP's maps now have a more accurate appearance

TOXMAP's maps (<http://toxmap.nlm.nih.gov>) now have a more accurate appearance. To draw the Earth (or a portion of it) onto a map, map makers use different map projections that apply (or "project") the curved Earth surface onto a flat map. Although no projection will perfectly depict all areas of the Earth, different map projections make specific areas of the Earth look as accurate and realistic as possible.



TOXMAP now uses a map projection (called "North American Albers Equal Area Conic") which makes the continental United States look most realistic. Areas farther away from the US will appear increasingly distorted.

You can learn more about map projections from the USGS online at http://www.nationalatlas.gov/articles/mapping/a_projections.html

Other new TOXMAP features include:

- Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) releases summary table for each TRI facility showing all years and chemicals in table format;
- Larger default maps (with the option for small maps);
- Enhanced homepage map;
- Auto-completion of chemical names in text entry fields (like Quick Search);
- A "For Teachers" (<http://toxmap.nlm.nih.gov/toxmap/home/forTeachers.jsp>) page that includes a downloadable sample assignment.

TOXMAP helps users explore the geographic distribution of certain chemical releases, their relative amounts, and their trends over time. This release data comes from industrial facilities around the United States, as reported annually to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

More information about TOXMAP can be found online at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/toxmap.html>

ToxMystery: A new interactive learning site for young kids

ToxMystery (<http://toxmystery.nlm.nih.gov>) is the National Library of Medicine's new, interactive learning site for 7-10 year old kids. It provides a fun, game-like experience while introducing potential environmental health hazards sometimes found in the home.



"Toxie" the cat helps find the hazards hidden in each room, and offers hints when needed. The objective is to find all the hazards. Players are treated to fun animations when they complete each area. When all the hazards in the house have been discovered, Toxie delivers an animated celebration, and players can print a personalized certificate.

ToxMystery's "Parent Resources" page provides more detailed information about everyday environmental hazards that can be harmful to one's health. A "For Teachers" page contains more than ten downloadable activity pages that can be used in elementary school classrooms.

ToxMystery joins a number of other new NLM resources geared towards the general public.



New version of TOXLINE

A new version of the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) TOXLINE was released in July (<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/htmlgen?TOXLINE>). Search results from the two parts of TOXLINE are now merged. This allows all results to be relevancy ranked in the same way, with results displayed in only one window. A similar merged interface will be provided for the Developmental and Reproductive Toxicology/Environmental Teratology Information Center (DART[®]/ETIC) database soon.

<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/htmlgen?DARTETIC>

TOXLINE is part of NLM's Toxicology Data Network (TOXNET); it is a bibliographic database for toxicology, a varied science of many disciplines. TOXLINE records provide bibliographic information covering the biochemical, pharmacological, physiological, and toxicological effects of drugs and other chemicals. It contains over 3 million bibliographic citations, most with abstracts and/or indexing terms and CAS Registry Numbers. TOXLINE covers much of the standard journal literature in toxicology; it is complemented with references from an assortment of specialized journals and other sources. TOXNET offers features such as relevancy ranking and flexible sorting and downloading options.

Citations from PubMed (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?DB=pubmed>) now directly link back to PubMed for convenience in using their related records, LinkOut (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/linkout/>), and document ordering functions.

More information about TOXLINE can be found on the TOXLINE Fact Sheet <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/toxlinfs.html> or by emailing tehip@tehi.nlm.nih.gov



Dietary Supplements: Links to Health Information including Toxicology and Environmental Health

A new web page that addresses the relationship between dietary supplements and human health has been added to the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) Enviro-Health Links. The page provides links to information on dietary supplements, vitamins and minerals, herbs, botanicals and other substances.

<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/dietarysupplements.html>

Supermarket and drug store shelves are filled with supplements and herbal products. News outlets frequently report on the very latest in supplement research, some of which seems contradictory. How can one know which supplements are effective, which are toxic, or which may have no effect at all? Many agencies and organizations provide good guides to learning more about supplements. The Dietary Supplements page covers use, research, and dietary reference intakes plus information about the regulations and laws regarding dietary supplements. It also includes pre-formulated searches in PubMed and TOXLINE on common topics.

NLM also offers other Enviro-Health Links on topics such as: Indoor and Outdoor Air Pollution, the Health Effects from the Collapse of the World Trade Center, and Toxicogenomics (<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/envirohealthlinks.html>).

LinkOut to the Household Products Database

LinkOut (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/linkout>) is a powerful linking feature for NLM's NCBI databases. With LinkOut, PubMed citations can have hyperlinks to related online resources, such as full-text publications, biological databases, consumer health information, and research tools. The goal of LinkOut is to extend, clarify, or supplement database records to information beyond NCBI.



Selected PubMed citations now have links that open relevant chemical safety and health effects information in NLM's Household Products Database (<http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov>). This chemical information page includes:

- Alternative names and identifiers for the chemical
- Links that will run searches in other NLM resources
- A list of name brand household products that contain the chemical. Select the link for a household product to find information about the brand, its ingredients and manufacturer, as well as health effects of the product and directions for its handling/disposal.

Currently, 153 PubMed citations have LinkOut links to HPD records. These articles meet the criteria for LinkOut: to be about a chemical in HPD, and to be indexed with the "Household products" MeSH descriptor (this condition ensures that the PubMed citation will be relevant to the chemical and safety information in HPD).

To review citations that have a LinkOut link to HPD, search PubMed with the term "loprovhpd[sb]". Users can also look for links to HPD under the heading Medical > Consumer Health > Household Products Database.

HSDB and TOXLINE Updates

You can check for updates to the National Library of Medicine's Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB) and TOXLINE at http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/html/toxnet_update.html



2006 AIDS Community Information Outreach Projects

NLM has continued its HIV/AIDS- related outreach efforts to community-based organizations, patient advocacy groups, faith-based organizations, departments of health, and libraries. This program provides support to design local programs for improving information access for AIDS patients and the affected community as well as their caregivers. Emphasis is on providing information or access in a way meaningful to the target community. Projects must involve one or more of the following information access categories: information retrieval, skills development, Internet access, resource development, and document access. Standard Awards are offered for up to \$50,000; Express Awards are offered for up to \$10,000.

Information regarding the AIDS Community Information Outreach Program can be found at http://www.sis.nlm.nih.gov/outreach/aids_cio_projects.html

Stay Informed: Join NLM's [NLM-Tox-Enviro-Health-L](http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/envirolistserv.html)

[NLM-Tox-Enviro-Health-L](http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/envirolistserv.html) (<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/envirolistserv.html>) is an email announcements-only list available from the [National Library of Medicine](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/) (NLM)'s Division of Specialized Information Services (SIS). The purpose of the announcement list is to broadcast updates on SIS's resources, services, and outreach in toxicology and environmental health.

SIS RSS Feed Available

SIS also offers RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds of its News page (<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/news.html>). RSS is a Web standard for sharing and distributing news and other frequently updated content provided by Web sites. The SIS feed address is <http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/rss/sisnewsfeed.rss>



The SIS News feed will keep you informed about new resources and updates to NLM/SIS databases, and alert you to scientific meetings at which SIS will have exhibits, presentations, or classes.

An RSS reader, also called an aggregator, is required to use this service on your computer. There are many RSS readers from which to choose and many are available to download free from the Web. They offer a variety of functions; each has its own advantages. Instructions for adding the Division of Specialized Information Services News RSS feed to your reader are available at <http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/sirsfeed.html>

RESOURCES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kaiser and AHRQ Medical Errors Survey Released

The Kaiser Family Foundation and AHRQ on September 27 released an updated survey capturing the public's views and knowledge of medical errors and their experiences in taking steps aimed at improving the quality of their care. Since the IOM issued its landmark study 7 years ago on medical errors in hospitals, there have been a wide range of efforts by hospitals, doctors, health plans and purchasers to improve the quality and coordination of health care. The new survey updates key questions about these issues that had been asked in 2000, 2002 and 2004 surveys.

Select to read the survey [results](#).



New AHRQ MEPS Statistical Brief on Health Insurance Status of Children

AHRQ issued a new statistical brief with 2005 data on health insurance status of noninstitutionalized children in the United States. Estimates are presented for the first half of calendar years 1996 through 2005. The statistical brief, *Statistical Brief #141: Changes in Children's Health Insurance Status, 1996-2005: Estimates for the U. S. Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population under Age 18*, presents estimates from the Household Component of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS-HC).

Select to view the [data](#).

New Test Measures Spanish-Speaking Patients' Understanding of Basic Medical Terminology

Researchers have developed an easy-to-use word-recognition test to assess Spanish speakers' comprehension of medical terms commonly used in clinics and community health programs. Low health literacy plays an important role in health disparities and may contribute to high health care cost, low quality of care, and even medical errors. The researchers evaluated the test—the Short Assessment of Health Literacy for Spanish-Speaking Adults or SAHLSA—on 201 Spanish-speaking clinic patients from various countries and found that it could reliably identify those with low health literacy. The test, which asks patients to identify words such as *embarazo* (pregnancy), *microbios* (germs), and *infección* (infection), found no major differences among the groups except that patients of South American origin scored higher. According to the study's leader, Shouou-Yih D. Lee, Ph.D., of the University of North Carolina School of Public Health, the new tool overcomes the problems encountered in translating word-recognition health literacy assessment into Spanish and can be used in clinics as well as in community health programs. The article, "Development of an Easy-to-Use Spanish Health Literacy Test," was published in the August issue of *Health Services Research*. Select to read the [abstract](#) in PubMed®.



Enhanced Online Data Resources for States from 2005 NHQR Are Available

AHRQ has expanded its online State Snapshots tool to help State policymakers and other health care leaders identify areas in which they are doing well and areas needing quality improvement. In addition, a data table that lists all available measures with State estimates is available for download. Select to view the [2005 State Snapshots](#).

New Evidence Report on Tests for Heart Failure Is Available

AHRQ released a new evidence report that finds that tests for the natriuretic peptides BNP and NT-proBNP can be used to rule out heart failure in patients being seen in emergency rooms, clinics and primary care settings. While elevated levels of these peptides do not confirm that heart problems are causing a patient's symptoms, relatively low levels make it unlikely that these heart problems are present. The report was prepared by AHRQ's Evidence-based Practice Center at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, at the request of the American Association of Clinical Chemistry and the American College of Chest Physicians, to use in updating relevant clinical practice guidelines. The American College of Physicians and the American College of Emergency Physicians will be partners in the dissemination and use of the report. Select to review the [report](#). A print copy is available by sending an e-mail to AHRQPubs@ahrq.hhs.gov.

New AHRQ Study on Malpractice Damage Awards on Health Care Expenditures

A new AHRQ study in the *American Journal of Public Health* indicates that state laws limiting malpractice damage awards reduce overall state health care expenditures. The report estimates that the average reduction in health expenditures for states with caps on malpractice damage awards is \$92 per capita (or 3 percent to 4 percent) over the period of time that the cap has been in place. The study specifically examines noneconomic damage caps—that is, damage caps for pain and suffering as opposed to economic caps that limit awards to cover direct economic outlays in a malpractice suit.



The [study](#), entitled, "The Impact of State Laws Limiting Malpractice Damage Awards on Health Care Expenditures," was conducted by AHRQ researchers Fred Hellinger, Ph.D., and William Encinosa, Ph.D. The final recommendations of the study state that future studies should expand the analysis to focus on whether the level of damage caps relates to health care expenditures; the variation of the effectiveness of these laws across States; and whether or not malpractice tort reform law is related to poorer health outcomes.

New AHRQ Asthma Care Resource Guide Offers Help To States

AHRQ, in partnership with The Council of State Governments, released *Asthma Care Quality Improvement: A Resource Guide for State Action* and its companion *Workbook*. Both are designed to help State leaders identify measures of asthma care quality, assemble data on asthma care, assess areas of care most in need of improvement, learn what other States have done to improve asthma care, and develop a plan for improving the quality of care for their States. This new *Resource Guide* uses data from AHRQ's *National Healthcare Quality Report* and *National Healthcare Disparities Report* and Web-based *State Snapshots* to help inform the Nation and States, respectively, about the quality of asthma care. Select to view the [guide and workbook](#) and select to read our [press release](#). A print copy is available by sending an e-mail to ahrqpubs@ahrq.hhs.gov.

AHRQ Evidence Report on Tobacco Use Is Available

AHRQ released an evidence report summarizing available evidence on the effectiveness of community- and population-based efforts to prevent tobacco use and encourage smoking cessation, and on the impact of smokeless tobacco marketing. The report, *Evidence Report on Tobacco Use: Prevention, Cessation, and Control*, was requested and funded by NIH's Office of the Medical Applications of Research for a State-of-the-Science Conference held on June 12-14 in Bethesda, MD. The researchers found notable gaps in the evidence.



Some new information confirms conclusions of earlier authoritative reviews of the topics. However, little new information addresses issues that the reviews had not covered, and no new evidence was found that would overturn any earlier recommendations. AHRQ's Evidence-based Practice Center at RTI International and the University of North Carolina conducted the systematic literature review and prepared the report. Select to read the [report](#) and select to read the NIH [consensus statement](#). A print copy is available by sending an e-mail to AHRQpubs@ahrq.hhs.gov.

Public Health Thank You Day - November 20, 2006

National public health organizations will celebrate Public Health Thank You Day on Monday, November 20. Supporting organizations include the Research!America, the American Public Health Association (APHA), the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and ASPH.

Demonstrating Excellence in Practice-Based Research Now Available

ASPH is proud to announce that *Demonstrating Excellence in Practice-based Research for Public Health*, a document aimed at schools of public health and their practice partners in research, is now available. The document builds on the important framework provided in *Demonstrating Excellence in Academic Public Health Practice*, which was released in 1999 and seeks to bridge the partnership gaps between schools of public health and the practice community within the shared enterprise of protecting the health of the public. Scholarly, practice-based research lies within a context of competency-based public health practice.



New Centers for Public Health Preparedness Web site Launched

ASPH launched a new Centers for Public Health Preparedness (CPHP) Web site in September. The Web site can be found at http://www.asph.org/cphp/cphp_home.cfm.

ASPH Releases the Final MPH Core Competency Version 2.3

The ASPH Education Committee, chaired by Dean Stephen Shortell (Berkeley), has released Version 2.3 of the core MPH competencies, which includes the ASPH board-approved cross-cutting competencies. This version is the final product of the competency development process that the committee has undertaken since October of 2004.

ASPH Releases Version 2.2 of the MPH Core Competencies

The ASPH Education Committee, chaired by Dean Stephen Shortell (Berkeley), released Version 2.2 of the core MPH competencies in July. The new version includes more resources, such as a list of all competencies considered by the workgroups in drafting their final lists and competency resources based on comments and suggestions received on Version 2.1.

Schools of Public Health Application Service Launched

ASPH launched SOPHAS, the Schools of Public Health Application Service in July. A Centralized Application Service Advisory Committee, which is comprised of representatives from 36 of the ASPH- member schools of public health developed the service under the guidance of a committee of deans including: Dean Marie Swanson (Arizona); Dean James Curran (Emory); Dean Pierre Buekens (Tulane) and Dean Susan Scrimshaw (UIC).