

PH/HA News

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

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PH/HA News Web site: <http://phha.mlanet.org/newsletter.html>

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PH/HA Reports / Announcements

From the Editor

Barbara Nail-Chiwetalu, Editor/Chair of Newsletter Committee, bnailchi@umd.edu

It is with this Spring 2006 issue that I end my term (2 year term plus one extended year) as Editor of *PH/HA News* and Chair of the Newsletter Committee. It has been a very valuable experience for me as it has provided me an opportunity to become much more knowledgeable about public health and to get to know many of the professionals active in this area through the Medical Library Association (particularly the PH/HA Section), the National Library of Medicine, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and many others. Thanks to all who have contributed to the newsletter over these past three years. I have enjoyed working with you and appreciate your contributions.

I am very pleased to announce that **Linda Spitzer** will be taking over this position following the MLA conference in May 2006. Linda has loyally served as a member of the Newsletter Committee for the past three years. So, she comes to this position with experience and knowledge about the newsletter and an enthusiasm to serve as Editor/Chair. I thank her for her work and support during my term and wish her the best in her new role.

A special thank you goes to **Lisa Wallis**, the PH/HA Section Webmaster, who has been a pleasure to work with over the years. She made the posting of the newsletter on the Web site a very smooth and quick process.

You can expect to see me around, continuing my involvement in other projects and activities of the PH/HA section. I hope to see many of you at MLA in Phoenix!

Barbara

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From the Chair

Nancy Schaefer, Chair of PH/HA Section, NancyS@library.health.ufl.edu

Hello!

By now you may have received your preliminary programs for the 2006 MLA Annual Meeting & Exhibition in Phoenix, AZ (May 19-24) and noticed the great programs Chair-Elect **Marcus Banks** has set up for our section to sponsor. (See his section in this newsletter for more on these.)

Our section business meeting will be from 4:30-6:00 PM on Sunday, May 21st. Room TBA. We should have some interesting issues to discuss!

Hopefully, you'll also get a glimpse of the MLA quilt at MLA 2006--with PH/HA Section member **Teresa Hammett's** fine handiwork in our section's quilt block. Thanks so much, Teresa, for your gracious donation of materials, time, effort and most of all, skill.

Our section has a great candidate for the Nominating Council this year - **Kris Alpi**. Thanks, Kris, for agreeing to serve. Those of you who know Kris, or know of her, appreciate what a wonderful representative for our section she will be if elected.

Congratulations to PH/HA member, **Diana Cunningham**, for her very recent appointment to the *Public Health Reports* Advisory Board. She will serve on the Board from March 1, 2006 to February 28, 2008. Another great rep for our section/organization/profession!

Meanwhile, many of you are hard at work updating the award-winning Public Health Core Journals list. That's right—award winning! I'm delighted to announce that the Core Public Health Journals project has been awarded the Medical Library Association's 2006 Louise Darling Medal for Distinguished Achievement in Collection Development. I have just learned of this so have no additional information just yet. Stay tuned and you'll hear more about it. I want to extend thanks on behalf of the section and public health librarians everywhere--especially newer librarians or librarians serving newly forming schools of public health who will reap the greatest benefit--to all of you for your time and effort and to the organizers for thinking through the logistics of a project as big as this. Congratulations on such a prestigious and certainly well-deserved award!

Hope to see you in Phoenix!

Nancy

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PH/HA Has An Exciting Program On Tap for MLA 2006

Submitted by Marcus A. Banks, PH/HA Chair-Elect, banksm@mskcc.org

As you're making plans for the MLA conference in Phoenix, be sure to schedule time to attend the PH/HA session, "Evidence-Based Public Health Librarianship" on Monday, May 22. This is a broad topic that will encompass four outstanding papers.

Many thanks to the volunteers who reviewed abstracts and to everyone who submitted an abstract for this session. We received 16 abstracts in all, one of the largest totals for a section program. Several abstracts not selected as papers will be featured as posters.

Authors and topics include:

- **Maureen Dobbins, Kara DeCorby, Donna Ciliska, Helen Thomas** (McMaster University): "health-evidence.ca: An Innovative Resource to Promote Evidence-Based Public Health Decision Making"
- **Jonathan D. Eldredge, Richard D. Carr** (University of New Mexico): "Evidence-Based Public Health Informatics Training for Public Health Practitioners"
- **Janet Heekin** (National Institutes of Health Library): "A Model of Informationist Service for Research Administrators at the National Institutes of Health"
- **Hathy Simpson, Nancy R. LaPelle, Elaine Martin** (University of Massachusetts Medical School): "Improving Access to Public Health Information: A Study of Information Needs in a State Health Department"

An enticing list, I hope you agree. See you at MLA!

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Membership Committee Report

Submitted by Margaret Basket, PH/HA Membership Chair,
margaret_basket@urmc.rochester.edu

As the Public Health/Health Administration Section begins 2006, our section currently has 196 individual members and 4 institutional members. Of this group, 116 individual members have renewed through 12/31/2006, while 80 members who paid through 12/31/2005 will receive a reminder to renew in 2006; 1 institutional member has paid through 12//31/06 while the others will receive a reminder to renew their membership in 2006.*

Please welcome 12 colleagues who have joined the PH/HA Section as new members in 2006. Their names and affiliations are listed below:

- **Elizabeth H. Allanson, AHIP**, Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, CA
- **Margaret Anderson**, Texas A&M University in Bryan, TX
- **Alan F. Carr, AHIP**, Pacific SW Regional Medical Library in Los Angeles, CA
- **Heather Coates**, Bloomington, IN
- **Maria Cristina Horta**, National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, MD
- **Jeanne Larsen**, Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, DC
- **Jacqueline Leskovec**, NN/LM Greater Midwest Regional Library in Chicago, IL
- **Irene Lubker**, Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA
- **Thomas Mead**, Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH
- **Mary L. Riordan, AHIP**, University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ
- **Donghua Tao**, St. Louis University/University of Missouri-Columbia in St. Louis, MO
- **Elizabeth Taylor**, New York Academy of Medicine in New York, NY

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

A special note to our 2005 section members who have not yet renewed---it is not too late to renew your MLA and PH/HA Section membership for 2006. Individuals may join or renew by mail or online at: <http://www.mlanet.org/joinmla/mbrappf.html>

*As provided by the February 13, 2006 membership report from MLA Headquarters.

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Successful Partnering for Public Health DVD

Submitted by Kay Deeney, AHIP, Continuing Education Chair,
kdeeney@library.ucla.edu

The loaning of the Medical Library Association DVD, *Partnering for Public Health*, has been very successful this year. Lots of members have responded to the listserv messages and newsletter articles to request the DVD. Since August the DVD has circulated constantly. Eight section members and three non-members have requested the DVD. One requestor arranged for a group of six people to view the DVD all in one day. Most of the feedback has been positive, as members appreciate being able to view the DVD and obtain continuing education (CE) credit.

Here are some quotes:

“I can’t tell you how much I appreciate having the opportunity to view this teleconference on DVD. . . Many thanks for the loan.”

“As an MLS student interested in Medical Librarianship I am looking for any opportunities to gain knowledge in public health. I found this program to be very valuable to my education.”

If you are interested in viewing the DVD and obtaining CE credit, go to <http://www.phha.mlanet.org/activities/dvdloan.html>.

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Officers Elected for 2006

Submitted by Kris Alpi, Chair of Nominating Committee, kalpi@att.net

The 2006 PH/HA elections are complete. This year's Nominating Committee consisted of **Teri Hartman**, **Pat Auflick** (Secretary/Treasurer) and **Kristine Alpi** (Past-Chair). 182 ballots were mailed out and 38 usable ballots were received (21% return rate). Thanks for your participation and thanks to Teri Hartman for tracking the submitted ballots.

Chair-Elect for 2006 is **Lisa Wallis** from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Secretary/Treasurer is **Kay Deeney** from the Pacific Southwest Regional Medical Library.

Nominee to the MLA Nominating Committee (appointed) is **Kristine Alpi** from the Weill Medical College of Cornell University.

Bylaws revisions were also distributed with the ballots. Members will be asked to ratify the election results and to vote to approve the bylaws revisions at the PH/HA Business Meeting at the MLA Annual Meeting in May 2006 in Phoenix.

Thanks again to the officers for being willing to serve. The 2007 Nominating Committee will be chaired by **Nancy Schaefer**. If you are interested in running for office next year, please let her know.

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ASPH *Public Health Reports* Advisory Board Appointee

With the support and recommendation of the PH/HA section, **Diana Cunningham** has been appointed to serve a two-year term on the *Public Health Reports* Advisory Board.

The expectations for members of this Board include:

- a. attending the annual meeting of the Editor and Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) Communications Committee at their annual APHA/ASPH meeting;
- b. reviewing and critiquing abstract submission for the ASPH section of Public Health Reports “From the Schools of Pubic Health” section;
- c. completing “timely summary reviews” with recommendations to the committee co-chairs;
- d. participating in quarterly conference calls with the journal editor to plan marketing approaches, improvement strategies, and new initiatives.

Diana holds a Masters of Public Health, is employed by New York Medical College, an ASPH member school, and is the principal investigator on a public health sub-contract with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine under New York Academy of Medicine. This advisory board representation will be a wonderful connection between the PH/HA Section and the ASPH Advisory Board. She plans to communicate relevant information from this group to the section members.

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Good People, Great Information! Sewell Librarians Report on 2005 APHA Meeting, Evidence Based Policy and Practice

Submitted by Joseph M. Nicholson, Alison Aldrich, Marcus A. Banks, Sally Bremner, Min-Lin Fang, Irene Lubker, Beth M. Transue, Lisa Wallis, Sheila Weir, Laura C. Larsson, Nancy Schaefer

Public health professionals and health sciences librarians from all over the country and the world trekked to Philadelphia for the 133rd Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA) on December 10-14, 2005, barely a month after the meeting was to have occurred in New Orleans. All of us were in awe of the meeting planners’ ability to reorganize such a large meeting so effectively in such a short period of time.

The main theme of this year’s meeting, “Evidence Based Policy and Practice,” held special importance for librarians trying to search the evidence base. However, due to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, disaster recovery became another critical element of many sessions. For example, the Opening General Session contained both Senator John Kerry’s interesting keynote address and a panel discussion in the session reported on the tragedy of the Gulf Coast; specifically what lessons can be learned from hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. Kerry handled interruptions from war protestors very well.

This year, nine librarians were able to attend this conference thanks to the Sewell Stipend. For the sixth year in a row, the Grace and Harold Sewell Memorial Fund awarded the Sewell Stipend to a select group of librarians to fund their conference

attendance. (For more information see <http://www.sewellfund.org/Stipends.htm> .) The 2005 Sewell Stipend recipients come from many different types of libraries all over the country. They were:

Alison Aldrich, Health Sciences Librarian, Wright State University, Dayton, OH, alison.aldrich@wright.edu.

Marcus A. Banks, Reference Librarian, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Library, New York, NY, banksms@mskcc.org.

Sally Bremner, Medical Librarian, University of Alaska at Anchorage, Anchorage, AK, sally@uaa.alaska.edu

Min-Lin Fang, Education and Information Consultant for Nursing and Social and Behavioral Sciences, The Library and Center for Knowledge Management, University of California at San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, fang@library.ucsf.edu.

Irene Lubker, Research Librarian, Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, imlubker@vcu.edu.

Joseph M. Nicholson, Assistant Librarian, The Library, Touro University – California, Vallejo, CA, jnicholson@touro.edu.

Beth M. Transue, Librarian, National Sexual Violence Resource Center, Enola, PA, btransue@nsvrc.org.

Lisa Wallis, Assistant Information Services Librarian and Assistant Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, lwallis@uic.edu.

Sheila Weir, Online Services Librarian, Program for Appropriate Technology in Health, Seattle, WA, sweir@path.org.

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News from the Medical Library Association (MLA)

MLA's Leadership and Management Section: Recent History Reveals Growth and Dynamism

Submitted by Brian Bunnett, Chair, LMS Membership Committee,
brian.bunnett@utsouthwestern.edu

The Leadership and Management Section (LMS) is one of the largest and most active of the MLA's 23 sections. At its founding in 1948 the section was known as the Medical School Libraries Group. It was established to provide medical school librarians more opportunities to discuss issues of common interest and concern.

The Group was not particularly active at first – its only regularly scheduled activity was a luncheon or dinner held during the annual meeting of the MLA. Some significant problems beset the Group at its inception, most notably a lack of visibility and focus. The interests of the Medical School Libraries Group did not seem that much different from the interests of many of the MLA's other sections and SIGs or from the Association of Academic Health Sciences Library Directors (AAHSLD).

Largely to address this overlap with other sections and to create a more unique focus the Group was renamed the Leadership and Membership Section in 2000. By doing so the LMS would no longer draw its members only from medical school libraries. It also created a forum, where none existed before, solely dedicated to discussing the challenges of leadership and management. The fact that there were 369 members in the section by 2005 suggests that this new direction has a broad appeal.

The growth of the LMS since 2000 is evident in this increase in its membership as well as in the varied resources it makes available to these members. Foremost among these is its fine newsletter, *The Leading Edge*, that provides its readers with book reviews, short articles, case studies, and section news; the section's listserv allows its subscribers to share information and network in a more casual forum. The LMS also actively sponsors and contributes to grants designed to promote leadership and management. Educational programs offered at MLA annual meetings have always been strength of the section. LMS conviviality and social activities, another strength of the section, allow members numerous opportunities for further networking.

The LMS is similarly rich in its projects and initiatives. Noteworthy in this area is its ambitious effort to advance the careers of middle managers. The Task Force on Professional Development for Current and Aspiring Middle Managers (PDCAMM) recently surveyed over 900 medical librarians, including 400 middle managers, in order to identify how to best prepare this group for positions in upper management.

The LMS has evolved into a mature, active, even dynamic section with a well-defined focus that appeals to many MLA members. If you are interested in improving your management abilities and in advancing your career prospects then you will find that membership in the LMS will help you to realize your professional aspirations.

More information about the LMS is available on its Web page at <http://www.lms.mlanet.org/> An application form is available at: http://www.lms.mlanet.org/join_us_form.html

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News From/About the National Library of Medicine (NLM)

Update from the National Library of Medicine (NLM)

Submitted by Colette Hochstein, Division of Specialized Information Services (SIS),
hochstec@mail.nlm.nih.gov

WebWISER makes WISER Available on the Internet

The National Library of Medicine's WISER, the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders, is now available on the Web. This new version, WebWISER, joins the existing PDA and desktop (PC) applications. WISER was developed by the Library's Division of Specialized Information Services.

You can explore WebWISER at <http://webwiser.nlm.nih.gov/getHomeData.do>
WebWISER provides the WISER functionality via the Internet, without downloading of software or data to the desktop. It has a consistent look and feel of the WISER for Windows desktops/laptops and PDAs. WebWISER supports Web browsers for both PCs and PDAs, including BlackBerry.

WISER (<http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov>) is an application designed to assist first responders in hazardous material incidents. It provides a wide range of information on hazardous substances, including chemical identification support, physical characteristics, human health data, and containment and suppression information.

For free downloads of WISER for PDAs and Window PC platforms, a tutorial and links to other useful information for emergency responders, go to the general WISER Web site at <http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov> .

Lead: Links to Health Information Including Toxicology and Environmental Health <http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/lead.html>

A new Web page that addresses the relationship between lead and human health has been added to the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) Enviro-Health Links. This page provides links to selected Web sites on exposure, treatment, and prevention of lead poisoning.

Lead is a naturally-occurring element that can be harmful to humans when ingested or inhaled. Lead poisoning can cause a number of adverse human health effects, but is particularly detrimental to the neurological development of children. People can be exposed to lead through the air, as well as through accidentally or intentionally eating soil or paint chips, and food or water contaminated with lead.

NLM also offers other Enviro-Health Links on topics such as:

Children's Environmental Health

<http://phpartners.org/cehir/sampler.html>

Indoor Air Pollution

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

Outdoor Air Pollution

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

Arsenic

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

NLM Enviro-Health Links

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

HazMap: New Features

<http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov>

NLM's HazMap has been updated with two new features:

1. A new disease category "Infection, Travel" has been added. It includes:

- African Trypanosomiasis
- American Trypanosomiasis
- Cholera
- Cyclospora cayetanensis infection
- Dengue fever
- Entamoeba histolytica infection
- Enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli infection
- Filariasis
- Giardiasis
- Hepatitis E
- Leishmaniasis
- Malaria
- Onchocerciasis
- Poliomyelitis
- Schistosomiasis, hepatic and intestinal
- Schistosomiasis, urinary
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome
- Shigellosis

2. Images of skin lesions and X-rays have been added for some diseases:

HazMap Skin Lesion Images:

Plague http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=179

Anthrax http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=181
Chloracne http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=215
Candida paronychia http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=288
Sporotrichosis http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=290
Atypical mycobacterium skin infections http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=301
Herpetic whitlow http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=302
Orf (Contagious ecthyma) http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=303
Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=305
Lyme disease http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=344
Chromomycosis http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=354
Leishmaniasis http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=366
Cutaneous larva migrans http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=370
Echinococcosis http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=379
Measles http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=392
Mumps http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=393
Diphtheria http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=399
Smallpox http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=402
Dengue fever http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=434
American Trypanosomiasis http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=468
Filariasis http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=469
Boutonneuse fever http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=509

HazMap X-ray Images:

Asbestosis http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=1
Lung cancer http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=2
Mesothelioma, pleural <http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi->

[bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=3](http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=3)
Asthma, occupational http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=23
Tuberculosis http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=178
Anthrax http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=181
Histoplasmosis http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=262
Coccidioidomycosis http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=263
Severe acute respiratory syndrome http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=421
Dengue fever http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/hazmap_generic?tbl=TblDiseases&id=434

Haz-Map is an occupational health database designed for health and safety professionals and for consumers seeking information about the health effects of exposure to chemicals and biologicals at work. Haz-Map links jobs and hazardous tasks with occupational diseases and their symptoms.

Environmental Health Concerns on the Farm: The Newest Neighborhood for Tox Town

<http://www.toxtown.nlm.nih.gov>

A Farm neighborhood is the newest addition to Tox Town, a Web-based introduction to environmental health risks and toxic chemicals. Tox Town invites visitors to explore a farm to learn about environmental health issues related to agricultural waste, drinking water quality, air pollution, pests, and farm animals. Farms share many of the same environmental health concerns found anywhere in the U.S., but they also have unique concerns and issues, such as exposure to hazardous agricultural chemicals and toxic gases from animal waste.

New locations to explore on the Farm are farm buildings, feeding operations, landfills, agricultural runoff, farm animals, farm ponds, meat processing, tree farming and logging, off-road vehicles, and nearby urban sprawl. Farming is one of the most hazardous occupations in the U.S. Because farm families usually live where they work, all family members are at increased risk of farm-related injury and illness.

Tox Town uses neighborhood scenes, the Farm, City, Town, and U.S.-Mexico Border, along with color, graphics, sounds, and animation to add interest to learning about connections between chemicals, the environment, and the public's health. Tox Town's target audience is high school, college and graduate students, educators, and the interested public.

Tox Town is a project of the Specialized Information Services Division of the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health. Promotional materials and Tox Town images for Web sites and publications are listed at <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/clipart.html>. Please send your comments or questions about Tox Town to tehip@tehip.nlm.nih.gov.

TOXNET

<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/>

TOXNET can now dynamically generate specific "multi-database" searches via simple Web links. Information about creating these links can be found in the TOXNET FAQ "How do I create a link to the results when I search all the databases in TOXNET?" (http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/toxnet_faq.html#searchall).

Specific "chemical links" to records in a TOXNET database can also be created. For details, see the TOXNET FAQ "How do I create a link to a record in a TOXNET database?" (http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/toxnet_faq.html#recordlink)

TOXNET now can be accessed from a Web browser on a PDA device with a network connection. See <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/pda/> .

TOXNET (TOXicology Data NETwork) is a collection of databases from the National Library of Medicine (NLM) covering toxicology, hazardous chemicals, environmental health, and related areas.

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Resources and Announcements

National Women's Health Indicators Database

<http://www.4woman.gov/statedata/>

A new Web site created by the US Department of Health and Human Services contains statistics for women's health indicators. National, regional, state, and county data are available by gender, race, ethnicity, and age. This database allows the user to create custom graphs, charts, and maps on topics including: mental health, access to care, prevention, violence, and abuse.

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Health Data for All Ages

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/health_data_for_all_ages.htm

The new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Web site, “Health Data for All Ages”, contains data on several topics including: Pregnancy and birth, Health conditions and risk factors, Health care access and use, Mortality, and Selected Healthy People 2010 objectives. The tables present pre-tabulated data by age, gender, race/ethnicity, and geographic area and are organized into folders by life stages and topics. There is a link to sign up for the Health Data for All Ages electronic mailing list as well.

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Factline: Tracking Health in Underserved Communities

<http://www.meharry.org/Fl/>

Factline is a new Web site which is a product of the *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* funded by the National Library of Medicine. FactlineT is directed at journalists, students, community health advocates, and policy makers. It builds on an earlier work, *Factbook on Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* and presents information about health disparities faced by women, members of minority groups, the elderly, and others. Topics include: access to care, minority health, women’s health, mental health, and STD’s. A Spanish language version is also available.

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Video Game Prepares Public Health Workforce for Disaster Preparedness

<http://www.uic.edu/sph/cade/>

A new video game prepared by the University of Illinois at Chicago simulates biological, chemical, radiological, and natural disasters in a major metropolitan area. The video game is the first in a series of simulations to address bioterrorism, pandemic flu, smallpox, and other disasters for which emergency personnel must prepare. It has been prepared by the Center for the Advancement of Distance Education (CADE) at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

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Official Government Web Site on Pandemic Flu and Avian Influenza

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>

A new Web site developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on pandemic and avian influenza has links to surveillance activities here and abroad, research, planning, and response activities.

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2005 Carole Samuelson Lecture in Public Health Practice

<http://www.soph.uab.edu/Samuelsonlecture/samuelsonLectureVideos.htm>

The lecture was delivered by Ms. Gloria Feldt on October 26, 2005. Ms. Feldt is a women's rights activist and author, speaker, and media commentator on reproductive rights and health. She served as the national president and CEO of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) from 1996-2005.

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HRSA Announces New Web Site: My Bright Future: Physical Activity and Healthy Eating

<http://www.hrsa.gov/WomensHealth/mybrightfutureadult/menu.html>

This guide designed for adult women address healthy eating and physical activity. It includes tip sheets for increasing physical activity and eating healthfully.

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Turning Point Announces Public Health CD Toolkit

<http://www.turningpointprogram.org/toolkit/>

The resources included this Toolkit were developed in response to professionals in national, state, and community organizations who requested help in five important areas: social marketing, collaborative leadership, information technology, performance management, and public health law modernization. The CD Toolkit is available free of charge and contains over 100 resources in public health. Topics are arranged by: focus areas; current health challenges; job, role or task; and essential health services.

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The National Women's Health Information Center

<http://www.4women.gov/>

The National Women's Health Information Center (NWHIC) is a service of the Office of Women's Health, which was originally established in 1991. Without a doubt, this fine site will be of great interest to health care professionals, educators, and a wide segment of society. Their homepage offers a wide array of helpful resources, divided into topics such as pregnancy and breastfeeding, funding opportunities, and a set of health tools. The health tools area is particularly useful as it offers such resources as ovulation calculator, a BMI calculator, and a heart disease risk test. Visitors to the homepage will also want to look through the day's health news, search their event calendar, and access the most recently updated sections. Finally, a number of these resources are available in Spanish.

Source: *The Scout Report*, October 28, 2005, Volume 11, Number 43

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ASTHO Launches Web Site Section Focused on Evidence-Based Public Health Interventions

http://www.astho.org/?template=evidence_based_ph_practice.html

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO) has launched a new section on its Web site to highlight initiatives and research focused on increasing the evidence base supporting public health interventions. The section, titled Evidence-Based Public Health, contains fact sheets summarizing recommendations of the Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Current topics include diabetes, oral health, physical activity, social environment, and violence. Additional evidence-based public health resources will be added to the site in an ongoing manner. The Web site section is intended to assist policymakers in utilizing current best evidence to make informed decisions about public health programs and interventions that promote health and prevent disease, injury, and disability.

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Roll Back Malaria Partnership

<http://www.rbm.who.int/cgi-bin/rbm/rbmportal/custom/rbm/home.do>

With all the attention paid to a wide range of diseases that affect various populations around the world, some may still be surprised to learn that relatively little money is spent researching malaria. Bill Gates recently gave \$258 million to help research this disease, and in doing so, his efforts will complement the fine work being done through the Roll

Back Malaria Partnership (RBM), which is an initiative of the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the World Bank. The site is divided into four primary areas, including a publications section and information about events sponsored by the initiative. Visitors unfamiliar with the disease may want to peruse the FAQ section, as it answers some basic queries, such as “How is it transmitted?” and “How can malaria be controlled?”. One key document that has recently been released to the site is the Roll Back Malaria Global Strategic Plan, which is available in English and French. Finally, the site also has an audio and video archive which includes a number of public service announcements and video clips that detail some of the RBM’s primary activities.

Source: *The Scout Report*, November 11, 2005, Volume 11, Number 45

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Strategies for Enumerating the Public Health Workforce Report

<http://www.astho.org/pubs/WorkforceEnumerationReport.pdf>.

Public health does not know the size of its workforce (2005). This information is needed to describe current demographics, determine trends and workforce needs of the future based on shortages or surpluses, and advocate for resources needed. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO) has released a report which presents findings from a research project that looked at workforce enumeration strategies and experiences in ten industries, occupations, and professions outside of public health in order to gather lessons learned. The project included a focus group comprised of representatives with extensive experience in workforce enumeration in the identified industries, occupations, and professions; the focus group developed priority action items for a future public health workforce enumeration.

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Resource Guide for Public Health Preparedness

Submitted by Lily Pregill, The New York Academy of Medicine, lpregill@nyam.org

The New York Academy of Medicine / National Library of Medicine *Resource Guide for Public Health Preparedness* provides access to more than 1500 electronic publications related to public health preparedness. The *Current Awareness Update* listing newly added resources to the database for the period of November and December is available at <http://www.phpreparedness.info/update.php>. For full database records, including annotations or to search this content by subject area, visit <http://www.phpreparedness.info>

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The National Mental Health Association

<http://www.nmha.org/>

As it approaches its 100th anniversary in 2009, the National Mental Health Association (NMHA) remains the country's oldest and largest nonprofit organization that deals with all aspects of mental health and mental illness. First-time users of their site will find that their homepage contains copious amounts of material related to their advocacy efforts, along with materials that deal with helping a loved one who may be suffering the effects of mental illness. The "Need Info?" area is a good place to start for these types of materials, as it provides access to information on treatment resources, support groups, and fact sheets. Visitors can also elect to sign up for one (or several) of their helpful email updates, which include work on related legislation, and mental health news coverage.

Source: *The Scout Report*, January 20, 2006, Volume 12, Number 3

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Conferences / Calls for Papers and Posters

Empowering Communities to Bridge Health Divides

http://www.uniteforsight.org/2006_annual_conference.php

April 1-2, 2006

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

Who should attend? Anyone interested in women's health, children's health, medicine, health education, health promotion, public health, international health, international service, eye care, nonprofits, or microenterprise

Conference Goal: To empower conference attendees to identify health needs and to develop solutions to improve access to care for the medically underserved

Early Bird Registration Rate: \$35 student rate; \$50 for all others

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Medical Library Association (MLA) Conference

<http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2006/index.html>

May 19-24, 2006

Phoenix, AZ

The theme of MLA '06 is "Transformations A-Z". April 17 is the deadline for early-bird registration discount.

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Community-Campus Partnerships for Health Conference

<http://www.ccph.info>
May 31-June 3, 2006
Minneapolis, MN

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) is a nonprofit organization that promotes health through partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions. See the Web site above for more information about the conference or becoming a member of CCPH.

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134th Annual American Public Health Association (APHA) Meeting

<http://www.apha.org/meetings/>
November 4-8, 2006
Boston, MA

The theme of the 134th Annual Meeting of American Public Health Association (APHA) is "Public Health and Human Rights". The deadline for submission of abstracts has been extended to February 20-24, 2006. Registration and housing will open on June 1, 2006.

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