



**COUNCIL ON LINKAGES BETWEEN
ACADEMIA AND PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE**

**COUNCIL ON LINKAGES CONVENES PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING
ORGANIZATIONS TO ADVANCE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH**

March 2003

The Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice (Council) recently convened a special public health systems research meeting to help improve the funding and support available for this type of research as part of its February 26, 2003 quarterly meeting in Washington D.C. Although significant progress has been made to raise public health professionals' level of awareness about the need for more public health systems research, there is still no national public health systems research agenda that identifies our priority research needs, no Centers of Excellence to spearhead this research, and no national Public Health Systems Research Fellowship program to help "grow" the pool of researchers in this field. This meeting brought together leaders from more than 20 national, federal, state, and local agencies and organizations, academic institutions and foundations to gain commitments from each to advance this important type of research.

Meeting participants suggested a number of new, innovative ways to advance the field of public health systems research and increase collaboration among their agencies and organizations to achieve these goals. For example the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended convening a national meeting between federal agencies including CDC, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the National Institutes of Health, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to develop strategies to promote, support, and fund efforts of this type. These four federal agencies agreed to participate in such a meeting if it was planned. The Association of Schools of Public Health also weighed in by committing to share its experience with the Council about ways to develop and sustain a successful national fellowship program.

Council on Linkages and its partners pave the way for new efforts in Public Health Systems Research

American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM)

ACPM will consider including one or more Public Health Systems Research (PHSR) sessions at its annual Preventive Medicine meeting.

ACPM, in its own development activities, will continue efforts to achieve funding for public health workforce research, particularly as it relates to the role of the specialty physician in the public health system.

ACPM will link to, or broker on behalf of, preventive medicine residency training programs that could contribute to the talent pool for a PHSR fellowship program.

ACPM will communicate to its membership about efforts to develop a national PHSR agenda through its electronic and print-based newsletters.

Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ)

AHRQ extends an open invitation to the Council on Linkages (COL) Between Academia and Public Health Practice to meet with its leadership in the next 1-3 months about public health systems research and the development of a national fellowship program.

AHRQ will help encourage PHSR in future solicitations, especially in the area of bioterrorism (6-12 months).

American Public Health Association (APHA)

APHA will continue to host the National PHSR Leadership Forum as part of the APHA annual meeting (APHA Innovations Project).

APHA will publish an article in the Nation's Health about the need for and examples of PHSR.

APHA will support the need for increasing public health professionals (APHA members) level of awareness about the need for Public Health Systems Research by potentially integrating mention of PHSR into Goal # 3 of APHA's strategic plan, Improving Public Health Practice.

Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH)

ASPH's Public Health Practice Coordinators who serve on the Practice Council are very interested in helping to develop the national PHSR agenda.

ASPH has a very strong track record of success in developing internships and fellowships and can participate in discussions about the development of and placements for successful PHSR fellowships and internships.

ASPH can help communicate activities around this issue in the Friday Letter.

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)

ASTHO will continue to promote the PHSR agenda through communications to its members (On-going).

ASTHO members will continue to contribute to the PHSR through the Public Health Workforce Development Collaborative, the ASTHO-NACCHO Joint Council and other organizations (On-going).

ASTHO as staff to the Public Health Workforce Development Collaborative will continue to support the development of the PHSR (On-going).

Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine (ATPM)

ATPM will communicate PHSR information to researchers and educators via e-newsletters and targeted list serves (On-going).

ATPM will promote the conduct, presentation and publication of PHSR by ATPM members (On-going).

ATPM will contribute to the development of competencies and assessment strategies for evaluating the efficacy of clinical training programs for emergency preparedness and bioterrorism (9-12 months).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

CDC will continue to seek funding to support the inclusion of PHSR sessions at Academy Health annual meetings (On-going).

CDC will explore the possibility of convening a meeting of the federal agencies (NIH, CDC, HRSA, AHRQ, SAMHSA, etc) to discuss ways to share information about their research agendas, and potentially collaborate on current and future PHSR endeavors.

CDC will continue to seek opportunities to offer funding for PHSR through its grants and cooperative agreements (On-going).

CDC will continue to collaborate with NIH and others to develop widespread consensus regarding the benefits, limitations, and evaluation of various research designs for studies of complex interventions and programs, including those that are the subject of health systems research (On-going).

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH)

CCPH will help support the COL's effort to advance PHSR, especially when conducted through community-university research partnerships and community-based participatory research by:

- Serving as the program office for the ASPH/CDC-funded project, "Examining Community Partnerships for Prevention Research"
<http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccph/researchprojects.html#ExaminingCommunityPartnerships>.
- Including tracks on these areas during CCPH's annual conference.
- Hosting a research resources web page on our web site
<http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccph/commbas.html>.
- Encouraging our members to participate in AcademyHealth's PHSR affiliate and annual research meetings and other public health research events.
- Facilitating training and technical assistance for incorporating community-based participatory courses into the curricula of health professional schools.
- Assisting health professional schools in the change process to better recognize and reward faculty who conduct applied, community-based research.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

HRSA would be interested in participating in a meeting of various federal agencies (NIH, CDC, HRSA, AHRQ, SAMHSA, etc) to discuss ways to share information about their research agendas, and potentially collaborate on current and PHSR endeavors.

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

NACCHO will provide an opportunity for the NACCHO Executive Committee and/or Board of Directors to discuss PHSR priority areas from a local practice perspective and share these with the COL (3 months).

NACCHO will actively seek out and encourage proposals for presentations on public health research for the ASTHO-NACCHO Annual Meeting (Focused activity in the next month; on-going activity).

NACCHO will actively seek out and disseminate research highlighting examples of local public health involvement in public health research and how local public health agencies can support training and teaching opportunities (On-going).

NACCHO will work with partner organizations and institutions to foster practice and academic community connections between local public health agencies and the range of academic institutions using local public health agencies as training sites, using agency staff in teaching, and fostering incentives for agencies and institutions that participate in making these linkages (On-going).

NACCHO will work with the COL and its partners to assure that the national PHSR agenda includes projects that, when completed, will translate into opportunities to improve local public health practice (On-going).

Communicate the activities of the Council and the research agenda to local public health practitioners through NACCHO's website, email listserves and print publications (Ongoing).

National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)

NEHA can publicize this issue through its monthly Journal of Environmental Health.

NEHA can promote the concept to the Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council for inclusion in the credentialing criteria for environmental health programs.

Pfizer, Inc.

Pfizer plans to develop a fellowship program in public health (Summer 2004).

Pfizer continues to support research in public health, particularly through its Health Literacy Initiative (Annually).

Pfizer will help support a Health Services Research Conference (2004).

Research!America

Research!America will help promulgate the COL's "case" for PHSR.

Research!America is interested in considering ideas for public opinion poll questions on PHSR.

Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)

Dr. Vincent Francisco, SOPHE's COL member representative, will raise the issue of the need for PHSR with SOPHE's research agenda committee at the Annual mid-term scientific conference and sponsor a session during the Fall annual meeting (6-9 months).

SOPHE will help contribute to advancing the concept for developing Centers of Excellence in PHSR by advocating for funding and by celebrating the accomplishments of prevention research centers contributing to this objective (9 months).

SOPHE currently has a mentoring program, but will raise the possibility with the Executive Board of expanding it to a fellowship program that has a focus on public health systems research, perhaps in collaboration with other COL member organizations (9 months).

Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations (Quad Council)

The Quad Council will help encourage that public health nursing research focus on building public health capacity and infrastructure (core competency development, credentialing) – 2 years to initiate and implement, will report at the PHSR Leadership Forum at APHA in 2003 and 04'.

The Quad Council will work with HRSA this year to have a session at APHA to help academic institutions as well as public health departments write grants for integrating core competencies into nursing curricula.