



>>TAKE NOTE

Prof. Michael White Joins USF Health



Professor Michael White, formerly of Montana State University, has joined USF Health and the Florida Center of Excellence for Biomolecular Identification and Targeted Therapeutics (BITT). Professor White received advanced degrees in Microbiology at San Jose State University (B.A., 1978) and Oregon State University (PhD, 1983). Research in the White laboratory focuses on the Apicomplexan protozoan parasites which

are responsible for a significant burden of infectious disease in the world. Professor White is an expert in the genetics of *Toxoplasma gondii*, an opportunistic pathogen in humans, particularly immunocompromised individuals such as those infected with the HIV virus. The lay-person may know *Toxoplasma* from cautions given pregnant women to avoid contact with the cat litter box because infections with this parasite can cause birth defects or miscarriages. Dr. White's research expertise is widely recognized and he has been well funded from the NIH (multiple R01s and R21s), USDA, and the Stanley Medical Foundation. Congruent with Michael's broad multidisciplinary research expertise, he is one of the first faculty hires for the BITT; his primary academic appointment is in Molecular Medicine (COM) with a secondary appointment in Global Health (COPH). Dr. White is a welcome addition to the Global Health Infectious Disease Research (GHIDR) team and his office and labs are co-located with BITT and GHIDR in the Interdisciplinary Research Building. Please join us in a warm welcome to Michael and his wife Cheryl to Tampa and USF Health!

---submitted by Dr. Dennis Kyle

More NPHW Highlights and Photos

Special thanks to the many COPH faculty staff and students who contributed to and participated in our 2009 National Public Health week activities (see also <http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/pdf/NPHW%202009%20Final.pdf>) A sampling of photos are provided below. (Digital photos will be uploaded to the COPH's 25 anniversary website photo gallery at <http://www.health.usf.edu/publichealth/25thAnniversary/gallery.html> and a display of prints is now in the COPH lobby).

This year's Blood drive on April 2nd during NPHW was the most successful blood drive at the COPH ever, with 27 people donating blood.

During this year's NPHW, COPH students participated with other USF Health students in a number of community service events, through the USF Health Service Corps, including: the mini public health teach in at local schools (March 25th and 26th); a tropical dinner for cancer patients and their caregivers at the Hope Lodge (April 2) and Relay for Life (April 3-4).

Friday, April 3rd, was once again a busy day at the COPH, in which graduate students were able to learn about public health careers with the Federal government from a panel of experts, the COPH community learned about the President's Malaria Initiative from Dr. Bernard Nahlen and over a dozen undergraduate students participated in an information session and laboratory tour!



Saturday, April 4th turned out to be a resounding success, with a return of the COPH's annual family picnic at USF's Riverfront Park and an opportunity to engage in a variety of recreational sports!



Finally April 7, world health day at the COPH, and the last day of the COPH's NPHW celebrations, included a showing of the film 'A Walk to Beautiful', and an excellent talk by Dr. Jeannine Coreil, both of which focused on the common theme of stigmatization of women in Africa and Haiti who have a variety of health problems and the efforts of public health leaders to alleviate their physical, social, and emotional burdens.

>>Students



Student Research and Funding Opportunities:

COPH students are encouraged to check out the comprehensive web site of student research at

<http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/officeresearch/fundingopp.html> which provides links to COPH student funding opportunities at the COPH, USF, as well as external private foundations and federal funding agencies. The deadline for the (monthly) SHARP

<http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/officeresearch/sharp.html> applications for May is Monday May 4th, 2009. We advise each students to submit their SHARP applications *at least* one month prior to the conference during which they will be presenting their research, to ensure that there is sufficient time for (a) the application to be reviewed and (b) for the student to work with their departmental administrator to ensure that their travel (TAR) form can be entered into the university system. Feel free to contact Ellen Kent, MPH, Coordinator, Student Research Grants at any time at ekent@health.usf.edu or in room 2150H for advice or further assistance!

Student Service Opportunities:

The USF Health Service Corps is a wonderful way in which you can participate in a wide variety of health-related service activities with other USF Health students. The spring service activities are listed on the website at <http://health.usf.edu/ahec/hsevents.htm> and calendar at <http://my.calendars.net/servicecorps>. Feel free to send questions or suggestions pertaining to student service to Ellen Kent, MPH, Coordinator for the USF Health Service Corps at ekent@health.usf.edu or 974-6622 or stop by room 2150H at anytime!

Upcoming events:

Saturday, April 18th, 10 am - 2 pm. Hispanic Health Fair at Santa Maria Mission in Tampa. Non-clinical activities: COPH students can assist with: interpreting; health education displays and games; fitness and safety activities; and fitting bicycle helmets. Please sign up with Ellen Kent at ekent@health.usf.edu.

Saturday, April 25th, 8 am -10 am. March of Dimes 'March for Babies' walk in Tampa. Here are the steps to take to sign up on line:

- (1) Go to <http://www.marchforbabies.org/> click on the pink sign that reads 'Join a team' (there is a picture of a cute toddler is holding the pink sign)
- (2) Type in University of South Florida, hit 'search'
- (3) Click on the University of South Florida link that appears in next window
- (4) Finally click on the team link [USF Health Service Corps-Student Team](#) link. Please contact ekent@health.usf.edu if you have any questions and for additional details!

GHSAs Elects Officers for 2009-2010

The Global Health Student Association elected their 2009-2010 Officers at the General Member Meeting on April 2nd. The list is as follows:

Co-Presidents:

Jadie Dayton & Jennifer Peregoy

Vice-President:

Andrew Romaner

Secretary:

Pamela Guevara

Treasurer:

Shana Burrowes

Public Relations Officer:

Benjamin Klekamp

Service Chair:

Chiaka Nwoga

Webmaster:

Samantha Spedoske

Please join us in congratulating all of them!



Date: 4/13/2009

>>Faculty

Dr. Hamisu Salihu Publishes Article

Salihu HM, Mbah AK, Alio AP, Clayton HB, Lynch O. Low pre-pregnancy body mass index and risk of medically indicated versus spontaneous preterm singleton birth. Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol. 2009 Mar 26. [PMID: 19328637] [Epub ahead of print]

["USF researchers received a National Science Foundation Grant for continued collaboration with UNESCO-IHE"](#)



UNESCO-IHE
Institute for Water Education



A team of USF researchers from engineering and public health received a grant from the National Science Foundation for continued work with UNESCO-IHE. The principal investigator is Dr. Daniel Yeh Patel Center for Global Solutions Research Fellow and Assistant Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering (COE). Dr. Yeh's partners at USF are Drs. Norma Alcantar (COE), Jeff Cunningham (COE), Ricardo Izurieta (Global Health, COPH), Foday Jaward (Environmental and Occupational Health, COPH), Jim Mihelcic (COE) and Maya Trotz (COE). USF has an existing memorandum of understanding with UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft, Netherlands to pursue opportunities to collaborate on research and education. IHE is one of the world's preeminent institutions on water research and education with global reach in terms of field projects and alumni base. Over the past two years, the Patel Center has hosted IHE students from various developing countries during their visits to Tampa to study Florida's water systems. There have also been faculty visits on both sides.

The three year grant will allow a group of 6-7 graduate and undergraduate students from USF to work in the prestigious UNESCO-IHE labs in the Netherlands for 8 weeks during the summer. The focus will be on developing water and wastewater treatment technologies to help attain the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals on Water and Sanitation (over 1 billion in the world do not have safe water and almost 3 billion do not have adequate sanitation). College of Public Health and College of Engineering students will work full time side-by-side with IHE researchers, to develop new laboratory skills, techniques and treatment systems to clean water for the world's populations. The laboratory work at IHE would connect directly with the students' laboratory research at USF.

Dr. Eric Buhi's Research Featured in Gainesville Sun Today

Below is a link to a story appearing in today's Gainesville Sun. It summarizes a study on which Dr. Buhi is PI, involving USF, UF, and FAMU.

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20090413/ARTICLES/904131009/1002?Title=Study-looks-at-students-online-sexual-behavior>.

>>Alumni News

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>>Global Scene

"Don't think about what hasn't worked. Instead, make it work!"
by Leyla Goldsmith

Leyla Goldsmith, Global Health Practice student tells the Monday Letter about an international field experience where she had to use all her coping skills and cleverness to conjure up a Plan B when Plan A failed. Leyla's story: "I went to Tanzania to do my field experience in the summer session, 2009. I was originally assigned to work on an independent project in Bagamoyo, a small rural community on the Indian Ocean coast. When I arrived, I found that I was not able to access needed data from the small community hospital. With anxiety high, I formed Plan B, traveling to Tanzania's capital city, Dar es Salaam to seek field experience opportunities.



I called Tanzanian friends back in the US for contacts in health-related NGOs, Ministries of Health and hospitals. With contacts in-hand, I started my search. Dar es Salaam's layout was a mystery to me, but I managed to find my way and talk with persons in a non-governmental organization, and a cancer research hospital where I got another contact - the Ifakara Health Institute (IHI). I made my way there and introduced myself to the managing director of the research section. Explaining my dilemma, I asked him for an internship opportunity for absolutely no pay; and told him I would provide my own transportation costs, and that I even had my own laptop, adding that all IHI would provide would be an opportunity for me to learn and contribute. He asked when I could start and I told him any time. I came in the next day and started working. It took me a week between leaving my original field experience site in Bagamoyo to finding an internship in Dar es Salaam.

I worked with a research team studying childhood diarrhea - part of a global study with an aim to develop a vaccine. Diarrhea is the third leading killer of children under 5 in the world. The worst affected children live in developing countries. Due to the unplanned nature of my internship, my supervisor and I created job responsibilities as we worked. I learned how research is conducted in low-resource areas and the various challenges associated with working in such settings.

Lessons learned: Tenacity and people skills get you places! Make friends with the locals and ask for help. People are willing to help if you show them respect. The concept of the US "helping" in developing countries can be problematic without the proper approach. No one person is better than the other (even if one has a formal education or more money). We are here to help each other. We (researchers) provide the knowledge and skills to improve public health while the local communities - provide us with knowledge and opportunities.

We would like to know about any international initiatives you may be working on. Please send information and photographs for the [Global Scene](#) to Alina Lezcano, International Programs Coordinator, Office of International Programs (alezcano@health.usf.edu).



Date: 4/13/2009

Important Dates

Wednesday, April 15, 2009 - 12:00-1:00 pm, CPH 2024, EPB Seminar Series, Spring 2009 - "Cutaneous Human Papillomavirus Seroprevalence and Risk Factors for Infection in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2001-2004" by Michelle Iannacone. Doctoral Student, Epidemiology

Thursday, April 16, 2009 - 10:00 am, CPH 11008 - EOH Spring 2009 Domestic Field Experience Debriefing

Friday, April 17, 2009 - 11:30 am, CPH 2006 (D/L Studio) - International Field Experience Orientation

Friday, April 17, 2009 - 2:00 pm, CPH 1122 - GH Spring 2009 Domestic Field Experience Debriefing

Tuesday, April 21, 2009 - 10:30 am, LRC 108 - CFH Spring Domestic Field Experience

Thursday, April 23, 2009 - 12:00-1:00 pm, CPH 1023-C - Dean's Lecture - Warren A. Jones, MD, FAAFP, Executive Director
Mississippi Institute for Improvement of Geographic Minority Health Distinguished Professor of Health Policy University of Mississippi Medical Center - Title TBA

Friday, April 24, 2009 - 11:00 am, CPH 2143 - HPM Spring 2009 Domestic Field Experience Debriefing

Friday, April 24, 2009 - 11:30 am, CPH 2016/2018 - EPI/BIO Spring 2009 Domestic Field Experience Debriefing

Friday, April 24, 2009 at 10:00 am, Room 2018, Spring 2009 International Field Experience Debriefing

Friday, April 24, 2009 - 9:30-10:30 am, Room 2024, "Key Outcome Indicators for Evaluating Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs: Updating the Evidence" - by Ms. Bambi Arnold