



>>Center Updates

The Florida Center for Public Health Preparedness (FCPHP) delivered 10 Disaster Behavioral Health and 2 Field Epidemiology training programs throughout the state of Florida during the month of April.

Sandra Ruzycski, FCPHP Associate Director, and Sarah Matthews (USF-MPH), Epidemiology Program Manager Lake County Health Department, facilitated the Field Investigator Response & Surveillance Training (FIRST) program on April 2 in Jacksonville, FL and April 3 in St. Augustine, FL. A total of 50 participants attended these programs from Bradford/Union, Duval, St. Johns, and Marion County Health Departments, as well as, the Medical Reserve Corp (MRC), Children's Medical Services, University of Florida, and Orange Park, Trinity Community, Jacksonville, Northeast Florida State, and Shands medical hospitals.

Nadine Mescia, Associate FCPHP Center Director, delivered the Disaster Behavioral Health First Aid Specialist Training with Special Populations (BFAST_{plus}SN), Disaster Behavioral Health First Aid Specialist Training for Responders (RFAST), and Disaster Behavioral Health First Aid Specialist Training for Children (CFAST) in Bartow, FL (April 9), Miami, FL (April 13-14), Key West, FL (April 15), Naples, FL (April 17), and Spring Hill, FL (April 23). A total of 250 people attended these 10 Disaster Behavioral Health programs in April. Program participants for these 10 training programs came Florida Department of Health in Broward, Collier, Hernando, Highlands, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, and Polk counties. Program participants also came from CERT and MRC, Wesley House Family Services, Florida Atlantic University, HospiceCare of SE Florida, Florida Keys Area Health Education Center, Veterans Administration, City of Key West EMS/Fire, Monroe County School District, Center for Independent Living of the Keys County Health Department, Bonita Springs Fire Control, Argosy University, Abilities of Florida, Hernando County Fire Rescue, Hernando County Sheriff's Office, First United Methodist of Zephyrhills, Spring Hill Fire and Rescue, Pasco Sheriff's Office, and Chase McEwen Counseling.

A total of 5 programs are scheduled for delivery during May 2009. For information about FCPHP programs, see: <http://www.fcphp.usf.edu>

In addition, as part of its ongoing commitment to provide preparedness support for the public health workforce, FCPHP posted just-in-time Pandemic Influenza training resources for field epidemiology and disaster behavioral health. These resources are from FCPHP's online training programs, and are available FREE. These programs are not part of FCPHP's learner management system, and do not require registration or learner assessments (pre/post test). Continuing education credit or a certificate of completion are not provided; however, the online training programs provide an opportunity to refresh past knowledge and/or learn new information. Visit http://www.fcphp.usf.edu/flu_preparedness.htm for more information.

>>Faculty

Dr. Tom Unnasch Receives Grant

Dr. Thomas Unnasch with the Department of Global Health received a grant from the National Science Foundation to expand his onchocerciasis eradication interventions in western Africa. This five year award will develop GIS and molecular techniques to predict breeding sites of the onchocerciasis parasite host, the black fly. This project will also incorporate an education component directed by Matthew Rollie. Students from Burkina Faso will be selected to come to USF, work towards an MPH, and receive training in Dr. Unnasch's lab. Students with the Department of Global Health will also travel to Burkina Faso to conduct field research as part of their International Field Experience.

Dr. Ricardo Izurieta Receives Grant

Dr. Ricardo Izurieta received a grant from the Hispanic-Serving Health Professionals Schools has approved funding for an internship in tropical diseases and global health in Ecuador. These internships will be conducted from June 1 - August 8, 2009.

Dr. Salihu Publishes Article

Salihu HM, Kornosky JL, Alio AP, Druschel CM. Racial disparities among infants with Dandy-Walker syndrome. *Journal of the National Medical Association* 2009;101:456-461.

>>Faculty con't...

Danielle Landis Participates in ABC-Action News Panel

Danielle Landis, deputy director of the Center for Leadership in Public Health Practice at the USF College of Public Health, joined a panel of health experts from across Tampa Bay May 7 to volunteer for the Channel 28 ABC-Action News Swine Flu Phone Bank hosted by anchor Linda Hurtado. The experts answered viewers who called in with questions about swine flu. Danielle is on the far right.

>>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/fundingopps.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!

Kendyll G. Myles (PH Admin) will participate in the [Summer Enrichment Program](#) offered by the [Institute for Diversity in Health Management](#). She will be a Systems Redesign Coordinator Intern at the Northern Arizona Veterans Affairs Health Care System and begins her training on June 1.



>>Global Scene

Water Purification in the Dominican Republic: Field Experience and Cultural Awareness as Seen Through the Eyes of Undergraduate Honors Thesis Students Akash Parekh and Sarina Amin

During Spring Break of March 2009, 22 undergraduate and graduate students went to the Dominican Republic to participate in several public health projects. Twelve of those students helped to carry out the first phase of our project.

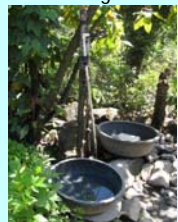
The 12 students spent the week administering water assessment surveys in three isolated mountainous villages that have limited access to potable water. Traveling house to house in each of the villages, the four groups, each consisting of three people, asked the heads of the households questions in Spanish about their water source, water treatment methods, water storage methods, and gastrointestinal health. The purpose behind the survey was to determine whether a need and a desire exist among the village population to receive household water filtration units. After analyzing the results of the surveys, it was concluded that there is a community wide desire to implement a water filtration program in all three villages in



Four USF Honors Thesis Students (L-R: Patrick Blackburn; Rohini Komarla; Sarina Amin; Akash Parekh) with local kids washing dishes in the river (background)

which the survey was administered. Furthermore, it was found that 99.2% of the households interviewed demonstrated knowledge about the importance of potable water. This reveals that the community's desire for the implementation of a water filtration program stems from their belief that clean water is valuable. We intend to return to the three mountainous communities during the summer to install the filtration units in the homes of the individuals that expressed a desire for one.

Equally significant as the results of the study was the perspective the 12 students gained from the opportunity to collect data through in-person interviews in villages that lack resources that most of us take for granted and from living with families in the small town of Piedra Blanca.



Water source for a household consisted of pvc pipe and a cloth to "filter" out debris. Buckets are the main form of water storage during the rainy season and are not cleaned regularly

Being foreigners in a developing country that none of us had previously visited, it was surprising that we were readily welcomed into the houses of those we surveyed. The hospitality of the villagers was overwhelming and something very few of us have experienced in our everyday lives. Each family was willing to share with us information not only concerning their health and water usage, but also about their everyday lives, struggles, hardships, accomplishments, desires, dreams and everything in between. Each individual was upfront and honest, sincere and compassionate, and completely willing to let us, students they had known for no more than 10 minutes, take a peek into their hearts. It struck all of us that the village families appeared more thankful that we wanted to learn from and listen to them than they were about receiving filter units.

None of us on the trip were accustomed to the conditions under which we lived for one week in Piedra Blanca. However, even though we bathed with cold water everyday, brushed our teeth with bottled water to prevent infection, had electricity for less than half of our stay, and traveled in a motorcycles, donkeys, and open trucks, the

warmth and kindness of the families with whom we stayed made it easy to immerse ourselves in and enjoy everything the culture could offer us. While all of us were in the Dominican Republic to accomplish our goal of administering the surveys, the carefree and lighthearted atmosphere made us feel as though we were on a relaxing vacation. We learned more than just about the current water situation that exists in resource-poor areas: we brought back with us lasting impressions and memories of an immensely generous culture. In the end, all of us students received more from the Dominican people than we would ever be able to offer them in return.

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)

>>Alumni News



Johnathan Hollingshed (Department of Global Health - GH Practice) was accepted into the [One World Young Leaders Program](#). This summer he will spend eight weeks working on a human rights/development project in a developing country. Additionally, Johnathan received a [Global Health Fellows Program](#) scholarship

to fund his international travel and attendance at the [Global Health Council Conference](#) in Washington, DC. Johnathan graduated in May and leaves for Uganda at the end of the month.

This site profiles Johnathan and the other fellows:

http://theoneworldfoundation.org/?page_id=145.



Zuber D. Mulla, (EPB MSPH '94, EPB PhD '01), Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, El Paso, was recently granted tenure.

Important Dates

Friday, May 22, 2009 - 12:00 pm, COPH 1023A - Dean's Public Health Lecture Series - Dr. Balbir Singh - "Malaria, Monkeys, Man & Malaysia"

Friday, May 22, 2009 - 3:00 pm, DOH Conference Room, 3602 Spectrum Boulevard - Global Health Seminar - "Dengue: Traditional and Modern Diagnostic" - Dr. Shamali Devli