

# MONDAY LETTER

USF COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## TAKE NOTE>>>

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Chiles International Lecture and Symposium  
Tuesday, September 22, 2009 - USF College of Public Health Auditorium

8:30 - 9:00 am Registration and light breakfast  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm Symposium

*Neural Tube Defects: Epidemiology, Etiology, Diagnosis, Treatment, Family Support, Prevention, and the Significance of Birth Defects Registries.* The presentations will be followed by an interactive Q & A session.

Moderator: Lewis Rubin, MD; Department of Pediatrics, USF College of Medicine

Panel of Presenters:

- Judith R. Ranells, MD; Chief Division of Genetics, Department of Pediatrics, USF College of Medicine
- Godfrey P. Oakley, Jr., MD, PhD; Research Epidemiologist & Professor, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
- Kathy Farrar, RN; Spina Bifida Care Coordinator, Children's Medical Services, Florida Department of Health
- Russell S. Kirby, PhD, MS; Marrell Endowed Chair in Community and Family Health, with joint appointments in several departments in the College of Medicine

12:00 - 12:45 pm: Lunch at the Chiles Center

1:00 - 2:30 pm: International Lecture

Introduction by Charlotte Catz, MD; former Chief of Pregnancy & Perinatology Research and Former Acting Director, Center for Developmental Biology and Perinatal Medicine, National Institute of Health, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Guest Speaker: Eduardo Enrique Castilla, MD, PhD; Coordinator of the Latin American Collaborative Study of Congenital Malformations (ECLAMC); distinguished researcher with the National Research Council of Argentina, the National Research Council of Brazil, and a Full Professor of Genetics at the Instituto Universitario Cemic, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Presentation: ECLAMC, Spanish acronym for Latin American Study of Congenital Malformations, has been monitoring the prevalence rates of birth defects in all South American countries for the past 42 years. The basic structure of ECLAMC will be presented, and special emphasis will be given to Spina Bifida and other neural tube defects, including surveillance of their dramatic reduction in occurrence during this 21<sup>st</sup> century, associated to the folic acid food fortification policies implemented by three South American countries: Argentina, Brazil, and Chile

Please RSVP to Nikki Mastorides by email at [nmastori@health.usf.edu](mailto:nmastori@health.usf.edu) by Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

## 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.htm>

which provides links to COPH student funding opportunities at the COPH, USF, as well as external private foundations and federal funding agencies. In fact, the websites for the Student Research Scholarship (SRS) Awards guidelines for 2009-2010 at

<http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/officeresearch/srsawards.html>

and Student Honorary Award for Research and Practice "SHARP":

guidelines for 2009-2010 at

<http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/officeresearch/sharp.html> have

recently been updated. Print copies of the new guidelines and the application forms are also available at the student research display in COPH vending/snack area near the lobby.

## STUDENTS continued...

Students are encouraged to contact Ellen Kent, MPH, Coordinator, Student Research Grants at any time at [ekent@health.usf.edu](mailto:ekent@health.usf.edu) or in room 2150H for advice or further assistance! Please note that the next deadline for SHARP applications is Monday, October 5th, 6 pm

Student Service Opportunities:

The USF Health Service Corps (see

<http://health.usf.edu/ahec/USFHealthServicesCorps/servicecorps.htm>) enables COPH Students to learn and serve in a wide variety of meaningful and FUN health-related service activities with other USF Health students. The website for Fall 2009 USF health service corps events is now available at

<http://health.usf.edu/ahec/USFHealthServicesCorps/hsevents.htm> and the calendar is available at <http://my.calendars.net/servicecorps>. COPH students are always welcome 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](mailto:ekent@health.usf.edu) or stop by room 2150H anytime.

Special thanks to COPH Students (Annie Demuth, Sami Spedoske, Jessie Dyer, Chiaka Nwoga, Viviana Reyes, Jocelyn McKenzie and Natasha Smith) who engaged children in fun learning activities related to health, safety and even handwashing in the most recent USF Health Service Corps Health and Safety Family Fiesta at San José Mission in Dover on Sunday!

Community and Family Health Students Give Presentations at Graduate Student Research Symposium

Jaime Myers, a second year doctoral student in the Dept. of Community and Family Health, has been selected to present at USF's Graduate Student Research Symposium October 8th. She will be giving a poster presentation entitled "*Is the pill still preferred?: Patterns of contraceptive use among female university students.*"

Natalie Hernandez was also selected to give a presentation at the Graduate Student Research Symposium on October 8, 2009. The title of her presentation is "*To Vaccinate or Not to Vaccinate? An Examination of College Women's Perceptions Regarding the HPV Vaccine.*" Congratulations to these students!

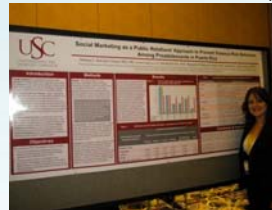


Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 4-6 pm. "Health Ed for Everyone!" at Farm Workers Self Help in Dade City. (Please see <http://fshflorida.org/node/86>) USF Health students will be able to share their knowledge of health with teens by giving interactive health education lessons to teens at the My Other House' Teen Center. USF Health students can in turn learn from the teens and FSH leaders about migrant health care issues. Volunteers will also bring donations of computer games and old fashioned puzzles and board games to the teen center. USF Health students can sign up with Chiaka Nwoga, [cnwoga@health.usf.edu](mailto:cnwoga@health.usf.edu) with Global Health Student Association (GHSA).

Melissa-Cristal Mercado Crespo Presents at CDC's National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media 2009

Melissa-Cristal Mercado Crespo, a second year PhD student in the Department of Community and Family Health recently presented a poster at CDC's National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media 2009 in Atlanta, GA on August 11-13, 2009.

The title of her poster was "*Social Marketing as a Public Relations' Approach to Prevent Violence Risk Behaviors Among Preadolescents In Puerto Rico.*"



## STUDENTS continued...

Get connected and join the COPH-USF virtual networking group



Looking for job, fellowship or networking opportunities? If so, then look no further than the USF COPH group on LinkedIn. There are currently more than 40 jobs (PT and FT), fellowships and other training opportunities posted to the USF COPH group. Additionally, you can personally connect with more than 240 students, faculty, alumni and employers!

LinkedIn is a mature version of Facebook. Through your LinkedIn network you can: research potential employers, service providers, subject experts and partners who come recommended; be found for business and job opportunities; search for great jobs; discover inside connections that can help you land jobs; post and distribute job listings; and, get introduced to other professionals through the people you know.

Through your [USF-COPH LinkedIn group](#) you can: connect with [USF-COPH](#) and all its upcoming events and news; discover what [USF-COPH](#) alumni are doing; seek advice from faculty in your professional fields; keep in touch with your classmates throughout your career; and, be a mentor to other students and new graduates. LinkedIn is free to join. The only thing it costs is your time. Check it out and join the [USF-COPH group](#) on LinkedIn at [http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1164507&trk=hb\\_side\\_g](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1164507&trk=hb_side_g).

What are you waiting for? It pays to get connected!

For questions, contact Natalie D. Preston at [npreston@health.usf.edu](mailto:npreston@health.usf.edu).

## FACULTY>>>

Dr. Wayne Westhoff to Receive Hispanic Pathways Award

Dr. Wayne Westhoff has been selected to receive the Hispanic Pathways Award in the non-tenured faculty category; the award is made annually by the USF Latin Community Advisory Committee and presented at the USF Hispanic Heritage Kickoff Reception. This year the reception takes place on Thursday October 1. The award was created in 2004 to recognize USF faculty for outstanding research and/or outreach that creates pathways to the betterment of the lives of Latinos. We had many nominees this year and the ad hoc sub-committee who made the selections indicated they were challenged to select the awardees. Congratulations for this very deserving recognition of the fine work you do locally and internationally in health education and health disparities reduction.

Dr. Hamisu Saliyu and Colleagues Publish Article

Naik E, Casana B, Pazare A, Wable G, Sinnott J, Saliyu H. Costs of treatment: The single biggest obstacle to HIV/AIDS treatment adherence in lower-middle class patients in Mumbai, India. *India J Sex Transm Dis* 2009;30:23-7.

Drs. Marti Coulter and Kathleen O'Rourke Awarded HRSA Training Grant

Drs. Marti Coulter and Kathleen O'Rourke have been awarded a training grant from HRSA (Maternal and Child Health Bureau) to continue a joint MCH/Epidemiology doctoral concentration. The award provides stipend support to doctoral students wishing to focus their research in both MCH and epidemiology. The program also provides opportunities for students to spend time with MCH epidemiologists at the state and local levels, and to work with research faculty at the Lawton and Rhea Chiles center on MCH/Epi projects.

## ALUMNI NEWS>>>

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## GLOBAL SCENE>>>

International Maternal and Child Health Research - An update from the Department of Community and Family Health

Professor Amina Alio, of the Department of Community and Family Health (CFH) is presently at work on several MCH research projects in the country of Niger (West Africa). Niger has many public health challenges - high rates of infant and maternal mortality and morbidity, as well as



both infectious and chronic diseases. In addition to supervising COPH student researchers in Niger, Dr. Alio has been working on several MCH research projects. Her primary research project is reproductive cancer.

Surprisingly, breast and cervical cancers are the leading causes of death for women in Niger. In a country with scarce resources, it is difficult to prevent and/or diagnose cancers early, leading to high rates of mortality. During a July visit to the central maternity hospital in the capital city, Niamey, Dr. Alio discovered that there were only 3 working mammography machines in Niger (a country with a population of 14+ million people). Another challenge with working in Niger is the lack of accurate information on prevalence of breast and cervical cancers. Therefore, Dr. Alio's first research objective is to obtain data from the central maternity hospital (where breast and cervical cancers are treated in Niger), in order to understand the scope of this problem. She also plans to examine the determinants of cervical and breast cancer



in Niger. Currently, there is little information on the services available, as well as cultural attitudes towards cancer and cancer treatment. Dr. Alio will meet with several NGO's that focus on reproductive cancers in Niger to learn about service provision and cultural attitudes. Most importantly, Dr. Alio plans to examine the social, economical and health impact of these cancers for women and their communities. Preliminary results have demonstrated that there are widespread misconceptions about cancer, and the purpose of chemotherapy. With breast and cervical cancers diagnosed at such advanced stages, it is often too late for chemotherapy. For those that can afford such treatment, death often occurs during the chemo treatment cycle, resulting in the misconception that chemotherapy causes death - not cancer. Further, women may not be able to undergo mastectomy for breast cancer due to family and community attitudes towards the surgery.

The results from this research will be used to develop grants and community-based programs focused on the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of reproductive

## IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009 - 1:00-2:30 pm - COPH 1023 - 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Chiles International Lecture - Guest Speaker: Eduardo Enrique Castilla, MD, PhD; Coordinator of the Latin American Collaborative Study of Congenital Malformations (ECLAMC); distinguished researcher with the National Research Council of Argentina, the National Research Council of Brazil, and a Full Professor of Genetics at the Instituto Universitario Cemic, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Wednesday, September 23, 2009 - CHE 102, 4:00 pm, ERIC Symposium - "Travel Demand Models to Assess Environmental Impacts of Transportation" - Abdul Pinjari, Assistant Professor Civil and Environmental Engineering, USF

Wednesday, September 23, 2009 - 4:30-5:30pm - COPH 2024 - Dynamic Cover Letters - Contact: [npreston@health.usf.edu](mailto:npreston@health.usf.edu)

Friday, September 25, 2009 - 12 - 1 pm, COPH 1023 A - Dean's Lecture - "Community Directed Intervention in Onchocerciasis Control and for Public Health Interventions" - Dr. Boakye Boatman, Research Leader UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/ WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases

Wednesday, October 21, 2009 - 4:30-5:30pm - COPH 2024 - Work Your Network - Contact: [npreston@health.usf.edu](mailto:npreston@health.usf.edu)

Wednesday, October 28, 2009 - 4:30-5:30pm - COPH 2024 - Dynamic Resumes: Part 1 of 2 - Contact: [npreston@health.usf.edu](mailto:npreston@health.usf.edu)

Wednesday, November 4, 2009 - 4:30-5:30pm - COPH 2024 - Open Resume Critiquing: Part 2 of 2 - Contact: [npreston@health.usf.edu](mailto:npreston@health.usf.edu)

Tuesday, November 17, 2009 - 5-6:30pm - COPH 2003 (on site interviews November 16-17) - USF COPH MPH Office on Smoking and Health Fellowship Info Session - Contact: [npreston@health.usf.edu](mailto:npreston@health.usf.edu)