



The College of Physicians of Philadelphia

SECTION ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

2016-17 Annual Report

This has been a busy and interesting year for the Section on Public Health & Preventive Medicine. Highlighted events of the year include:

- 1) In September, the Section co-sponsored with the Section on Arts and Medicine a lecture by Alan Blum, MD entitled "When the Smoke Clears: Why the Tobacco Pandemic Endures."
- 2) A Public Health Leadership Luncheon was held in October where members of the Section had an opportunity to network with one another.
- 3) Three citywide Philadelphia Public Health Grand Rounds sessions, co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, were presented on important public health issues that affect our community. CME credits were provided through the Philadelphia County Medical Society and the Pennsylvania Medical Society. The topics included:
 - a. Tobacco, Retail Stores & Marketing of Disease
 - b. Childhood Asthma: Clinical and Community-based Approaches to Prevention in Philadelphia
 - c. Poverty & Public Health: Addressing the Causes and Consequences

Videos of these sessions are available at the Section's website at

<http://www.collegeofphysicians.org/sections/public-health>

- 4) Governor Tom Wolf issued a proclamation declaring the week of January 9 to 13, 2017 to be the second Annual Pennsylvania Teen Health Week. The week began with a session at the State Capitol in Harrisburg moderated by Laura Offutt, MD, FCPP, and attended by teens from various schools (including many from The College of Physicians of Philadelphia afterschool programs), and representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Medical Society and The College of Physicians.

Each day of the week focuses on a major aspect of adolescent health: diet and exercise; violence; mental health; sexual development and health; and substance use and abuse. A [toolkit](#) provided to schools explains how Teen Health Week activities can help educators meet state academic standards. The week ended with a celebration at CPP arranged by the Center for Education and Public Initiatives.

The Pennsylvania House of Delegates endorsed Teen Health Week and the AMA House of Delegates adopted a resolution endorsing a nation-wide annual Teen Health Week at its 2016 Interim Meeting. It encourages state and specialty medical associations across the nation to promote and participate in Teen Health Week, along with relevant government agencies and health care organizations.

- 5) The fourth annual Public Health Day Symposium was held at the beginning of Public Health Week when 21 public health professionals from five of the academic public health programs, two local health departments, and various other members of the public health community discussed the important public health work that they are doing in our community. Individuals made five-minute presentations briefly describing their program and were then assigned to tables where they were able to discuss their programs in more detail for 45 minutes.
- 6) The Steering Committee is preparing a statement on public health issues of concern to us that we can share with our political leaders and the public at large. A survey has been developed and will be distributed to members over the summer.
- 7) The Student Poster Session featured 60 posters describing the research work that our students are doing for their public health degrees. The quality of the posters gets better and better each year. The following posters were selected for recognition:
 - a. VIOLENCE AND OVERDOSE AMONG WOMEN IN A HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM
– Janna Ataiant, Drexel University
 - b. WHAT'S ON TAP? DRINKING WATER QUALITY AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGE CONSUMPTION - Michelle Lai, Arcadia University

- c. EXPLORING ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN ETHNIC IDENTITY, HIV/STI KNOWLEDGE AND SEXUAL ATTITUDES AMONG HETEROSEXUAL, BLACK ADOLESCENTS - Quadeera Jackson, University of Pennsylvania
- d. LACK OF AWARENESS OF HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS AS A CAUSE OF NON-CERVICAL CANCER - Elina Tonkova Sevilla, University of Pennsylvania
- e. THE IMPACT OF A NOVEL COMMUNICATION SKILLS PROGRAM ON KIDNEY TRANSPLANT CANDIDATES' DISCUSSIONS OF LIVING KIDNEY DONATION - Megan Urbanski, Temple University

8) The Section's Recognition Awards for 2017 were given to:

- a. Individual Recognition Award – Rob Simmons, DrPH, MPH, MCHES, for his lifelong commitment, locally and globally, to public health education, health literacy, health promotion and chronic disease prevention
- b. Organization Recognition Award – LaSalle Neighborhood Health Center for its work to serve and connect children, adults and families to primary care, social service resources and health education
- c. Student Recognition Award - Alia Salam from Thomas Jefferson University for her work on programs to improve the lives of the Islamic population in Philadelphia, and providing education and linkage to resources for Syrian refugees locally and globally.

9) Steering Committee Election Results

- a. Chair – James Buehler, MD, FCPP
- b. Clerk – Diana Morgenstern, MD, FACP, FCPP
- c. Steering Committee – Michael Halpern, MD, PhD, MPH, Amy Leader, DrPH, MPH, Priya Mammen, MD, MPH, FCPP

I'd like to acknowledge all of the individuals and organizations that provide leadership to and support for the Section on Public Health. The elected members of the Steering Committee included Robert G. Sharrar, MD, MSc, FCPP Chair; George E. Downs, Pharm D, FCPP, Clerk; and Michael A. DellaVecchia, MD, PhD, FACS, FCPP, Alice J Hausman, PhD, MPH, Martha C. Romney, RN, MS, JD, MPH, David M. Barclay, III, MD, MPH, FAAFP, FCPP, Amalia M Issa, PhD, MPH, FCPP,

and James D Plumb, MD, MPH, FCPP. The following additional individuals were Chairs of various Subcommittees: Rob Simmons, DrPH, MPH, MCHES, CPH; Marilyn V. Howarth, MD, FACOEM; Carolyn Asbury, PhD, ScMPH, FCPP; James W. Buehler, MD, FCPP; Herbert Hazan, FCPP; Katherine C. Maus, ACSW, LSW; Laura A. Offutt, MD, FCPP; and M. Patricia West, MSSW. The Steering Committee also had representatives from the five local county health departments, eight academic institutions that have public health programs in the Delaware Valley area, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Region III of US DH&HS, the Philadelphia County Medical Society, Public Health Management Corporation, and Public Health Young Leaders Association. I would also like to recognize the staff of The College of Physicians who did most of the work to make our events possible and who developed the excellent website that we now have.

This year the Section had 156 active members and was supported by the following institutions and foundation – Arcadia University, Drexel University School of Public Health, the Thomas Skelton Harrison Foundation, La Salle University, Philadelphia County Medical Society, Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Public Health Management Corporation, Temple University, Thomas Jefferson University, University of Pennsylvania, and University of the Sciences.

I can assure you that 2017-2018 will bring our community many interesting and exciting public health activities. For those of you who are not active members of the Section, I would urge that you join and help promote the Section. I also want to remind current active members that it is time to renew your membership for FY 17-18. Application forms are available at the Section's [website](#).

Respectfully submitted,

Robert G. Sharrar, MD, MSc, FCPP

Chair, Section on Public Health & Preventive Medicine