Notes from the Institute for Health and Society

State of the Institute

Greetings Institute Colleagues:

The Institute Administration Team (A-Team) has now met with each of the Program area's faculty, staff and students. It was a great pleasure for us to learn from each of you!

Thank you for making the time to share your candid thoughts, feedback and suggestions. Each Program meeting resulted in action items for the A-Team, we worked quickly to achieve the small victories and are working diligently on the more complex issues.

The journey ahead is exciting and challenging! We are inspired by the important work that is being done by each of you and encouraged by the bright future ahead.

Please continue to share your opinions as we traverse the road ahead as one large team!

John - 414.955.8029
Erin - 414.955.8031
Julie - 414.955.8032
Mayer - 414.955.8033
Jessica - 414.955.8034

With appreciation,
**People**

Welcoming...

**Laura Cassidy, PhD, MS** - Director, PhD in Public and Community Health Program and Director, Epidemiology Program

**Erin Fabian, JD** - Business Manager I, Administration

**May yer Thao** - Administrative Coordinator I, Administration

**Zhanna Zenkova, PhD** - Visiting Assistant Professor from Russia, Biostatistics Program. Dr. Tarima will host Dr. Zenkova from October 25-November 20, 2011.

**Shi Zhao** - Biostatistician I, Biostatistics Program

**Programs**

Congratulating...

**CTSI Community Engagement Key Function** - the local SMART (Students Modeling A Research Topic) Team at Milwaukee School of Engineering is funded by grants from the Clinical and Translational Science Institute and the Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) from the National Center for Research. Students were highlighted for their work on a similar protein project that was recently awarded the 2011 Nobel Prize in Medicine.

http://www.msoe.edu/newsroom/detail.shtml?inode=c29d66de-3917-4832-ad60-f5a452666e97


Accomplishments...

**Mary Olson** successfully coordinated the IHS and PCOR Team, the Brady(cardia) Bunch to participate in the Heart Walk on October 16, 2011. Team participants raised $755.00 and included Brandon Clark, Ava Frazer, David Frazer, Tiffany Frazer, Toni King, Cheryl Maurana, John Meurer, Linda Meurer, Jean Moreland, Mary Olson, Cindy Schmitz and Alicia Witten. Thank you to everyone who participated!  http://infoscope.mcw.edu/NewsCenter/CollegeNews/Congratulations-MCW-Heart-Walk.htm
The Board of Trustees approved HWPP awards, several of which went to IHS faculty; Kirsten Beyer, PhD, Steve Hargarten, MD, MPH and Earnestine Willis, MD, MPH. Congratulations! [http://www.mcw.edu/healthierwipartnerships/fundedprojects/7th-Funding-Cycle-Funded-Partn.htm](http://www.mcw.edu/healthierwipartnerships/fundedprojects/7th-Funding-Cycle-Funded-Partn.htm)

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**Take Away Tools Delivered!**

HWPP held its 3rd Community Engagement in Research (CEnR) Conference entitled Capacity and Skill Building for Today and Tomorrow on Friday, October 7, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport with support from the Institute for Health and Society and the CTSI Community Engagement Key Function.

The conference delivered take away tools that could be used immediately while also providing skills for capacity building through four different workshops. Initial feedback has been very positive!

Thank you to all who helped make the conference a success!

Proceedings from the workshop sessions at the conference will be posted to the HWPP web page.

If you are not already receiving communications from HWPP and would like to in the future, please email Michelle at smithbeckley@mcw.edu

**Institute Spotlight**

**Health Equity and Urban Clinical Care Partnerships**

From 2002 to 2006 in Milwaukee County, there were 17.3 deaths per 1,000 live births of African American infants, this is three times the rate for white infants in Milwaukee. In the city of Milwaukee specifically, the black-white infant mortality
gap is among the highest in the nation. The black infant mortality rate in Milwaukee is worse than the rate in Jamaica, Ukraine, Costa Rick, Ecuador, Malaysia and 56 other countries. This is a sad reflection of our community and is an indicator of the work that must be done to address the social determinants of health that influence poor health outcomes for underserved populations. The Division of Health Equity and Urban Clinical Care Partnerships has been working aggressively with a local effort to improve birth outcomes for African Americans. This involvement includes the Division’s Director, Earnestine Willis, MD, MPH, serving as the co-chair of the Milwaukee Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF) and Clarene Mitchell, Program Manager, providing ongoing staffing support to the convening agency.

The Milwaukee LIHF is a community collaborative effort to reduce the black-white gap in infant mortality. Milwaukee was one of four communities that received a community action planning grant from the Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP) of the University of Wisconsin, Madison School of Medicine and Public Health. The other communities - Racine, Kenosha and Beloit- like Milwaukee, have extremely high black-white infant mortality gaps as well. The Planning Council for Health and Human Services, Inc. received the local planning grant and a community kickoff was held in October 2010. Each of the projects are in an extended planning phase until March 2012, and are working to finalize their individual community action plans. This planning process has been a very crucial time for the projects as efforts have been made to ensure a community-driven process. Graduate and medical students have expressed an interest in this health disparity, infant mortality, and they have joined the Health Equity team in working closely with Milwaukee LIHF during the planning and implementation phases of this project.

VPI Call For Partnerships

The Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) is proud to announce that the Call for Partnerships (CFP) is now available. Applications are encouraged from partnership teams throughout Wisconsin representing Milwaukee communities and diverse stakeholders.

Interested groups will receive funding to work collaboratively with MCW and the VPI team to:

- implement violence prevention programs for youth ages 0-11 years;
- develop leadership capacity to prevent violence among youth ages 12-17 years; and
- build and strengthen community capacity and resources to prevent youth violence.

The VPI partnership model is based on the premise that partnerships will capitalize
on the strengths and unique skills of community organizations and faculty and staff of MCW in order to address a community priority.

The CFP is available on the VPI website: [http://www.mcw.edu/vpi.htm](http://www.mcw.edu/vpi.htm)

The direct link to access the CFP is: [http://www.mcw.edu/vpi/CommunitiesinFocus/Call/ApplyforFunding.htm](http://www.mcw.edu/vpi/CommunitiesinFocus/Call/ApplyforFunding.htm)

The direct link to register for one of the CFP Community Information Sessions is: [http://www.mcw.edu/vpi/CommunitiesinFocus/Call/ApplicantAssistance.htm](http://www.mcw.edu/vpi/CommunitiesinFocus/Call/ApplicantAssistance.htm)

Call for Partnerships applications are due by 5:00p.m. on November 30, 2011. For assistance, please contact: (414)955-2699 or vpi-cfp@mcw.edu.

For questions or comments, or if you have an event you would like highlighted in *Notes from the Institute*, please contact Julie Dotson at jdotson@mcw.edu or call at x8032.