

New global public health center provides solutions across continents

Every year more than 200,000 mothers bleed to death during childbirth—99 percent of them from developing countries. With the School of Public Health's new Center for Global Public Health (CGPH), Malcom Potts, Bixby Professor of Population and Family Planning, plans to reduce that number by half within six years, using low-cost technologies to prevent postpartum hemorrhaging. This commitment is one of many initiatives progressing under the umbrella of the new center, led by Eva Harris, associate professor and associate dean of research. The center was established in July 2007 with core funding from the UC Berkeley campus.

"Eva Harris is the ideal person to lead the center in its early development given the range of her expertise and experience in implementing the results of her lab-based research to benefit individuals and communities," says **Dean Stephen Shortell**.

CGPH has a multifaceted mission, the heart of which is to draw together the wealth of long-term international research at the School into a multidisciplinary unit addressing cross-cutting themes in global public health on a large scale.

"More than half of the School of Public Health faculty currently engages in global health research and training with populations on five continents," says Harris. "The Center for Global Public Health will synergize and expand on this research to ensure that the collective output is greater than the sum of its parts."

CGPH will also partner with other departments and centers on campus, with universities including UCSF and UC Davis, and with nonprofit and governmental organizations. "The center will serve as a forum for engaging with other related initiatives," says Dean Shortell, "such as the Blum Center for Developing Economies, the Center for Neglected Diseases, and UCSF's Global Health Science Initiative."

An important goal is to provide support for School of Public Health students who want to travel internationally for field work. "Right now it is often very difficult for our students to find funding for travel abroad," says Harris. "We'd like to see more Public Health graduate and undergraduate students be able to work internationally, both because their contributions in the field can be enormous and because it is invaluable experience for them."

The Time is Ripe for Partnership


With global slum populations estimated to reach two billion in less than 30 years, global warming contributing to increases in environmental hazards, and new innovations in technology that can improve health programs in developing countries—the formation of a global public health nucleus is timely. School faculty members have already been conducting studies

addressing diverse issues in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East for decades.

"The School of Public Health is known for long-term international collaborations in the field," says Harris. "These are not superficial studies; almost all are 10- to 30-year partnerships with colleagues overseas."

The data from these studies have potential to be even more useful when shared amongst colleagues in the center. Harris explains, "We can take what's already been done and look at it from a different perspective—integrating another discipline or another disease. We are really ripe for partnership within the School as well as abroad."

CGPH leaders have catalogued the wealth of research on global public health at the School and organized it into many cross-cutting themes. These include slum health, health and information technology, maternal health, bringing vaccines to scale, global warming and carbon credits, and healthcare workforce analysis, among others.

"The potential to take action and improve health on a global scale is just enormous," says Harris. "We have a chance to do something beyond our own research projects and serve a larger purpose." 



"The School of Public Health is known for long-term international collaborations in the field. These are not superficial studies; almost all are 10- to 30-year partnerships with colleagues overseas." —EVA HARRIS



Dean's Message

Your Gift Matters

In this issue of *Highlights* you will read about several new centers and initiatives that are enabling our School to better address the public health challenges that we face. The resources for these initiatives have largely come from efforts of the campus and from the work of our faculty. On the campus front, we share in the momentous gift from the Hewlett Foundation of over \$100 million to be used as matching funds to create 100 endowed chairs across the campus. These will be distributed based on each School's percent of the campus full time state funded faculty. This will result in two matching chairs for our School of Public Health. This gift provides further support to the growing fundraising capacity of the School. Last year we raised a record \$15 million in philanthropic support putting us among the leaders on the Berkeley campus.

These resources help to build the foundation for our forthcoming major fundraising campaign. This campaign will help provide the funds for the new building for our School, for student and faculty support, and for bold new programmatic initiatives. Our success will depend critically on the support of all of our alumni and friends. In the past three years we have increased the percentage of our alumni who provide some financial support from 10 percent to 14 percent. But we need the participation from many more. Lead gift donors and the state use alumni support as one indicator of commitment to the School. Towards this end, we have launched the "20-40" campaign. We have set the goal of the percentage of alumni who support the School at 20 percent and the percent of our graduating students who make three year pledges to the School at 40 percent; each to be achieved over the coming two years. The initiatives that you read about in this issue of *Highlights* will have much wider impact with your support. I thank you for your past generosity and, working together, I know we will achieve even greater impact on improving the public's health in the future.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Shortell, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Dean, School of Public Health

Blue Cross of California Distinguished Professor of Health Policy & Management

Professor of Organization Behavior

Did you know?

UC Berkeley School of Public Health:

- Ranked third on the Berkeley campus for research funding in 2006–2007
- Ranked fifth on the Berkeley campus for fundraising in 2006–2007
- Has more Fogarty international health awards than any other school of public health
- Publishes the third-ranking magazine among U.S. schools of public health (as ranked by the *Epidemiology Monitor*)
- Has nine Institute of Medicine members among its faculty
- Has eight faculty members who are fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Has three Fulbright Fellows among its faculty
- Has a faculty member who is a member of the National Academy of Sciences



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\$113 million gift, UC Berkeley's largest ever, to support 100 endowed faculty chairs

The University of California, Berkeley, received the largest private gift in its history, \$113 million from the **William and Flora Hewlett Foundation**, on Sept. 10. This gift represents a turning point in the financing of public higher education, providing endowment support that will help to close the funding gap between the nation's preeminent public university and its elite private peers, according to UC Berkeley **Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau**.

The Hewlett gift provides UC Berkeley with a major new source of endowed funds to attract and support world-class faculty and graduate students. Through a challenge grant, it will create 100 endowed chairs, permanent funds designed to keep UC Berkeley professors' salaries competitive with those at the best private schools and to recruit top graduate students. The challenge grant will match other private donations dollar-for-dollar, resulting in \$220 million in new endowments once the challenge is met. An additional \$3 million will be used to support an enhanced infrastructure for managing those endowed funds.

"This gift is an extraordinary vote of confidence in the contribution that UC Berkeley and all great public universities make to society. It is a recognition that public universities can and must compete with the best private universities and can only do so through a partnership between public funding and private philanthropy," said Birgeneau.

Student “Welcome Week” Includes Day of Community Service



From August 21 to 24, the School hosted a week of activities to welcome incoming students. The week concluded with the third annual Volunteer Mobilization Day, during which new public health graduate students donated a day of service at sites around Berkeley.

- 1** Student volunteers help prepare for a graduation ceremony at BAHIA School Age Program. **2** Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates welcomes students at the Volunteer Mobilization Day kickoff. **3** A volunteer helps in the community garden at Berkeley Youth Alternatives. **4** Alumni and new students mingle at a Welcome Week lunch hosted by the Public Health Alumni Association.



News and Notes

State officials select School of Public Health experts to guide biomonitoring program

With four environmental health experts recently appointed to a nine-person Scientific Guidance Panel, the UC Berkeley School of Public Health is poised to make a strong contribution to the California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program, which monitors the presence and concentration of designated chemicals in Californians. **Asa Bradman, Ph.D. '97**, associate director for the Center for the Health Assessment of Mothers and Children of Salinas; **Richard Jackson, M.D., M.P.H. '79**, adjunct professor of environmental health sciences and health policy & management; **Thomas McKone, Ph.D.**, adjunct professor of environmental health sciences; and **Michael P. Wilson, Ph.D. '03, M.P.H. '98**, assistant research scientist at the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, have all been appointed to the panel.

New center harnesses campus expertise to develop screening technologies

School of Public Health professors are teaming up with researchers across the UC Berkeley campus to create the **Center for Exposure Biology**, a new research collaboration that will focus on developing biomarkers and biosensors to allow cost-effective testing for blood cancer risks. **Stephen Rappaport, Ph.D.**, adjunct professor of environmental health sciences, will direct the program and

will lead one of its three interdisciplinary projects. The center is being established with funds from a \$4.7 million grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). The grant is part of the Exposure Biology Program of the Genes, Environment, and Health Initiative at the National Institutes of Health, a program which seeks to develop innovative technologies to better understand the interplay of environmental exposure to contaminants and genetic variations on human disease.

Rappaport is looking forward to collaborating with researchers from UC Berkeley's Colleges of Chemistry and Engineering. "Our school has a health mandate that is fueled by biomedical research," he says. "With this new center, we are harnessing the wealth of scientific and technical expertise that is available at Berkeley to help solve public health problems."

School gains two programs that address access to care

Two programs formerly located within the UC Office of the President—the **California Program on Access to Care (CPAC)** and the **Health Initiative of the Americas**—have now joined the School of Public Health.

"We look forward to working with the leadership and staffs of both of these programs in addressing issues of improving access to quality care," says **Dean Stephen Shortell**. "The relationship will

provide increased research, educational, and consultation opportunities for our students and faculty while enabling both programs to benefit from a closer affiliation with the School."

CPAC is an applied policy research program established by the University of California in 1997 at the request of the state legislature to address issues related to access to health care for low-income populations. CPAC-supported research focuses on health services for the state's working-poor population, with particular attention to immigrant workers and their families and low-income households in agricultural and rural areas. CPAC provides technical assistance to policy makers, commissions policy research on statewide issues, and disseminates research findings and recommendations through publications and special briefings.

The Health Initiative of the Americas, formerly known as the California-Mexico Health Initiative, was created in January 2001 under the auspices of the California Policy Research Center of the UC Office of the President. It is a collaborative effort involving government, academia, the private sector, and community-based organizations of both countries. The initiative's objective is to coordinate and optimize the availability of health resources for Mexican immigrants and their families through bilateral training, research, and health promotion activities.

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Highlights

FALL 2007

Inside this newsletter:

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- Gift to campus supports 100 endowed chairs
- Photos from Volunteer Mobilization Day

Upcoming Events in 2008

Public Health Alumni Association Board of Directors Meetings

Monday, January 28

6–8 p.m., 714-C University Hall, UC Berkeley campus
RSVP to Eileen Pearl, (510) 643-6382,
phaa@berkeley.edu

All alumni are invited to attend the quarterly board meetings of the Public Health Alumni Association.

UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program Research Symposium

Friday, February 1

8 a.m.–8 p.m., Lipman Room, Barrows Hall,
UC Berkeley campus

The 15 students graduating from the UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program present their master of science thesis research.

Career Cafe

Thursday, February 7

5:30–8 p.m., Alumni House, UC Berkeley campus
Information: Eileen Pearl, (510) 643-6382,
phaa@berkeley.edu

The Public Health Alumni Association and Center for Public Health Practice invite students and alumni to attend the Career Cafe. Hosted by Dean Stephen Shortell, the evening provides students with an opportunity to meet with public health alumni and preceptors to discuss career and internship opportunities, establish connections, make new friends, and network.

12th Annual Public Health Heroes Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, April 2

Reception: 6:30 p.m., Dinner, 7:30 p.m., Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco
Information: www.publichealthheroes.org
2008 honorees include National Hero, David Kessler; Regional Hero, Barbara Staggers; Organizational Hero, International Medical Corps.



Spring Alumni Brunch & Silent Auction

Sunday, April 27

Clark Kerr Campus,
Garden Room, 2601

Warring Street, Berkeley

Gather with colleagues for delicious food, invigorating camaraderie, and the opportunity to bolster the Public Health Alumni Association's efforts to support key areas of interest identified by alumni.

fied by alumni.

For a complete calendar of events at the School, visit sph.berkeley.edu.