

PUBLIC HEALTH

R E P O R T S

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“Research Linkages Between Academia and Practice: Reducing Health Disparities”

*Sponsored by: Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) and the
Public Health Practice Program Office (PHPPPO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Supplement Co-Editors: Beth Quill, MPH, and Mary desVignes-Kendrick, MD, MPH*

The Association of Schools of Public Health is soliciting abstracts for a supplement to the peer-reviewed journal *Public Health Reports* for November/December 2001 publication. The purpose of this issue is to publish approximately 15 articles that reflect collaborative research among academia, agencies, and communities to address and remediate health disparities. Abstracts should describe success in combating health disparities of populations with a recognized burden of disease and disability and/or identified risk factors (e.g., risks cited in *Healthy People 2010*) and should illustrate how collaboration was necessary to accomplish the research and advance the health of the public. Priority will be given to abstracts that address:

- 1) Productive elements of a research partnership among academia, practice, and the community;
- 2) Methods and the translation of the collaborative research activity results into public health benefits;
- 3) Community experiences with collaborative research resulting in community-level interventions that prevent or remediate health disparities; and,
- 4) Application of an understanding of social determinants of health in research projects to prevent or remediate health disparities in at-risk populations.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

In addition to the above priority areas, abstracts must illustrate support for the scientific basis of public health practice. The following format for abstract should be followed:

- A maximum of 350 words
- Include the abstract title in UPPERCASE letters
- Include the abstract author(s) name(s) in upper and lower case letters, followed by institution and agency names
- Include the submitting author's contact information (name, degrees, address, telephone, fax, and e-mail)
- Abstracts must be submitted via electronic mail in MS Word or WordPerfect attachment to:
phr-abstract@asph.org

Authors are encouraged to submit abstracts that: (a) show improvement in research methods, practice activities, and community relationships resulting from the academic-practice linkage; (b) relate the research to recognized regional and/or national population health risks and the related national health objectives; (c) demonstrate the capacity of the research outcomes to diminish health disparities and promote public health; and, (d) are co-authored by academic, practice, and participating community representatives.

DEADLINES:

- Abstract submission December 1, 2000
- Abstract author notification January 2001
- Manuscript submission May 2001

Abstracts are solicited from the public health community, specifically accredited schools of public health, MPH degree programs, preventive medicine programs, academic research centers, community-based organizations, minority health institutions, and other public health agencies and professional organizations.

For more information, contact:

Geri Aglipay, ASPH Project Manager (gsa@asph.org) / Tel. 202-296-1099 ext. 134

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Invited and contributed papers on: modeling and analysis of complicated data structures; issues related to sparse and massive data sets; data collection and storage; and use of software for exploratory and automated techniques.

A short course, "Introduction to Mixed Models for Longitudinal Studies," will be offered by Donald Hedeker, Ph.D., on January 22, 2001.

For further information, registration information, and forms, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/od/ads/sag>

Writing for *Public Health Reports*

We welcome contributions that help us meet the information needs of public health professionals by describing important scientific and programmatic developments; new technologies; relevant policy issues; and current scientific debates.

In general, the journal conforms to *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical*

Contributions and Their Length

Letters to the Editor. We strongly encourage you to submit letters; brevity is a virtue.

News and Notes: These are brief news items and announcements, used and rewritten at the discretion of the editors. *500-word maximum.*

Feature articles: Features, often solicited, present the current status of a subject area and implications for policy, practice, or future research. *4000-word maximum with a 150-word unstructured synopsis.* We urge you to send an initial query letter describing your proposed article, its relevance to our readers, and why you are the appropriate author.

Research articles: We seek to publish research that is fully developed and original. To avoid redundant publishing, we do not accept preliminary reports or reports of studies that are only incrementally different from previously published research. *2500-word maximum, including a structured synopsis (Objectives, Methods, Results, Conclusions) of up to 250 words.*

Practice articles: We publish articles describing innovative public health programs and initiatives, their current status, and documented outcomes. *2500-word maximum with a 150-word unstructured synopsis.*

Viewpoints and Commentaries: These are short opinion pieces, often solicited, addressing contemporary public health issues. *Commentaries* are written in response to *Feature, Practice, or Research* articles.

Departments: *Overseas Observer, Public Health and the Law, Information Technology, Public Health Chronicles, Book and Film Reviews.* We welcome letters of inquiry proposing article ideas. *2500-word maximum.*

Authorship

Who is an author? Not a trivial question, so please refer to the *Uniform Require-*

ments. We need to have the signature of each author before we can publish an article or letter.

Conflicts of Interest

Full disclosure and avoiding the appearance of a conflict are our guiding principles. If any financial influence or other conflict of interest *might* have biased your work, you are obliged to disclose it to us—even if you are confident that no bias intervened. Please let us decide what should be disclosed to our readers. Similarly, you must disclose any similar or related work submitted or published elsewhere.

Cover Letter

When submitting your manuscript, help us by writing a thoughtful letter explaining why it belongs in *PHR*. We also need information on authorship and any conflicts of interest; a statement that the material has not been published nor is being considered for publication elsewhere; and references to closely related articles (copies should be enclosed). Please submit three copies of the manuscript, tables, and figures. Text should be double-spaced.

Acknowledgment of Receipt

We acknowledge each submission when it arrives.

Peer Review

After an initial reading by our editors, we select promising contributions for peer review; these are sent to two or more external reviewers.

The Manuscript

Here's what your manuscript should look like:

Title Page. (a) title (short and descriptive); (b) full names of all authors, including their graduate degrees; (c) all authors' institutional affiliations and job titles during the course of the research (and current affiliations and titles if different); (d)

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name, street address, telephone number, and fax number and e-mail address of corresponding author; (e) word count of the text (inclusive of references) and the number of charts/figures.

Synopsis: The abstract is your work's face to the world, as published in various medical indexes; a good abstract promotes readership. Synopses of *Feature* and *Practice articles* should be a maximum of 150 words without abbreviations, symbols, or references to tables or graphs. Structured synopses of *Research* articles (*250-word maximum*) should contain four parts labeled *Objectives, Methods, Results, and Conclusions.* Below the abstract provide up to 10 key words (use Medical Subject Headings from *Index Medicus*).

Text. In writing for *PHR*, keep in mind that public health is an extremely broad field and most readers will be in parts of the field other than your own. Your introduction or lead is particularly important. Please define terms that are not universally understood and avoid the use of jargon.

Research articles should be divided into four sections: *Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion.* In the *Methods* section, use active, not passive, voice and tell readers "who, what, when, where, and why." Provide a full explanation in the *Methods* section of how you arrived at each finding reported in the *Results* section.

References. Please consult the *Uniform Requirements* and recent issues of the journal. Citations of personal conversations or unpublished material should appear in the text. *PHR* does not use substantive footnotes.

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Captain Ribbitt is the official mascot of FrogWeb (www.frogweb.gov), a website connecting scientists, resource managers, educators, and the public to information about deformities and disappearances in amphibian populations around the world. Considered “sentinel species,” amphibians can provide early warnings of problems that may later affect other species, including humans. [See book review on pages 383–385.]



FrogWeb is a project of the Taskforce on Amphibian Declines and Deformities (TADD), a federal inter-agency working group that includes representatives from the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Education, Health and Human Services, Interior, Justice, and State; the Environmental Protection Agency; the National Science Foundation; the Smithsonian Institution; the Council on Environmental Quality; the Agency for International Development; and the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

The FrogWeb website is managed by the US Geological Survey for the National Biological Information Infrastructure (www.nbio.gov), a collaborative program to provide access to information on the nation’s biological resources.

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