

Healthy Signs



UNIVERSITY of
ROCHESTER
MEDICAL CENTER

MEDICINE of THE HIGHEST ORDER

National Center for Deaf Health Research February 2009

Mission of NCDHR:

To promote health and prevent disease in the Deaf and hard of hearing population through community-participatory research.



NCDHR Town Hall Meetings

Watch for our
important
announcements
from
NCDHR
coming soon!

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Update of the 2nd Grant from the PRC Directors Meeting

The Prevention Research Center (PRC) Program Office hosted a meeting of PRC Directors from all the PRCs on February 25th and 26th in Washington, DC. **Dr. Steve Barnett** and **Deirdre Schlehofer** represented NCDHR. **Kim Kelstone** also attended to provide interpreting services, teaming with a local interpreter. **Dr. Tom Pearson** was unable to attend due to a long-planned trip out of the country.

The meeting focused on two things: budgetary issues, and the review process for grant applications submitted for the next five-year cycle.

First, the recently-passed economic stimulus bill included \$1 billion earmarked for health promotion and disease prevention programs. We hope that a share of these funds will benefit the PRC Program. Decisions about how the money will be

allocated will be made over the next few months. PRCs, including NCDHR, will have to be ready to respond quickly to any opportunities made available, because the stimulus bill requires that funds be spent quickly.

On the second subject, the PRC Office indicated that funding decisions for the next five-year cycle will be somewhat delayed, because they are waiting to find out more about how the economic stimulus package will affect their budget. If the PRC Program's budget is increased, they may be able to fund more centers than planned, or they may increase the budget provided to each center. Currently, there are 33 PRCs. The PRC Office noted that the CDC received 40 applications for comprehensive centers (like ours), and 10 applications to

initiate new centers on a smaller scale.

Our second 5-year grant, if awarded, will adapt, evaluate and disseminate a proven evidence-based obesity-reduction intervention. (for more information, see the Oct. '08 and Nov. '08 Healthy Signs Newsletters on the NCDHR website).

Two members of the Deaf Health Community Committee (DHCC), **John Reid** and **Cathie Armstrong**, also went to Washington, D.C. to attend the National Community Committee (NCC). The NCC consists of representatives from each of the PRC's Community Committees, which includes the DHCC. NCC serves as a vital and equitable community partner with the PRC Program and both PRC Directors and NCC representatives meet at least twice a year.

NCDHR's First International Visitors

Hands waving applause to **Dr. Carolyn Stern**, of DeafDoc.org, member of NCDHR's Education & Training Committee, for bringing a group of deaf students, deaf and hearing health professors and interpreters from Japan to Rochester. The Japanese visitors wanted to learn more about how deaf students in America pursue their educational and career goals in health care professions. NCDHR was one of their first stops over a week-long series of meetings.

Prior to a panel discussion, **Dr. Tom Pearson** welcomed the visitors. **Deirdre Schlehofer** served as moderator of a discussion panel which consisted of a Deaf doctor, a Deaf public health specialist and a member of

the Deaf Health Community Committee (DHCC).

Translations and interpretations of 4 languages (ASL, spoken English, spoken Japanese and Japanese Sign Language) were fascinating to watch! Several questions were then asked by the visitors and answered by the panelists. At the end, photos were taken and gifts were exchanged.

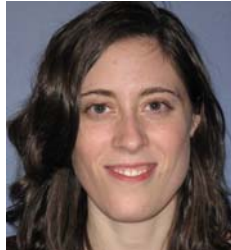
Members of the DHCC, faculty and staff of NCDHR also were present at this event (see pictures on page 2). We hope that these visitors took home a wealth of information encouraging deaf people in Japan to pursue training and jobs in health care and research!

NCDHR Expands with New Staff and Students



Danica Rice joined NCDHR as an Administrative Assistant on February 4, 2009. Danica earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in

Professional & Technical Communications from RIT in November of 2007. Her most recent post was Marketing Specialist for a small start-up company specializing in contemporary marketing and client communications. She will be responsible for general office activities and related administrative services for the NCDHR. This position functions in direct support of NCDHR leadership. Danica will also serve as a resource to the Center's many faculty, staff and community partners. Please give Danica a special welcome to NCDHR's staff!



Leslie Herrmann is a medical student from Brown University's Alpert Medical School (Rhode Island) who will be spending a month at NCDHR.

Leslie will be attending Research Committee meetings and visiting Deaf organizations and services in Rochester.

She is originally from southern NY and has lived in Rhode Island for the past eight years. She studied ASL for two years during college.

Leslie continues to pursue cultural competency skills by continuing to practice signing and soaking in as much experience as she can before she becomes a pediatrician in three months!



Scott Smith, MD, MPH, a Deaf pediatrician from North Carolina, Boston, and, most recently, worked at Rochester General Hospital

for the past 4 1/2 years, will be joining NCDHR on March 1, 2009 as a preventive cardiology research fellow. He will work with the research and Deaf communities to develop more effective health education interventions for Deaf children and adolescents. He will seek grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to help support his work towards improving the lives of Deaf people. Dr. Smith looks forward to working with NCDHR and its Deaf community partners striving for healthier outcomes in the Deaf population.

Record number of abstracts submitted to 2009 APHA Conference

NCDHR and its community partner, Deaf Health Community Committee (DHCC), hopes to achieve a record number of Deaf-focused presentations at this year's meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA).

A total of 11 proposals for presentation or poster session (also known as "abstracts") were submitted to APHA for review and hopefully, acceptance. Five of these abstracts were prepared by members of the DHCC, including one by RIT student and 6 by NCDHR faculty and researchers. According to APHA's website

(www.apha.org), "The American Public Health Association is the oldest, largest and most diverse organization of public health professionals in the world and has been working to improve public health since 1872."

While the main theme for November's conference is water (fresh water preservation and safety), all of our abstracts focus primarily on Deaf Health research and related topics.



Pictures of Panel Discussion for Japanese Visitors (Feb 9, 2009)



Dr. Pearson gives welcoming remarks to visitors from Japan at NCDHR. Visitors included deaf students, deaf and hearing professors and translators/interpreters. On right, Kim Kelstone, NCDHR staff interpreter.



Deirdre moderates a panel: From left to right: Matthew Starr, NCDHR staff, John Reid, Vice Chair of DHCC, and Dr. Michael McKee. Japanese voice translators (sitting on right) and JSL interpreter (standing on left).



Group picture of Japanese visitors and NCDHR stakeholders. Dr. Carolyn Stern (front 4th from left), owner of DeafDoc.org, organized the visit.