

# Healthy Signs



UNIVERSITY of  
**ROCHESTER**  
MEDICAL CENTER

National Center for Deaf Health Research November 2009

## Mission of NCDHR:

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

Interested in becoming a partner with NCDHR?

Interested in participating in Deaf Health Research activities?

Interested in learning more about Deaf Health?

Contact us!



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## Public Health Thank You Day

November 23, 2009

[www.publichealththankyouday.org](http://www.publichealththankyouday.org)



With Thanksgiving just around the corner, there are some special people who deserve thanks – our **Principal Investigator, Deaf Health researchers and administrators, fellows, partners and community advocates.**

All too often we are unfamiliar with our partners who devote their careers and time to keeping us healthy by making Deaf Health research a top priority every day.

Thank you!



## Change of Leadership at DHCC



**Jess Cuculick's** one year term as the DHCC Chair ended last

month. "My experience as DHCC Chair in the past year was very rewarding," Jess recapped. "I have seen DHCC members amp up their participation in many different projects within NCDHR. They are very dedicated to helping the Deaf community understand and improve their health."

Some of the DHCC accomplishments under her helm include: recruited 9 new DHCC members, participated in several research projects such as Deaf Health

Perceptions, Infant Care Perceptions and Deaf Weight Wise, submitted abstracts from DHCC for American Public Health Association conference, excellent participation by DHCC members at the Deaf Festival, and finally, a new shirt with the DHCC logo on it!

"Additionally, DHCC members come from all walks of life and I feel that this has been a tremendous boost to the research processes that occur at NCDHR," Jess reflected, "I look forward to John T. Reid's leadership!"

Jess will serve as the Past Chair of DHCC, which provides mentorship to the current Chair, for a one-year term.



**John T. Reid** is eager to begin his duties as the newest Chair of DHCC.

When asked about his goals for the next year, J.T. responded, "I am excited to have this opportunity to serve as the Chair of DHCC. The DHCC and our partner, NCDHR, have done remarkable things to improve health of the Deaf Community. Our next biggest challenge is to reach out to more Deaf people who live in the Rochester area, but who remain isolated. This would be my goal to work with all partners on this outreach effort."

## NCDHR Happenings



DHCC received a Center for Community Health grant for \$500 to support “Deaf Health Talks” which will be

presented in American Sign Language. The planning team, consisting of **Mike McKee, Cathie Armstrong, Julia Aggas** and **Mistie Cramer**, will present a series of ten monthly presentations. The first presentation, “Swine Flu and Common Infections to Prepare for,” was well received by Deaf individuals. The next talk was about sleeping disorders on Nov. 11 at the Deaf Club. DHCC hopes that these monthly talks will improve awareness in the Deaf community on major health topics.



**Deirdre Schlehofer, M.Phil., Ed.D.**, also known as “DD,” has been promoted to Research Assistant Professor. She is

working on a number of projects at NCDHR, including CAHPS (Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) and Deaf Weight Wise. Her future plans including improving Deaf Women’s Health.



**Steven Barnett, MD**, Associate Director of NCDHR, has been promoted to Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Community & Preventive Medicine.

**Congratulations to DD and Steve!**

Researchers and partners from NCDHR and DHCC gave presentations during the 137th Annual Meeting & Exposition of the American Public Health Association in Philadelphia, PA last November 7 – 11: **Jess Cuculick, MSW, Amanda O’Hearn, PhD, Robert Q. Pollard, PhD, Vincent Samar, PhD, Deirdre Schlehofer, MPhil, EdD.**



Val Nelson-Metlay, a member of the Deaf Health Community Committee (DHCC), and a well-respected graphic artist, has designed a logo for the DHCC. Thank you Val for this eye-catching design! Look for this logo in future DHCC-sponsored programs.

## National Community Committee Conference at North Carolina

**Julia Aggas and Chad A. Ludwig**, members of the Deaf Health Community Committee (DHCC), continued our organization’s ongoing duty to remind everyone that Deaf Americans are a linguistic minority group at the annual National Community Committee (NCC) conference last month.



This conference was hosted by the Community Committee at the University of North Carolina’s Preventive Research Center (PRC) in Chapel Hill, which was first funded in 1986.

Community members from other PRCs also represented their people, such as ethnic groups, people who live in rural regions, youth groups, and much more.

The mission of NCC is to promote a working partnership between underserved communities and academic health centers to address health disparities.

During the 3-day conference, NCC representatives worked together with a full agenda on how to strengthen partnerships and improve communications, including a soon-to-be-launched website which will provide information to support community-based participatory research.

Conference attendees also received training to become more knowledgeable about evidence-based public health.



The conference host also made sure that their hard-working

representatives took a break to enjoy some of North Carolina’s attractions by visiting the Coharie Indian Tribe, the home of the state’s Native Americans and sampling some of NC



wines.

NCC representatives concluded their meeting with an announcement that the 2010 NCC Conference will be hosted by the Community Committee at the University of Washington PRC, based in Seattle.

Julia (Past Chair) and Chad (newly elected Vice-Chair) then gave their report to DHCC about NCC, just minutes after their flight arrived back to Rochester from North Carolina!

Photos provided by Chuck Conner from the Community Committee of West Virginia PRC.