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NCDHR FILLS NEW POSITION: RESEARCH COORDINATOR



Deirdre Schlehofer, M.Phil., also known as “DD,” has been appointed to a newly created position: Research Coordinator for the National Center for Deaf Health Research (NCDHR) at the University of Rochester. Dierdre will be working closely with NCDHR and NTID researchers, coordinating several projects leading to the development of an accessible, computer-based survey instrument in American Sign Language and English-like sign language. She is involved in all aspects of the research, including development, implementation, analysis, and presentation of research findings as a part of a multidisciplinary team.

“We are excited about Deirdre joining our team of Deaf and hearing people dedicated to promoting health and preventing disease with Deaf people and their families,” said **Steven Barnett, MD**, Associate Director of NCDHR, “her experience and skills are a great addition for NCDHR.”

Prior to coming to NCDHR, Deirdre was Senior Lecturer at the University of Rochester’s American Sign Language Program for 15 years. Her community service includes Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims and Deaf Women of Rochester. She is a member of the National Association of the Deaf and the World Federation of the Deaf. Currently, Schlehofer is serving on the editorial board for *Deaf Worlds* (International Journal of Deaf Studies).

DD earned her BA degree in cognitive psychology at University of Alaska and a Masters of Philosophy (a research degree) at the University of Bristol, United Kingdom, in 1992. She is a second year doctorate research student in the accelerated Teaching and Curriculum program at UR Margaret Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development. Her interests focus on literacy, situated learning, and more recently, ethical, social and legal challenges of genetic engineering.

“I look forward to working with NCDHR because I recognize the core value of the community-based participatory research and that future projects will be collaborative in order to ensure the best quality of access and understanding of health issues among Deaf people,” remarked Deirdre.

She joins a group of full-time Deaf staff and faculty who work at NCDHR. They are: **Matthew Starr, MPH**, chair of Communication & Dissemination Subcommittee and member of NCDHR’s Executive Committee and **Susan Demers Postlethwait, MS**, who manages the Center’s day-to-day operations, including administration and finances. Susan is also a member of the Executive Committee as well as a translator for the ASL Translation Workgroup (TWG). TWG is a research-based team responsible for translating English-based health information into ASL for all of NCDHR’s surveys and other culturally and linguistically appropriate research activities.



NCDHR, funded by the Centers for Disease Control, is guided by a “cultural model” that views deaf people as minority group who share a common language – American Sign Language (ASL) – and a common culture.

For more information about NCDHR, contact: 276-2122 (videophone) or ncdhr@urmc.rochester.edu (e-mail).

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