

Healthy Signs



National Center for Deaf Health Research

October 2010

Mission of NCDHR:

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

Did you Know?

The Task Force on Healthcare Careers for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community has a website:

www.rit.edu/ntid/hccd

Task Force Members:

- Gallaudet University
- NTID at RIT
- URM's NCDHR
- Rochester General Health System

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NCDHR to host National Community Committee meeting in Oct 2011

Sandy Good, Chair of the Prevention Research Centers (PRCs) National Community Committee (NCC), looked up across the elongated meeting room, scanning the faces of 60 delegates representing 33 PRC communities throughout the country, as she began to unfold a piece of paper



Photo credit: Chuck Conner

containing the result of their votes. This vote was to select the winning host for 2011 NCC's Annual Planning Meeting. All hands immediately shot up, waving excitedly in customary Deaf applause form, as Sandy announced, "Rochester, NY!"

The Deaf Health Community Committee (DHCC) and its academic partner, the National Center for Deaf Health Research (NCDHR) will soon roll up their sleeves to get started on year-long planning to provide an unforgettable experience for the visiting NCC delegates.

According to the PRC website (www.cdc.gov/prc), the NCC represents the people in communities that work with 37 PRCs to do community-based participatory research (CBPR) in chronic disease prevention and control. Each PRC community sends one or 2 representatives to the NCC.

This month, the 2010 NCC Annual Planning Committee concluded its 3-day meeting, including the selection of the 2011 host, at the University of Washington (UW) campus in Seattle. The 2 representatives who attended on behalf of Deaf Health Community Committee were **John T. Reid**, the DHCC Chair, and **Matthew Starr**, NCDHR's Community Liaison to the DHCC.

Becoming oriented to the goals and principles of CBPR is essential to the success of an academic-community partnership. The NCC members were provided a CBPR training by Dr. Bonnie Duran from UW. When directing research, the community's knowledge should be valued. This was one of the CBPR values instilled during the training ("Don't plan about us without us" was a slogan she used). Dr. Duran enlightened the NCC members by augmenting the phrase "cultural competency" with an added new concept, "cultural humility."

During the meeting, several PRCs, including NCDHR, were recognized for fostering close collaborations with its



Photo credit: Chuck Conner

communities. John Reid accepted this recognition on behalf of NCDHR.

At the conclusion of its annual meeting, Antonio Tovar, from the Community Committee (CC) of the University of South Florida PRC, started his one-year term as the newest NCC Chair. Katie Barnes of the CC of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill PRC will serve as the Chair-Elect. Lastly, the newly elected Vice Chair will be Susan Kunz from the CC of the University of Arizona PRC.

NCC leadership and its members thanked the UW PRC planning committee for an outstanding job. They all are excited about visiting and learning more about the Deaf community and NCDHR next year in Rochester!

Parts of this article were contributed by Sharon Bradford, the outgoing NCC Northeast Regional Director from Yale-Griffin PRC.

NCDHR Happenings



Jamie Marsden, MS, started working at NCDHR as secretary on September 1st.

Jamie attended RIT,

where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts with a concentration in ASL. She then earned a Master of Science degree in secondary education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing from NTID. After graduating in 2008, she became a substitute teacher at the Rochester School for the Deaf. Jamie is hearing, but has been active in the Deaf Community since her junior year in college. She is very excited to be here. To reach NCDHR and/or Jamie, you can call her at 866-901-0727 Videophone, 585-758-7832 Voice or 585-758-7804 TTY.



Carlene Mowl, MPH joined NCDHR in September as a full-time Health Project Coordinator. She earned her

Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience from Colgate University and her Masters in Public Health from Boston University. Carlene is the daughter of Dr. Harold Mowl, Jr (Superintendent of Rochester School for the Deaf) and Mrs. Mary Mowl. After working in the Center for Reproductive Medicine at Cornell University in New York City, Carlene returned to her hometown of Rochester. She will be working on all aspects of the Deaf Weight Wise project.

Three Deaf members of NCDHR/DHCC attended the first national

meeting of the GenoCommunity Think Tank last September 20 - 21 in St. Louis, MO. The attendees were **Matthew Starr, MPH, Scott Smith, MD, MPH** and **Yoko Kobayashi, MPH**, from CSUN and a partner with NCDHR. This meeting was co-sponsored by the PRC's National Community Committee.

The purpose of this meeting was to promote community-based participatory research in the field of Genomics. Genomics is the comprehensive study of genetic information, a rapidly growing field of medical research leading to newer diagnoses and treatments of certain diseases.

One of the roles of community engagement in Genomics is to protect the community from any harm due to ignorance of community's strengths and resources.

NCDHR Researchers Receive Grants from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Drs. Michael McKee and Scott Smith were promoted to Assistant Professors after receiving the Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (also known as a "K01") from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, National Institutes of Health. The K01 award provides five years of support for an intensive, supervised research career development experience (www.grants.nih.gov). Prior to promotion, both researchers were post-doctoral fellows in Preventive Cardiology under the supervision of **Dr. Thomas A. Pearson**, NCDHR Director.



Scott Smith, MD MPH, a Deaf Behavioral Pediatrician, will conduct research on, "Assessing Cardiovascular Risk in Deaf

Adolescents who use Sign Language." Dr. Smith received his medical degree from Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and Master of Public Health degree from Harvard University. His award is supported by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the NIH.



Michael McKee, MD MPH will be studying, "Health Literacy Among Deaf ASL Users and Cardiovascular Health Risk." Dr.

McKee is a Deaf Family Medicine physician and his K01 award is supported by the NHLBI. Dr. McKee is a member of the Department of Family Medicine at the URM. McKee received his MD degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, and MPH

degree from University of Rochester. He continues to practice family medicine part-time with Lifetime Health at the Folsom Health Center.

Also...



Steven Barnett, MD, Associate Professor of Family Medicine & Community & Preventive Medicine and Associate Director of NCDHR, continues work on his K08 award (Mentored Clinical

Scientist Research Career Development Award) from Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (2006), focusing on healthcare experiences of deaf adults using ASL. His project involves adapting the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) survey to an ASL form.

For more about CAHPS®, go to www.cahps.ahrq.gov.