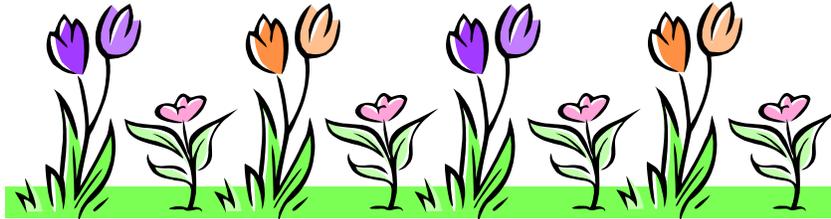




NEWSLETTER APRIL 7, 2006



*HAPPY SPRING to one and all!*

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Executive Committee Meeting is open to all

**Watsonian Society Executive Committee Meeting**

**Room:** 6B Bldg. 8 (Corp. Sq.)

**Time:** 4/18/2006 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (

**CALL IN:** Call In: Toll free #: 866-732-9603, Passcode 873632

**NOTES FROM the PRESIDENT:**

Happy Spring!

My Fellow Watsonians, for those of you who are unaware, there is a very active workgroup currently tackling the issue of reestablishing CDC's field staff presence. The Watsonian Society has been quite active in this activity, and while we strongly support the need to replenish our ranks at the state level with junior staff, we are also taking an active and supported stance that our current field staff must also be cherished, and that their career opportunities must also be looked after. This process will likely take the rest of the fiscal year to play out- especially with the hiring controls that are currently in place, but we are seeing signs of success and have every reason to be optimistic. I will be sure to share more specific information as soon as I am able.

In the meantime, I want to invite CURRENT field staff to let Bruce Heath know of their needs and wants. We are interested in everything that's happening. We realize we

have a bunch of PHAs out there who not only work every day to improve the public's health, but volunteer, have families, and have many successes to share. We'd love to hear from you and share the information with other Watsonians. We'd also like to share the burden and offer support and assistance in the hard times of illness and death. If you have a colleague that you know is celebrating or needs some help, we're here for them. Just drop us a line or give us a call.

I have been the chair of the professional development committee for several years, and have had the most requests for mentors from current headquarters staff that are not yet PHAs, but who want to become PHAs. In a recent meeting, the Executive Committee reminded me that there are many others who need mentoring. Those who have been local or state health department employees and have recently become CDC employees may just need a "buddy" to run things past. Others might be ready after several years at the same place and grade to make a move. We want assist all that we can. So, please don't forget that there's help available to you, all you have to do is contact me.

On another note, we have many exciting events coming up this year. If you are interested in attending any of these, or with helping plan, we'd love to have you! We are in the process of trying to find a time and place for a Watsonian sponsored event for STD Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. No definite plans yet, but we're in the process. The same is true for the TB meeting in June. Likewise for a Watsonian family picnic-committees are forming now for planning. Make a note of these upcoming events, and as we confirm, we'll let you know via e-mail:

**Annual Watsonian Society Banquet: September**  
**Annual Watsonian Society BBQ (Pig Roast) to honor retirees: November 9**  
**Annual Watsonian Society Holiday party: December**

Best wishes,  
Stacy L. Harper, President  
Watsonian Society

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**COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE**

When did you last visit the WATSONIAN Web site? Many pictures to view and information on events and community service.

<http://www.cdc.gov/watsonian/default.htm>

REMINDER- When retiring or changing email accounts please send your update to Rita Varga.

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**COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE**

**The CDC Watsonian Society will walk on April, 29, 2006 to "Blow the Whistle on Asthma!"**

More than 35 million people suffer from asthma, and of that number, more than half are children. In Georgia, one in every twelve children suffers from chronic asthma. This means they miss on average three days of school a year due to asthma. By Blowing the Whistle on Asthma you will help us to provide research dollars to those scientists and

doctors who are looking for better ways to treat asthma and its symptoms. Eventually we know they will find a cure. All the funds raised by the Watsonian Society will be provided to Camp Breath Easy, a residential summer camp for those children ages 7 to 13 who suffer from severe to moderate chronic asthma.

Please follow the link below to sign up as a walker today, and then we can fight the asthma epidemic together.

You can find additional information at the website. **Not in the ATLANTA AREA? How about sponsoring the WATSONIAN team! Donations are accepted at the website.**

Our team page can be found at:

<http://www.mrsnv.com/evt/e01/part.jsp?rid=439091&id=923&acct=5873042043>

The walk route is 2.0 miles and will begin promptly at 8:00 am.  
All walkers will culminate at Central Park in Atlantic Station. 17th St NW  
Atlanta, GA 30363

There will be entertainment for you to enjoy as you walk across the lake bridge and down 17th Street.

Thanks in advance for your support, Watsonian Community Service Committee,  
Hope King, Co-Chair

**Hope King, MSPH**

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**Save the Date**

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE**



When 15,000 volunteers all give a little bit, we can do a lot for Atlanta! Join us on Saturday, **October 4th** for the 13th annual Hands On Atlanta Day-the nation's largest day of service.

After completing the service projects, volunteers will gather at Centennial Olympic Park to celebrate their tremendous contributions to the community.

The Celebration of Service Party will include free food, beverages, live entertainment, prizes, and more!

**To sign up please contact Watsonian Community Service Committee Chair, Hope King,**

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**CONDOLENCES:**

**E. Russell Alexander, 77, Public Health Expert, Dies**

By [JEREMY PEARCE](#), Published: March 20, 2006

Dr. E. Russell Alexander, an epidemiologist and public health official who helped curb deadly disease outbreaks and raised concerns about federal plans to thwart a potential swine [flu epidemic](#) in the 1970's, when a vaccine was linked to a neurological disorder, died on Feb. 26 at his home in Seattle. He was 77.

The cause was islet cell carcinoma of the pancreas, his family said.

Dr. Alexander was a member of a committee on [immunization](#) practices that was advising the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and Prevention when swine flu was first reported at Fort Dix, N.J., in 1976.

The outbreak caused public health officials to fear a national epidemic. More than 200 soldiers were mildly infected with the influenza A [virus](#), and 13 were hospitalized. Dr. Alexander advised caution and argued for the stockpiling of flu vaccine, without embarking on vaccinations until it could be shown that the flu had spread beyond Fort Dix. But the committee decided to move quickly to cut off potential contagion, and about 40 million Americans received the vaccine.

A small percentage of those treated developed Guillain-Barré syndrome, a polioliike disorder that causes paralysis, and some patient deaths were linked to the vaccinations.

The devastating consequences of a flu epidemic did not occur, and the effort to use the vaccine nationwide was halted by the end of 1976.

Dr. Harvey V. Fineberg, president of the Institute of Medicine at the National Academy of Sciences, said that Dr. Alexander "posed very important questions about how to proceed with swine flu, and they turned out to be the right questions."

With Richard E. Neustadt, Dr. Fineberg wrote a book, "The Epidemic That Never Was: Policy Making in the Swine Flu Scare" (1983). As a result of his prudence, Dr. Alexander received "wide respect by knowledgeable leaders in public health," Dr. Fineberg added.

In 1993, while serving as chief of epidemiology for the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health, Dr. Alexander and others headed off a food-borne epidemic that killed four children. Within three days, investigators traced E. coli bacteria back to improperly cooked beef served by a fast-food chain.

The tainted food was withdrawn from the market, in an "example of timely action that prevented many more cases of illness," said James L. Gale, an emeritus professor of epidemiology at the University of Washington.

Dr. Alexander, who trained as a pediatrician, was interested in preventing the spread of [sexually transmitted diseases](#). He studied the association between genital [herpes](#) and cervical [cancer](#) in women, and the neonatal infection of infants by mothers carrying the trachoma organism, a leading cause of blindness in children.

Edward Russell Alexander was born in Chicago. He received his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Chicago.

He joined the federal Epidemic Intelligence Service in 1955, which is part of the Communicable Disease Center, and served there until 1960, ultimately as chief of its surveillance section. The center would eventually become the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

From 1961 to 1969, Dr. Alexander was an assistant professor of preventive medicine and [pediatrics](#), and then an associate professor, at the University of Washington. He was named a professor and chairman of Washington's division of epidemiology and international health in 1970 and remained until 1979.

From 1980 to 1983, he was a professor of pediatrics at the University of Arizona. After returning to the Centers for Disease Control, from 1983 to 1989, Dr. Alexander moved to the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health, and also held a professorship at the University of Washington. He retired in 1998.

Dr. Alexander was president of the American Epidemiological Society in 1986, and was named president of the American Venereal Disease Association in the same year.

Dr. Alexander is survived by his wife, the Rev. Mary Jane Francis, an Episcopal priest. Two previous marriages ended in divorce.

He is also survived by four daughters, Ann Alexander of Seattle, Kay Alexander of Lake Forest Park, Wash., Bess Carter of Fall City, Wash., and Eva Alexander Rice of Denver; a stepson, Bill Levitch of Renton, Wash.; and by five grandchildren.

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**CDC loses one of its own**

The Public Health Prevention Service (PHPS), Office of Workforce and Career Development, regrettably announces the death of **Deborah Kubisiak**, a 2004 Prevention Specialist. Debby passed away on Saturday, March 25, 2006, at her home in Atlanta, Georgia. As a CDC Prevention Specialist, Debby worked with the National Center for Environmental Health, Air Pollution and Respiratory Health Branch; the National Center for Infectious Diseases, Office of Surveillance; the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Environmental Disease Prevention; and the Georgia Division of Public Health, Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Section. She also participated in CDC's Hurricane Katrina Emergency Response.

Debby received her BS in biochemistry and molecular biology from Penn State University in 2000 and her MPH in global and environmental health in 2004 from Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health. During her time at Emory, she was honored with the Global Field Experience Award and spent the summer of 2003 in Guatemala, studying the epidemiology of waterborne diseases in San Maeteo Ixtatán (Debby's

essay about her experience in Guatemala and photographs are available at <http://www.sph.emory.edu/GFE/2003/Kubisiak.html>). Debby was a 2000–2001 Fulbright Scholar, and she spent her year conducting research at the Max Planck Institute of Neurobiology in Germany. Debby was fluent in both German and Spanish.

Debby is survived by two sisters and many friends. She will be missed. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Locks of Love, a nonprofit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children. If you wish to donate, please visit their Internet site at <http://www.locksoflove.org/contribute.php>.

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**Louis Salinas's** father passed away on March 31, 2006. Louis went home to Texas for the services.

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**CONVALESCING:**

Hello Jerry,

I do hope this message finds you and your family doing well!

After complications from knee surgery and a stroke, my father (**William H. Hamlin**) has moved into our home in Alpharetta. He is currently fighting an E. coli infection with IM injections of antibiotics. Other than that, he is in good spirits.

I am hopeful you can point me in the right direction. I sent a change of address notice to the Watsonian Society P.O. Box several months ago; unfortunately, his newsletters continue to arrive at his former address in Norcross. Since we sold that home last month, I am concerned that the newsletters will no longer be forwarded to him in Alpharetta. Do you have any suggestions for me to get the newsletters sent to the correct address in Alpharetta?

Thank you so much. Regards,

Patricia Keitchen, Bill (Luke) Hamlin's daughter

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**A PHA who needs LEAVE DONATION**

WHO: BRIDGET EVERSON-ROBINSON  
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISOR  
NCHSTP

REASON: MEDICAL EMERGENCY

ELIGIBILITY PERIOD: FEBRUARY 6, 2006 THROUGH APRIL 3, 2006

DONATION PERIOD: (Leave will be accepted through MAY 3, 2006)

HOW: Submit an approved OPM-71 to your timekeeper and latest earning and leave statement. Indicate name of recipient and the number of annual leave hours you wish to donate.

Have your timekeeper send them to the payroll office, MSK-15, so that a record of donated hours can be maintained. Then enter the number of hours you wish to donate in TAS Net.

FOR QUESTIONS,  
CONTACT: DEBORA COLLIER

NOTE: The decision to donate annual leave is solely voluntary.  
Thank you in advance for your participation.

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**A MEMBER WRITES:**

Tell **Van Jenkins** that **Dave Raines** says hello and would like to hear from him and Sue. I'm still working and will continue to do so for a short time longer. Still in Kentucky.

Elaine is retired and her mom spends about half of the time living with us and the other half in South Carolina. She's 86 and we really don't want her to be alone. Remember the night, I should say early morning, that you and I had some trouble opening the garage door at your house in New Orleans and woke your mother, or was it your mother in-law, up?

Trust that things are getting back to normal after the storm. Lee and Janie Romero, our neighbors in New Orleans who now live in Bush, had extensive roof damage.

Fortunately, no one was hurt. How are your kids and grand kids? Ours are well and seem to be happy. Keep in touch.

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**AWARD WINNERS:**

**NCHSTP DIRECTOR'S Recognition Award - April 2006**

When announcing the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (Emergency Plan) in 2003, President Bush made it clear that the only way to succeed in this massive effort was to abandon "business as usual" in favor of creative ways to break through unnecessary bureaucracy to achieve the ambitious goals of the Emergency Plan. Ms. **Lynn Mercer**, Deputy Director for Management of the CDC Global AIDS Program (GAP), not only fully embraced this philosophy, but also has devoted her irrepresible "can-do" attitude, excellent agency-wide relationships, seemingly limitless energy, and natural knack for solving complex problems to lead CDC's charge in tackling the many administrative and management barriers to fulfilling CDC's role in the initiative.

Ms. Mercer supports the management and operations of 100 staff in Atlanta and more than 100 staff in 29 CDC international field offices, as well as the implementation of more than \$500 million in grants, contracts and other mechanisms. In particular, Ms. Mercer has made significant contributions to GAP and CDC during FY2005 in the areas of human resources, financial management and acquisition. Recognizing the critical need for CDC to have an effective human resource system to staff and maintain its network of foreign field offices, now and in the future, Ms. Mercer prioritized supporting field staffing needs. She has been instrumental in helping develop CDC's Global Health Staffing Plan, a new framework for recruiting, deploying, supporting and reintegrating field staff.

Networking with various offices of CDC, HHS, and the State Department's Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC), and interfacing with CDC's many offices in the field, Ms. Mercer managed several key financial management issues. She was instrumental in establishing an effective plan for reporting financial data, including expenditures, to report to OGAC. She also helped develop a Financial Management Guide for Overseas

Program Officials that will not only benefit GAP staff but also support CDC's expanded global health presence by supporting a consistent approach to financial management.

Ms. Mercer was instrumental in helping CDC establish a new International Team within the Procurement and Grants Office (PGO) to meet the exponentially increasing demand to quickly implement and monitor the high volume of cooperative agreements generated by CDC field offices implementing the Emergency Plan. This team is now able to provide responsive assistance to the field offices to make procurement much more efficient. She also led an effort to assist PGO to clear, review, panel and award more than 30 competitive cooperative agreements during the last two months of the fiscal year.

Ms. Mercer represents the very best in public service. She is described by her colleagues as "a creative problem solver," "a tireless advocate for the field," and as "possessing a positive attitude." It is clear that by quickly facilitating the process to initiate hundreds of agreements to move more than a half billion dollars of Emergency Plan money; developing sound financial management and workforce systems to enhance accountability; and solving a myriad of small and large problems on a daily basis, Ms. Mercer has directly improved the working lives of hundreds of CDC employees around the world who are capitalizing on faster and more efficient U.S. Government-funded processes to deliver lifesaving HIV services.

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**Annual Federal Employee of the Year Awards – CDC NOMINATIONS**

The 33rd **Annual Federal Employee of the Year Awards** Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2006, at 12:00 noon at the Georgia International Convention Center, 2000 Convention Center Concourse, College Park, Georgia. Atlanta Federal employees will be honored. Specifically, nominees from Atlanta Federal agencies in 19 categories will be recognized for their achievements and service to the public over the past year. CDC is this year's host agency and has 25 individual nominees and five group nominations for the Federal Employee of the Year Awards as follows:

**Individual Award nominees:**

Outstanding Manager

David Buchner (NCCDPHP); Judith Kenny (ITSO); **Lynn Mercer** (NCHSTP); **Bill Nichols** (PGO); Barbara Park (NCCDPHP); and **Steve Schindler** (NCCDPHP)

Outstanding Supervisor

Yusuf Ahmed (NCCDPHP); Kevin DeCock (NCHSTP); Thomas Simon (NCIPC); and Yulonda William (NCHSTP)

Outstanding Professional

Luanne Dean (OD)

Outstanding Security and Investigations (Non-Uniformed)

Trevor Edwards (OD)

Outstanding Achievement in Diversity

Nilka Rios-Burrows (NCCDPHP) and Catherine Spruill (OD)

Outstanding Secretarial or Administrative Support

Michele Cohen (NCCDPHP), Patricia Efraimson (OD)

Outstanding Partnership Award (External)

Kathryn Curtis (NCCDPHP)

Outstanding Award for Volunteer Service - The Thomas Liederbach Memorial Award

Susan Hillis (NCCDPHP)

Outstanding Scientific

Mona Marin (NIP); Elizabeth Marum (NCHSTP); and Hardeep Sandhu (NIP)

Outstanding Customer Service

Megan Foley (NCHSTP) and Victoria Wright (NCCDPHP)

Outstanding Partnership Award (External)

Prevention Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission Team

Omotayo Bolu, Tracy Creek, Halima Dao, Thomas Finkbeiner, Cheryl Mayo, Michelle McConnell, Nathan Shaffer, and Andrea Swartzendruber

Outstanding Secretarial or Administrative Support (Group)

Administrative Support Team

Tonia Allen, Corrine Arredondo, Angela Avery, Sabrina Battle, Monique Blanton, Jonathan Bond, Rosa Booker, Rita Collins, Jack Darrington, Edward Dick, Lourina Dudley, Paige Eubank, Margie Fields, Deborah Fort, Matilda Glenn, Dee Dee Henderson, Stephanie Hillard, Anita Christmas-Hollomon, Lisa Holmon, Marie Hopson, Karen Jefford, Marietta Jones, Kathleen Karins, Deborah Kess, Vicki Kindred, Barbara King, Arternearn Lane, Ella Lawrence, Brenda Lester, Cynthia Lewis, Sharon Mahone, Theresa McDonald, Sophia McKennie, Leona McMeans, Marilyn Nunn, Marie Peek, Michael Petro, Erica Rice, Kara Robinson, Lisa Roney, Dianne Rosh, Anita Sandman, Deborah Shaut, Naomi Smith, Susie Tucker, Roxanne Williams, Cheryl Wims-Monfort

Outstanding Security and Investigations (Non-Uniformed Personnel) Group

Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness Team

Robert Allin, Heather Bothwell, Daniel Bubacz, Tamara Hamaty, Maurice Lacey, Ray Lagomasino, Estelle Mathis, Steve Miller, James McElroy, and Demetri Vacalis

**Outstanding Team Award nominees:**

Competitive Sourcing Team

Sally Bolton, Joe Davis, Kenneth Demons, Martha Heckman, Tonya Johnson, Elizabeth Millington, Edward Schultz, Tina Scott-Morgan, and Marvin Walden

National Assisted Reproductive Technology Surveillance System Team

**Renee Brown-Bryant**, Kelly Brumbaugh, Jeani Chang, Michael Chen, Susan Coatsworth, Douglas Cook, Shaunette Crawford, Chris Fralish, Joy Herndon, Susan Hillis, Gary Jeng, Harriet Jett, Dmitry Kissin, **John Lehnherr**, Maurizio Macaluso, Glenda Marshall, Stacey Mattison, Sam Posner, Laura Schieve, **Stephen Schindler**, Lee Warner, and Victoria Wright

Please join us in congratulating our nominees and come out to the luncheon to show your support. The cost of the luncheon is \$31.00. Checks should be made out to "FEB

Employee Awards Luncheon Fund." The deadline to purchase tickets is April 21st. **No tickets will be sold at the door.** Please contact Billene Henderson or Linda Wyatt in the Atlanta Human Resources Center, Workforce Relations Division, (770) 488-1881 to purchase tickets or for additional information.

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## **PEOPLE IN THE NEWS**

### **CEO "Stoked" by Public Health Partnerships 3/7/2006**

**Charlie Stokes** had worked in the public health arena for 24 years before coming to the CDC Foundation as its CEO.

His job is to help CDC do more, faster. A strong and solid supporter of CDC, you could say he's the cornerstone of the CDC Foundation. He is Charlie Stokes, President and CEO.

"Working on behalf of some of the greatest scientists in the world is truly rewarding," he says. That was his belief when he became the first executive director of the Foundation back in 1995. That is still his belief today.

#### History

In 1992, Congress approved legislation to establish an independent, non-profit organization to help CDC work effectively with private-sector partners. "The Foundation was a shared dream of CDC leaders who knew that a government agency could benefit from outside partners' assistance in fighting the world's toughest public health threats," Stokes explains.

The board of directors, established in 1994, recruited Stokes, who was then deputy director of the Missouri Department of Health, to take the helm. Stokes had worked in the public health arena for 24 years before coming to the Foundation. "I knew from my work that finding timely resources, especially flexible ones, is difficult—if not impossible—in government. Three-fourths of the time the necessary money never comes, and one-fourth of the time it comes with so many strings that it is hard to do an effective job."

#### On the Path to Public Health Partnerships

From the onset, Stokes was excited at the prospect of seeking funds from non-governmental sources. "That gives CDC much greater flexibility, especially when it comes to purchasing and hiring to support specific projects."

CDC battles the world's public health threats to achieve its vision of healthy people in a healthy world through prevention, but it can't possibly do it all alone, he says. "Our Foundation was established to connect outside partners and resources with CDC scientists to build programs that can substantially enhance CDC's impact."

It's a huge task for a small but dedicated staff of about 25 professionals. "How can our small group of people be effective in helping a large, multi-billion dollar organization?" asks Stokes. "That's the challenge. The reward comes every time we find a new partner or a new dollar to help CDC do something it couldn't otherwise do."

Another challenge, he says, is aligning the respective visions and cultures of a government agency, philanthropic America (which doesn't usually fund government),

and corporate America. “It’s rewarding to find the nexus of common interest among these three sectors and see the resources come together to make a real difference.”

Sometimes those ideas begin with CDC scientists who have ideas, but lack the resources to implement and test them. Sometimes organizations that share a passion for CDC’s mission recognize they can better accomplish their own public health goals by working through the CDC Foundation to engage and empower CDC scientists.

Stokes: Up Close and Personal

Stokes is married and has three grown sons.

He loves to play the guitar and sing and he loves the outdoors. “Getting away to the north Georgia Mountains is my idea of paradise,” he says. “I go cycling and fishing there as often as I can.”

The last book he read was President Jimmy Carter’s *Our Endangered Values: America’s Moral Crisis*. “It’s well written and raises some disturbing and thought-provoking questions.”

#### The Foundation’s Evolution

The CDC Foundation has evolved over the years, he explains. “When we opened our doors, few models existed for raising funds for an agency of the federal government. Over time, we’ve learned how to think more strategically. At first, we focused on neatly packaged proposals from within CDC, ones originally submitted through the federal appropriations process, but not funded by Congress. However, we learned that such neatly wrapped projects don’t sell that well. Outside partners want to be involved before they invest. So we stopped thinking about partnerships as funder/fundee relationships and began building more strategic alliances between CDC and other organizations. Over the years, our role has expanded from that of fundraiser to include advocating, convening, and innovating. For instance, in 2004 we convened 10 global corporations to discuss ways to better detect and respond to emerging health threats. This group is now a permanent CDC Foundation Roundtable with all 10 original corporate members still actively involved.” (Watch for an upcoming story on the Roundtable in CDC Connects.)

Stokes says the first decade really clarified the Foundation’s niche, and “the opportunities to build partnerships and help CDC do more, faster, are numerous.”

#### New Strategic Plan in Works

Their 10-plus years of experience are sparking a new strategic plan. “We’re exploring how we can be most effective in helping CDC,” says Stokes. “We’re considering several initiatives that represent a new way of doing business for us. (These will be announced in the spring.) They will be chosen for their potential to have maximum impact on CDC and public health. Each will require sponsorship of a CDC Executive Leadership Board member. Many will engage external organizations much earlier in the process—as partners, not just funders. While we are excited about these new initiatives, key existing partnerships both inside and outside of CDC will be maintained and strengthened.” Stokes adds, “The biggest challenge in the new plan will be helping our friends and supporters at CDC understand that, as a staff of 25 people at the CDC Foundation, supporting a cast of thousands at CDC, we simply must make strategic choices that allow us to have maximum impact for CDC.”

#### Praise and Potential

“The Foundation owes much of its success to the strong support of every CDC director with whom it has worked,” says Stokes. Current CDC Director Julie Gerberding, MD, MPH, is enthusiastic about the CDC Foundation. “Public health is at a tipping point,” she said, during the Foundation’s ten-year celebration.. “We’ve never had more challenges but we’ve never had more opportunities. The CDC Foundation offers CDC so much support and flexibility, and has brought us into contact with experts and visionaries who have helped shape our agenda. Additionally, the CDC Foundation is helping us launch pilot projects and programs that otherwise would not be possible. If these programs seem worthwhile, which so many of them have proven to be, we’re in a much better position to leverage that experience for funding in the long run.”

“In a very real sense, I view the CDC Foundation as a venture capitalist—a trusted business advisor that offers CDC ongoing support and flexibility to help us achieve far more than we could possibly do alone,” Gerberding continues. “CDC is an exciting place to work, constantly in motion; and it makes a real difference in the world. Together with important partners like the CDC Foundation, our CDC team is working faster and more effectively than ever before to ensure a safer, healthier America.”

Stokes says the Foundation is just beginning to tap the potential for bringing groups together “in ways we never dreamed of before. That’s the exciting part of coming to work every day.”

This Inside Story by CDC Connects reporter Kathy Nellis. Watch for upcoming stories on the CDC Foundation. For more on the Foundation, its history, milestones and accomplishments head to [www.cdcfoundation.org](http://www.cdcfoundation.org).

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**Published in : CDC ALUMNI CONNECTION- APRIL 6, 2006 edition**  
***A Day in the Life of CDC: September 30, 2005***

...  
**Julie Jenks**, Public Health Advisor, India. I am in Purnia, a remote district in northeastern Bihar, one of the poorest and least developed states of India, for the start of the latest polio immunization campaign. In this one district of Bihar, more than 1,100 vaccination teams will move from house-to-house over the next 5 days to vaccinate more than 780,000 children less than 5 years of age. I head out for K Nagar accompanied by a local interpreter and guide. We enter the cluster of mud and thatched houses and check each child’s left finger for the permanent ink mark put by the team when they vaccinate the child. The day’s work finally comes to a close at about 10:30 pm. I begin to look forward to one of the perks of being in India—a fantastic dinner with lots of masala...!

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**Burger Day: It Doesn’t Come with Fries**

Wednesday, Feb. 1, is **Ronald C. Burger** Day in Rockdale County, Georgia. Burger, a public health advisor with NCEH/ATSDR, is retiring this week from CDC and also from his volunteer job as Chair of the Rockdale County Board of Health. The County Commissioners have declared today Burger Day in his honor, saying "Ron has worked tirelessly assisting various organizations and emergency service personnel with response to numerous disasters... and has shown his heartfelt dedication to the welfare of others by his involvement in relief efforts."

Burger will be leaving CDC on February 2, 2006, completing over 33 years of service. He began his CDC career with the Baltimore City Health Department in STD prevention and control. He later worked in Pennsylvania, New York City, Connecticut, and Michigan in tuberculosis control programs before moving to Atlanta to become a senior emergency coordinator at NCEH.

### **Disaster Junkie**

Burger is a self-proclaimed "disaster junkie". Over the years, he has responded to many floods, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes, assisting the state and local public health agencies. He has either helped lead or participated in CDC's response to the who's who of disasters and outbreaks including

Oklahoma City  
both World Trade Center incidents,  
Philly Fever or Legionnaire's disease back in 1976,  
swine flu program in Pennsylvania  
Smallpox Eradication Program in Bangladesh

He actually began his public health career as a teacher in the Peace Corps in Ghana in 1970. When a severe outbreak of cholera occurred, Burger volunteered to assist the Ministry of Health's work to control the disease.

### **Volunteer – Red Cross and Board of Health**

Burger was honored with the Red Cross Clara Barton Award for Leadership and in 2001 he was the Red Cross Volunteer of the Year. He is on the East Metro Red Cross Advisory Committee, participates on its disaster team, teaches CPR/first aid, and teaches youth programs. He also serves his county of Rockdale as the chairman of the local board of health. He was awarded the Board of Health Volunteer of the Year Award in 2000.

Burger just finished serving as the President of the National Association of Local Boards of Health. He was elected as the vice-president of the Georgia Public Health Association and was recently appointed by President Bush and Governor Purdue to serve on one of the metro-Atlanta Selective Service Boards.

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**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**Attention golf lovers and sports fans:**



The **2006 Jimmy V Atlanta Celebrity Golf Classic** will be held on June 19, at the prestigious Capital City Club Brookhaven Course.

- **Event organizers are looking for a couple of volunteers** (e.g., to stuff bags, work sign-in table). If interested please contact Jeff Tuomi for more information.

The raffle for this year's event includes: A complete set of woods, irons, & bag (donated by Nike est. \$2,000+ value); an iPod; and a \$150 gift certificate for the Capital City Club pro shop). A limited number of tickets are available at \$50 a piece (need not be present to win). If interested please contact Tom O'Toole

For more information on the V Foundation, go to [www.jimmyv.org](http://www.jimmyv.org)

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### **TRANSFER/PROMOTIONS**

**Kathryn Ruck Guillen (DTBE)** has been selected for the public health advisor (PHA) position in New Orleans, LA with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health. Kate began her assignment on February 5, 2006.

**Shameer Poonja, (DTBE)** MPH, was selected for the Public Health Advisor position at the Indiana State Health Department. Shameer is transferring from his current post at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of TB Control where he has been assigned since 2002. Shameer starts in INDY just in time for the start of race practices - MARCH 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Maureen O'Rourke, (DTBE)** was selected for the senior public health advisor (PHA) position in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is transferring from the Pennsylvania's TB Program in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Her start date was March 5, 2006.

**Deborah Carr (DSTD)** was selected for the TB Public Health Advisor (PHA) position with the Austin/Travis County Health Department in Austin, Texas. Deborah will be moving from Los Angeles, California where she was assigned with CDC's Division of STD Prevention. Effective date was March 19, 2006

**Tranita Gillis (DSTD)** has accepted a transfer with promotion to Washington, DC, effective February 5, 2006.

**Steve Dunagan (DSTD)** has accepted a transfer to Trenton, NJ, effective February 5, 2006.

**Barbara Peters (DSTD)** has accepted a transfer to Philadelphia, PA, effective February 5, 2006.

**Chang Lee (DSTD)** has accepted a transfer with promotion to Oklahoma City, OK, effective February 5, 2006.

**Patricia Mason (DSTD)** has accepted a promotion in Camden, NJ, effective January 22, 2006.

**Angelita Vasser (DSTD)** has accepted a reassignment to Houston, TX, effective, January 8, 2006.

**Sheldon Black (DSTD)** has accepted a transfer to NCHSTP, DSTDP, Program Development and Support Branch, Atlanta, GA, from the Program Development and Support Branch, Indianapolis, IN, effective January 8, 2006.

**Jeff Pagan (DSTD)** has accepted a reassignment to Dallas, TX, effective December 11, 2005.

**Marie Hicks** will be taking a PHA position in the Influenza Branch, DVRD, NCID.

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**RETIREMENTS:**

**Dennis O'Mara** is retiring following a CDC career that spans 35 years. After two years in the Army (one in Viet Nam), he joined CDC as a Public Health Advisor in January 1971. Following six field assignments - - three with the STD Prevention Program (Baltimore, Harrisburg, Philadelphia) and three with the Immunization Program (Buffalo, Albany, Oklahoma City), he was reassigned to NIP headquarters. There he served as a program consultant, the Acting Chief of the old Program Operations Section, the Chief of the Program Operations Branch, the Acting Deputy Director and the acting Director of the Immunization Services Division, and as the Associate Director for Adult Immunization.

Dennis and Carolyn are returning to their beloved New Mexico in May where they have purchased a home in Corrales, just north of Albuquerque. He plans to continue working, either full- or part-time at a yet-to-be-determined job while adding in some golf, poker, gardening and cooking school plus a vigorous exercise program. Following is a short message from Dennis to colleagues in Atlanta and around the country.

In the last few months, as retirement has neared, I've been thinking about all the people with whom I have had the pleasure and privilege of working these past 35 years. And I realize, just like so many before me have testified, that a career is first and foremost about those personal interactions, and that is what I will remember most. I'm grateful to all my colleagues, past and present, for the help and support they gave me, for what they taught me and for the many good examples they set for me. I've been fortunate always to work with dedicated, smart, talented people who shared a passion for the mission. That passion and that mission were there before I arrived and they will continue to be there long after I'm gone. Rest assured that even though I will no longer be in the game, I will be cheering you on from the sidelines. I wish you all health, happiness, and success. God speed.

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The STD Program lists these as recent retirements on their website - Unfortunately at press time- I have none of their career bios. But lets give them a shout out for their accomplishment!

**Dennis Dorst** of New Orleans, LA, effective February 28, 2006.

**Robert (Bob) Kriss** of Columbus, OH, effective January 31, 2006.

**Lawrence (Larry) Roberts** of Tallahassee, FL, effective January 3, 2006.

**Lee Maggione** of New Orleans, LA, effective January 1, 2006.

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**Eunice Rae Rosner, EdD, MSc**, Health Scientist, Training and Curriculum Services Division, Office of Workforce and Career Development (formerly Division of Laboratory Systems, Public Health Practice Program Office), is retiring March 31, 2006, after 32 years of dedicated public health service.

Dr. Rosner began her federal career in 1974 at the VA Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee, as the education coordinator and as an assistant professor of clinical laboratory sciences at the University of Tennessee Medical Center. During her 10 years there she taught clinical microbiology, parasitology, and laboratory management to college students who were completing their clinical laboratory internship. While in Memphis, she completed a doctorate in education, with a minor in biology, from the University of Memphis.

Dr. Rosner moved to Atlanta in 1985 to work in the clinical microbiology lab at the VA Medical Center in Decatur. One year later, she was promoted to administrative officer for the associate chief of staff for ambulatory care. In 1989, she came to CDC as a training advisor for the National Laboratory Training Network (NLTN) in the NLTN Eastern Office located within the Pennsylvania Public Health Laboratory. She transferred back to Atlanta in 1991 as a health scientist in the Laboratory Training Branch, developing educational programs for laboratory personnel and specializing in training needs assessments and evaluations. Throughout her career, she served on many CDC-wide working groups and committees, and has often been recognized for her substantial contributions.

Before her federal career began, Dr. Rosner worked as a medical technologist at the University of Kansas Medical Center in the Chemistry and Blood Bank laboratories; in a mission hospital in Chad, Africa, setting up a laboratory; in a Physician's Office Laboratory in Kansas City; and at the University of Oregon Medical Center in the Microbiology, Hematology, and Blood Bank laboratories. While at the University of Oregon Medical Center, she completed a master's degree in medical Science at the University of Oregon.

After retirement, Dr. Rosner plans to move to her new home, nestled in the North Georgia mountains in Ellijay, to relax and travel whenever she chooses. Please join us in wishing Dr. Rosner all the best as she leaves behind a dedicated and exemplary federal career and many friends and co-workers who will miss her deeply.

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Congratulations to **Robert G. Robinson** on his retirement after 13 years of dedicated service to the United States Government. During his career at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), Office on Smoking and Health (OSH), he contributed greatly to the CDC's success in addressing the public health needs of the citizens of the United States and the world.

During his tenure at CDC, he exhibited leadership by accepting detail assignments serving as the Acting Branch Chief of Program Services in the Office on Smoking and Health (OSH); the Associate Director for Program Development, NCCDPHP; and the Acting Director for Minority Health, CDC. In his position as Associate Director for Health Equity, OSH, his leadership in the areas of diversity, disparities and Communities of

Color was particularly notable. His significant accomplishments such as the National Networks Initiative for populations disparately impacted by tobacco and the revision of *Pathways to Freedom* - a cessation guide for the African American community - will provide a new foundation for public health in regard to the development, evaluation, and dissemination of culturally competent materials. His work contributed to establishing the foundation for tobacco control activities in developing evidence-based interventions and programs to accomplish the overarching goals of defining and eliminating population disparities.

We thank him for sharing his career expertise with CDC. His outstanding contribution and dedication will have an impact on improving the public health for a long time to come.

Please join us in celebrating a rewarding and successful career on Friday April 14, 2006 2pm-4pm in the Koger Rhodes Bldg. Room 4000 B. For contributions please contact Giselle Terrell at Ext: 5701 Room 1107 or Leslie Norman at Ext: 5469 Room 1127 Koger Rhodes Bldg.

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**SHARE - Services to Help All Regular Employees**

***DORA'S PIRATE ADVENTURE***

*Fox Theatre, 660 Peachtree Street, NE*

***Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2:00 p.m.***

*Ticket Cost: \$30.00 per person*

*Parking: \$7.00 and up*

***Ahoy!*** Dora the Explorer is setting sail on her brand new LIVE musical voyage, DORA'S PIRATE ADVENTURE. Join Dora, her cousin Diego, Boots the monkey, and the rest of their friends as they embark on an exciting trip to Treasure Island. They will need an audience to help them navigate the Seven Seas, get them over a few fun obstacles to help them confront the Pirate Piggies.

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***GEORGIA FORCE FOOTBALL - Georgia Force vs. Chicago Rush***

Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. **Philips Arena**  
\$22 Lower 100 Level Seats (regularly \$39)  
Parking: \$10 and up  
**Ticket Sale Ends Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**

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***Weekly Golf League***

SHARE, INC. Sponsors  
2006 CDC/ATSDR Spring/Summer League

**WHERE:** Fort McPherson US Army Golf Course. CDC/ATSDR employees will need to obtain clearance to enter the Army post and provide appropriate ID (exact procedures to be determined). The guard post should have a list of golf league participants to allow access to the post but prepare to leave adequate time to enter the post if this list is not available. Fort McPherson is located on the southwest side of Atlanta, just off Langford Parkway inside the Perimeter. Langford Parkway runs east and west between I-75/85 and I-285.

**WHEN:** Every Wednesday afternoon. The league will run April 26 - August 30. Tee times begin at 4:00PM; each player will play 9 holes. There is a maximum of four players per tee time permitted.

**WHO:** The league is open to all male and female full-time employees and contractors of CDC/ATSDR and their immediate family members. The league will be limited to 50 individuals. All skill levels are welcome. Early sign-ups are encouraged to assure a place.

**FORMAT:** Individual play. The goal of the league is to have fun!

**COST:** A one-time league fee is \$20.00. The league fee covers part of a planned end of season gathering and golf league shirts as funds permit. Weekly greens fees last season were \$9.00 and cart fee if desired was \$7.00 for 9 holes of play. Fees this season will likely be similar and players that join the league will be notified of the final cost prior to the start of the season.

**SIGN-UP/QUESTIONS:** If you would like to sign up, please contact either [Lynne Sehulster](#) or [Bruce Tierney](#) .

**SIGN-UP DEADLINE:** The deadline for signing up for the league is **FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2006.**

The \$20.00 league fee needs to be received by the deadline to secure your place. Please make checks payable to "SHARE-CDC GOLF LEAGUE" and mail to LYNNE SEHULSTER (MS A-35).

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING:** There will be an informational meeting about the golf league on Thursday April 20. Time and details for this meeting will be forthcoming. We will discuss the course location, format of the league, past experiences, volunteer opportunities and any other ideas.

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**Stone Mountain Park Tickets**

One-Day All Attractions Pass - \$17.00 per person

**Tickets are valid any regular scheduled operating day.** Parking *is not* included (\$8.00 per car, cash only) for a one-day permit or \$35 for an annual permit. If you are interested in private parties or planning corporate meetings, just ask for a corporate brochure. For tickets, contact the SHARE Store at (404) 639-7777.

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# *John Hancock* **Champions on Ice**

**Philips Arena Saturday, May 20th, 2006 at 3:00 p.m.**

Seats are only \$64, \$39 and \$24 (Wheelchair accessible seating is available.) Children 24 months and younger no ticket necessary  
Last day for tickets is May 2, 2006

**Parking: \$10 and up**

Direct from the Olympic Games in Torino, Italy. The Tour features World and National Champions including nine-time U.S. Champion **Michele Kwan**, U.S. Silver Medalist **Sasha Cohen**, U.S. Champion **Johnny Weir**, U.S. Silver Medalist **Timothy Goebel**, plus World and European Champions **Irina Slutskaya**, **Stephane Lambiel**, **Evgeni Plushenko** and many more Olympic competitors!!

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## ***SHARE and Fort Mac MWR Partnership***

**SHARE has partnered with the Fort McPherson Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Program to offer our members discounted tickets to the following:**

**Atlanta Braves** – tickets are \$28 each for terrace level seats

**Callaway Gardens** – tickets are \$12.50 for adult tickets and \$7.25 for children's (3-11) tickets

**Discounted tickets and passes are available to SHARE members for the following:**

Wild Adventures in Valdosta, GA

Wild Animal Safari in Pine Mountain, GA

Zoo Atlanta

Disney World

Dixie Stampede

Kennedy Space Center

Sea World

Universal Studios

Tennessee Aquarium & IMAX

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High Museum of Art Atlanta  
Presents

**"The Quilts of Gee's Bend"**

April 22, 2006 at 3:00 p.m., \$17.00 per person **Last Sale Day is April 19<sup>th</sup>**

Parking is \$10 and up

The artistic legacy of several generations of women quilters in the isolated, historically African American community of Gee's Bend, Alabama. The nationally acclaimed exhibition of over 60 quilts provides a fascinating look at a group of 45 20<sup>th</sup>-century artists. The quilts dating from the 1920s to 2000 represent four generations of artists who took fabrics from their everyday lives—corduroy, denim, cotton sheets and well-worn clothing—and fashioned them into compositions that more closely resemble modernist abstract paintings than familiar quilt patterns.

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## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

Below is a SOW for a position that the **Care & Treatment Branch in GAP** will be accepting C.V.s for. The position will be vacated by the current contractor May 31. We would be expecting an approximately one-week overlap before this position was vacated. **Please send CVs to Aaron Zee or John Narkunas.**

**SCOPE:** Under this task order, the contractor employee will provide technical assistance and advice to support GAP program efforts in implementing Track 1 antiretroviral treatment programs (ART) in PEPFAR countries. Assistance provided will include: 1) reviewing, analyzing, and summarizing reports, budgets and other data from Track 1 ART grantees 2) provide technical assistance to grantees and USG in-country teams engaged in developing alternative approaches for implementing Track 1.0 ART programs; 3) conducting site visits to ART program sites to provide assistance and advice related to PEPFAR ART objectives and : 4) making recommendations to the CDC ART Project Officer on improving strategies for ART's program operations. The scope of work shall not include patient care or treatment, and shall not involve direct contact with blood, bodily fluids, or patient samples.

### **PROPOSED PERSONNEL:**

#### **Requirements:**

- Ten years experience in managing federal grants, contracts and cooperative agreements with state and local health departments, universities and non-governmental organizations.
- Ten years experience with policy development, implementation and evaluation of public health programs at the Federal/national level.

**Solutions:** To provide a Public Health Consultant with the following qualifications:

- An understanding of federal public health program goals and objectives.
- A minimum of five years experience working on programs with Federal grantees, NGO's, CBO's and international organizations such as WHO and UNAIDS.

#### **Responsibilities and duties to be performed:**

Review and analyze reports from Track 1.0 ART grantees and report on the progress of their program activities. Provide oral and written reports and data to the Project Officer that describes problems encountered and possible solutions.

Obtain specific data/information from grantees that is required to clarify their policies, procedures, and programs and make recommendations to the Project Officer on strategies for the improvement of ART program activities.

Make recommendations and assist with development of systems for responding rapidly to requests for information from HHS and OGAC on the status of Track 1.0 ART grantee activities. Prepares responses for review and approval of the Project Officer.

Helps resolve questions and concerns raised by grantees to facilitate the implementation of in-country ART programs.

Conducts periodic site visits to grantee ART program sites to help ensure that they are complying with the recommendations and guidance established by CDC for Track 1.0 ART activities.

Provide regular verbal and written updates on specific Track 1.0 ART activities to the CDC Project Officer as required.

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The Division of Viral Hepatitis funds NASTAD for this position. The position's duties are centered around working with DVH Project Officers and state based Hepatitis C Coordinators to integrate hepatitis prevention activities (hepatitis A and B immunization; hepatitis C screening and referral services) into existing public health programs. Candidates should have extensive experience in implementing diverse public health programs. **Contact Murray Penner at NASTAD at 202-434-8092 with questions; or visit [www.NASTAD.org](http://www.NASTAD.org)**

**National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors  
Job Announcement : Manager – Viral Hepatitis Programs**

The National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) is seeking a Program Manager for the Viral Hepatitis Program. NASTAD represents the nation's chief state health agency staff who have programmatic responsibility for administering HIV/AIDS health care, prevention, education and supportive services funded by state and federal governments. The Program Manager reports to the Deputy Executive Director of Domestic Programs.

Duties and responsibilities of the Program Manager include:

- Manage cooperative agreement with the Division of Viral Hepatitis, Prevention Branch, including production of deliverables, reporting and general oversight.
- Provide staff management and facilitation of the NASTAD viral hepatitis work group and communicates regularly with hepatitis staff in state and local health departments.
- Conduct assessments of health departments on issues related to viral hepatitis and HIV/AIDS program coordination.
- Track issues and facilitate information exchange on viral hepatitis, HIV prevention for injection drug users, and HIV and viral hepatitis co-infection in a variety of settings.
- Network and develop collaborative relationships with CDC, organizations conducting projects related to viral hepatitis, and national HIV/AIDS organizations. Serve as NASTAD liaison to these entities on effective HIV and viral hepatitis prevention and treatment programs delivered by state and local health departments.
- Identify successful models of program coordination.
- Research and produce written reports, newsletter articles and other materials to assist states in providing effective HIV and viral hepatitis programs.
- Develop and conduct information sessions and workshops about health department supported programs, interventions and strategies for effective

HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis programs at state, regional and national HIV/AIDS conferences and meetings.

- Assess the technical assistance needs of health departments and their grantees around viral hepatitis and HIV/AIDS prevention collaboration and developing technical assistance materials and resources.

Qualifications: Master's degree in public health or related field preferred and three to five years professional experience in public health policy, program administration, and/or HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, or infectious disease program management. Excellent written and oral communication skills and demonstrated skills in research/policy analysis required.

Recruiting Range: \$50,000 to \$70,000.

Send resume to NASTAD Recruiting Manager, 444 North Capitol St, NW, Suite 339, Washington, D.C. 20001, fax: (202) 434-8092, or e-mail [NASTAD@NASTAD.org](mailto:NASTAD@NASTAD.org). NASTAD is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. Position open until filled.

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Enjoy the Spring FLOWERS!

