



Watsonian newsletter- April 3, 2008

COMMITTEE NEWS	MEMBER NEEDS ASSISTANCE
NUPTIALS	CONDOLENCES
NEW ADDRESSES	HAVE YOU HEARD
PROMOTIONS/TRANSFERS	LEADERSHIP PROFILE
MEMBER NEWS	SHARE SPORTS
RETIREMENTS	

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: - open to all members**

**April 17, 2008** 2:30 to 4:00

**LOCATION:** Corporate Square, building 10, conference room 2201/ 2207.

Number to call: 877-716-3252

Participant Passcode: 4866317

Social hour to follow immediately afterwards at the **Famous Pub**, in Toco Hills Shopping Center on Druid Hills Rd.

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[April 2008 Watsonian Newsletter Presidential Notes](#)

March 10, 2008 Chicago National STD Conference

CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding spoke to the STD Public Health Advisors in attendance at the 2008 National STD Conference as part of the pre-conference STD Field Staff meeting. Dr. Gerberding was the keynote speaker for the conference, and commented on her own experience as a physician treating patients with STDs and HIV early in the epidemic. Some of the other topics discussed by Dr. Gerberding included a recent trip to Iraq, the interplay between politics and science, and the power of communications networks. She also let us know that the orchid presented to her at the July 2007 Public Health Advisors All-Hands Meeting was still alive and blooming! This was the first STD PHA Field Staff All-Hands meeting for new Program and Training Branch Chief (and PHA) Kevin O'Connor. During the conference, Dr. Kevin Fenton, Center Director for NCHHSTP, and Dr. John Douglas, DSTDP Director were interviewed by TV media on current national STD trends.

Two Watsonian sponsored socials were held in March-the Apprentice Social held on March 5th at the Marriott honoring the Class of 2007 Public Health Apprentices, and the Watsonian Society Social at the 2008 National STD Conference in Chicago. Special thanks to Cecilia Galvan, John Paffel, and Bob Kohmescher for all their help with logistics, and thanks to all the conference attendees who bought a ticket! And of course, we want to thank Dwan Hightower for coming up with all those great door prizes! Next stop: Atlanta, Georgia in 2010.

There was significant Watsonian Society participation in the TB Walk at Grant Park on March 22, featuring addresses by Dr. Ken Castro, Dr. Kevin Fenton, and Georgia Congressman Hank Johnson.

March's Executive Committee meeting included a robust discussion on ways the WATSONIAN Society can help improve the effectiveness of our PHA Field Staff and help mentor Public Health Apprentices. More to come on this!

Sincerely,

Franklin Fletcher
President, Watsonian Society



TREASURER REMINDER: Thanks to all who have paid their 2008 dues. We appreciate your help.

Watsonian Society dues are due the **first quarter** of the calendar year. Its now April - Are you paid up for 2008? If you have questions about your dues status,

please contact [Bob Kohmescher, WS Treasurer.](#)

Full member dues are \$15 per year or \$40 for 3 years.

Associate member dues are \$6 per year or \$15 for 3 years.

Dues payments should be submitted to the

Watsonian Society, PO Box 95032, Atlanta, GA 30347-0032.

Complete dues and payment information can be found on our website at

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

Please visit the site to update your membership information as well.

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COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE:

When you change your network/ email please send an update email to **Rita Varga** so you will not lose your communication link to the WATSONIAN NEWS.

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TO THE RETIREES:

Watsonian Retirees:

Please email your contact information to Susan Shaw, Retiree Representative . Susan will prepare and keep current a retirees address book for the purpose of sending Watsonian retiree relevant information.

Thanks. Susan

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MEMBER NEEDS ASSISTANCE

WHO **Leah Simpson**
Public Health Advisor

REASON MEDICAL EMERGENCY

ELIGIBILITY PERIOD: April 4, 2008 through June 30, 2008

DONATION PERIOD (Leave will be accepted through July 29, 2008)

HOW: Please submit your leave donations through the TasNet Time and Attendance system and do not forget to SAVE the entry for the hours to be updated, if this system applicable to you. OPM 71s are only required if a donor does not have access to the TasNet system.

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT: Shirlene Elkins

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

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**NUPTIALS**

**STACY HARPER- WEDS**

We (Stacy Harper and Todd Prydybasz) were married at sunset on Smathers Beach in Key West on Thursday, March 20, in an intimate ceremony--just the two of us. It was a lovely ceremony, and although the weather was windy for several days before and afterwards, the weather that evening cooperated with us and was just lovely--a light breeze, and the right temperature for a beach wedding.

Oh, and I'm keeping my birth name, Harper, so no confusion there. :-)

Thanks again,  
Stacy

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CONDOLENCES

We are very sad to let you know about the loss of our beloved COGH colleague and friend, **Laurel Zaks**, who passed away on Friday, March 28. As a public health advisor in the Geographic and Program Coordination Branch, Division of Global Preparedness and Program Coordination, Laurel coordinated issues involving CDC overseas offices in Africa, particularly related to HIV/AIDS and malaria.

Laurel came to CDC following a Peace Corps tour in Ecuador, where she used her training as a dietitian to work with Ministry of Health and indigenous organizations to develop training materials promoting maternal and child health and prevention of infectious diseases. She was instrumental in helping to design a new Children's Center for Nutrition Recuperation, which served an average of 40 families daily.

Laurel joined CDC in January 2001, one week after finishing her tour in Ecuador. Her first assignment was as a public health advisor with the Sustainable Management Development Program, working with Ministries of Health and partners overseas to conduct in-country management training.

In 2005, she joined the Geographic and Program Coordination Team in the Office of Global Health. She served as a key liaison with CARE in Atlanta, most recently working with the Influenza Division through a CDC and CARE-Atlanta partnership to improve global disease surveillance capacity in Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. As COGH liaison with the Malaria Branch, she contributed to CDC's participation in the President's Malaria Initiative. Similarly, she was liaison with the Global AIDS Program on the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

Laurel's knowledge of CDC global programs in Africa was comprehensive, and she regularly briefed senior HHS and CDC leaders before they visited CDC country offices on that continent. In 2006, she was part of a CDC team that traveled to Botswana in response to an outbreak of infant diarrhea and severe malnutrition. Also that year, she was part of a COGH team honored for rapidly assisting 20 countries around the world to apply for pandemic influenza preparedness funds.

Laurel was an active member and leader in the Atlanta chapter of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. She said that the Peace Corps experience was "amazing for people who want to share...and be open to learning what living and working in another culture offers." In 1994, she received the 1994 North Carolina Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

She received her BS in Science in Clinical Dietetics and Nutrition, University of Pittsburgh; her Masters degree in Public Health in Nutrition from UNC at Chapel Hill; and was a post-graduate Nutrition Fellow at the Center for Development and Learning, Chapel Hill, NC.

Laurel is survived by her parents, Dr. Arnold and Mrs. Maryanne Walko Zaks of Naples, FL; sister, Ellen Habermacher and her husband, Dr. Geoffrey Habermacher of Chicago, IL; brothers; Jason Zaks and his wife Kristen of Winston-Salem, NC, and Brian Andrew Zaks of Charleston, SC; grandmother, Ann Betz Walko of Wilmerding, PA; and three nieces.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Manna Food Bank, 627 Swannanoa River Road; Asheville, NC 28805. For more information, please contact Jay McAuliffe at JMcAuliffe@cdc.gov.

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..., **Lilo Strauss** passed away on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, after a long and astute career at CDC. She was in every way an exemplary staff member, adhering to the highest scientific and ethical principles and at the same time, living well by living healthfully.

At age 82, Lilo had not retired and in fact, had never raised the topic to her supervisors. She was an avid athlete, and a crack tennis player whose agility and skill had taken down many much younger partners. She frequently hiked with a church group, and swam at every opportunity. She also enjoyed family, friends, hobbies, volunteering, and pursued many personal interests.

Lilo entered the sciences at a time when women were much more likely to be steered to the domestic arts. She loved her work as lead author on CDC's abortion surveillance reports. She was a student, mentor, teacher, and inspiration to many.

Lilo is survived by her sons Bo and Charles, and a daughter Joannie, as well as three grandchildren. As we, her colleagues and beneficiaries, mourn her passing, we are compelled to celebrate and learn from the fullness of her life.

Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.

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Former employee **Robert Carlton Higgins, MA**, who worked for several years as a communications specialist in the HIV/AIDS program, died March 6. He was 83. At the age of 70, he earned a second masters degree in counseling from Georgia State University.

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Marnell Kretschmer's Mother has passed away-

Marcella M. "Mart" Rolfingsmeier 82 of Breese died Wednesday March 5, 2008, at Caring First Nursing Home in Breese She was born June 26, 1925 in Breese to George and Catherine (Reilmann) Poelker: they preceded her in death She married Marcellus "Bud" Rolfingsmeier August 16, 1950 at St. Dominic Church in Breese. He preceded her in death July 21, 1991 Also preceded in death by a grandson Clint Benhoff, brothers Alfred Poelker, Ralph Kruse and Wilbert Kruse

Surviving are sons Mark (Kathleen) Rolfingsmeier of Overland Park KS, Carl (Karen) Rolfingsmeier of Breese, Roger "Dodge" Rolfingsmeier of Breese Daughters Kathy (Russell) Shubert of Okawville, Mary Jean (Mel) Benhoff of Breese, Marnell (Kevin) Kretschmer of Des Moines, Iowa 15 grandchildren and 1 great grandson Brother George (Rita) Poelker of Melbourne Florida Sisters Dorothy Meyer of St. Louis, MO Florence "Blondie" (Laverne) Ilges of Breese, Mary Shadegg of Breese Brother-in-law Raymond Rolfingsmeier of Breese Sisters-in-law Alvina Kruse of Breese, Josephine Kruse of Breese, Esther Luebbers of Carlyle, Myrtle Mehochko of O'Fallon, Betty Rolfingsmeier of Worden, Romana Rolfingsmeier of Vandalia Mart was a homemaker Member of St. Augustine Church and Altar Sodality, Breese American Legion Aux., St. Joseph Hospital Aux. Daughters of Isabella Precious Blood Circle 718 Memorials can be made to St. Joseph Hospital Aux., Hospice of Southern Illinois, Caring First Nursing Home activity Dept. and will be received at the funeral home

Marnell Kretschmer, MPH  
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Iowa Immunization Program  
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(phone) 515-281-4917  
(fax) 800-831-6292

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I would like to pay a tribute to Paul Bond.

Paul was stationed in Ft. Lauderdale when I arrived in 1966 as the Sr. PHA. Shortly after that he was promoted to the District Supervisor in Tampa where he served until 1968. Paul was an outstanding PHA, a hard nosed supervisor who demanded fair and quality work.

He was one of the first PHA's selected for the Smallpox program in Africa. I recall a great party we had in Jacksonville for he and his wife Mary as they left Florida for their assignment. When they got to their new assignment in Lagos, Nigeria, the country was at war. I recall Paul's letters describing that he could see the shooting and fighting from his house.

Later in Paul's career he served in the Atlanta Regional Office as a Consultant to Florida and other states. I had a lot of respect for Paul. My condolences to his wife and family.

Jack Wroten

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**Marion Murphy Brooke**, 94, a third generation Atlantan and a founding scientist of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), died on March 13, 2008. Dr. Brooke was a graduate of Emory University (BA, MA) and Johns Hopkins University (ScD). While at Hopkins, he met and married the late Marian Dobler Brooke, who shared his life for 59 years.

Continually a teacher, he taught the required course in parasitology at Emory University's School of Medicine for over 30 years and taught biology or parasitology at Johns Hopkins, Emory at Oxford, University of Tennessee Medical School, and the CDC. Returning to Atlanta during World War II, Dr. Brooke was commissioned as an officer of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and joined the Malaria Control in War Areas (MCWA), the predecessor of the CDC. With coworkers he established, at the corner of Baker and Peachtree Streets, the first diagnostic and training laboratory of the CDC. Their mission was to train laboratory personnel to diagnose exotic parasitic diseases in returning military men and women. Later, he became the Chief of the Laboratory Consultation and Development Section of CDC and served as chairman of a multidisciplinary advisory committee to the Professional Examination Services (PES). The committee and PES developed a task-oriented proficiency examination to assess the competency of medical laboratory technologists who had learned their skills on the job. The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare gave the examination to over 50,000 individuals throughout the nation. Continuing this work, he helped direct the CDC Laboratory Improvement program.

Laboratory courses and consultation were given in Atlanta and throughout the nation. He co-directed a cooperative doctoral degree program offered by the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) and CDC. For the American Society for Microbiology he was a founding father of the Postdoctoral Residency Program in Public Health and Medical Laboratory Microbiology sponsored by the American Academy for Microbiology and became one of the first Chair's of the Academy's Committee on Postdoctoral Education Programs. He initiated and was the director of this postdoctoral residency program at CDC that opened as one of the first two such programs in the U.S. and under his leadership, the CDC program became the model for other programs around the country. While at CDC or on field assignments in foreign countries (Costa Rica, Iran, Korea and Zambia), Dr. Brooke engaged in laboratory and field research and consultation. He worked with the World Health Organization, Pan American Health Organization and the U.S. Agency of International Development. He served as a member and officer of national and international organizations; as well, he authored or with coworkers produced over 100 scientific articles and educational materials. His contributions to parasite diagnostics remain today a standard used throughout the world.

In 1984, Dr. Brooke retired from CDC with 40 years of government service. Earlier he had retired as a commissioned officer of the USPHS, with the rank of Scientist Director-Captain (Navy). In 1965 the U.S. Public Health Service honored Dr. Brooke with the Meritorious Service Award for "his outstanding leadership in the improvement of public health laboratory service through out the nation." He received the Leadership Award of the Conference of the Public Health Laboratory Directors, the Outstanding U.S. Graduate Award in

Science/Research of Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, and the Professional Recognition Award of the American Board of Medical Microbiology.

After retirement Dr. Brooke pursued his love of portrait painting. He exhibited in several juried shows and became a Juried Member of the Portrait Society of Atlanta. He was particularly pleased to paint the posthumous portrait of his mother, a founder of the Camp Fire Boys and Girls organization in Atlanta. This portrait continues to hang in the organization's lobby. Locally, he was also active in the Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church, Druid Hills Kiwanis Club, Life Enrichment Services, and was a director of Camp Fire in Atlanta.

Marion Brooke is survived by his son, Thomas Russell Brooke, II, two daughters, Martha Louise Brooke and Barbara Brooke; three grandchildren, Heather Brooke Harris, Jessica Brooke Anderson and David Brooke Anderson; cousins, nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will take place Saturday, April 5th, at 3:00 pm at Glenn Memorial UM Church, 1660 North Decatur Road, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30307, with a reception to follow in the church Fellowship Hall. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Camp Fire USA Georgia Council, 3026 Falls Road, Toccoa, GA 30577 or Glenn Memorial UM Church. A more inclusive obituary and pictures are available at [www.mmbrooke.thelistenmission.com](http://www.mmbrooke.thelistenmission.com).

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NOTES FROM MEMBERS

Happy response to the card sent on the birth of her twins
We received that greeting card. That was really nice... I have up in my office and all the Feds here can't help but stop and notice the Watsonian logo.

Tranita Gillis
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**A SPECIAL NOTE-**

The Kingons are moving

Atlanta Friends,

Karen and I are building a new home in northern Michigan where we have been spending summers the last ten years. Ten years ago, when we were moving from our home of 25 years into our condo here in Atlanta, we sold to an incoming CDC staffer before formally listing the house. In hopes that a similar situation might happen again, the following is a brief description of our condo which we will list in a couple of weeks.

2398 Leafgate Rd

- located off LaVista Rd. just east of Oak Grove Rd.
- 100 unit, 35 year old complex - 99 owner occupied - Salvation Army general resides in one
- self managed and in excellent financial position (\$350/month fee)
- Monthly fee includes - insurance, landscaping, water, natural gas, termite control
- Williamsburg style brick construction with 2 car garage and large enclosed brick patio
- Ours is an end unit, in a 3 unit building with excellent fire and sound proofing
- Great location across from pool
- 1900 square feet - 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, den w/gas fireplace and recently remodeled kitchen
- Great neighbors

Please pass on to anyone you think may be interested.

You can be sure we will be spending plenty on time in Atlanta visiting Kristine and her family and seeing all of you.

Thank you,  
**Bob Kingon**

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Greg Donabedian's response to being sent a copy of the MMWR Weekly
Volume 57, No. 10, March 14, 2008
With this article: Nonoccupational Logging Fatalities, Vermont, 1997--2007

I have waited until now to get started on my annual tree-felling for firewood; for some reason, I did not have much energy earlier in the Winter. I ALWAYS wear a logging helmet, with ear protection and face screen. In addition, I ALWAYS wear safety glasses under the face screen. I have chainsaw chaps that I ALWAYS wear and I ALWAYS wear gloves. I spend a good bit of time studying the tree to figure out where it "wants" to fall and then cut it accordingly. In addition, I won't try to fell a tree if the wind is blowing.

A danger associated with tree felling that I don't believe the article mentioned was a partially rotten top coming loose from a tree being cut or coming loose as it is falling, coming straight down and hitting the man cutting the tree. An accident like this killed a friend's father some years ago. The article did mention branches coming loose and hitting the man cutting the tree.

Another problem is cutting a tree that has been bent over by ice, snow or another tree that has fallen on it. As you can imagine, such trees have a great deal of energy stored in them, and when you cut them you have to be careful, because they will "jump" with deadly force. Some years ago, after a terrible ice storm, a man was badly injured and rendered a quadriplegic in NH while cutting frozen trees that had come down on power lines; he was an employee of the power company. The tree "exploded" as he was cutting it and crippled him.

When I cut a tree, I ALWAYS make sure I am aware of my surroundings, identify a path away from the tree and watch carefully as I make the felling cut; as soon as the tree starts to go, I pull the saw out and step away from the tree. If it does not go down, I step back in and cut some more.

I don't smoke dope (or anything else, for that matter) and I NEVER drink while or before using a chainsaw, or any other tool.

Working alone in the woods is another matter, however. It is much better to have someone else nearby, but I live alone. Hence the wisdom of periodic confession and getting to Mass on Sunday; it does not hurt to bless yourself before cutting the tree, either.

I know a man who logs in the Winter who was trapped under a tree. His little daughter was in the area, but she was playing and did not realize what had happened. He was saved by some hunters who used their cell phones to call for help. He is fine now.

Greg D.
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## **HAVE YOU HEARD?**

Message from Mike Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services, On Senate Confirmation of Joxel Garcia, M.D., MBA

I am happy to announce that Dr. Joxel Garcia was recently confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Health and Medical Director for the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). I am pleased he will be joining our team and providing important leadership on public health matters.

Throughout his career, Dr. Garcia has distinguished himself as a public servant through his devotion to patients, community and country. His previous public health experience includes service as Deputy Director of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization and Public Health Commissioner for the State of Connecticut. His expertise will be invaluable as this Department pursues an aggressive public health agenda.

I look forward to working closely with him, the Office of Public Health and Science and the USPHS as we strive for a healthier nation, improve healthcare for all Americans and protect our nation against public health threats.

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This is a follow-up to my February 7th OD Announcement regarding ongoing changes in the Office of the Director. We are working hard to focus on specific priorities, improve our effectiveness, and reduce our budget by at least 15 percent. This has meant some tough decisions as we restructure.

We are moving ahead with one of these decisions, which is to eliminate the Office of the Chief of Staff (OCOS). Many of the OCOS team members have already been assigned positions under the direction of the Associate Director of Management, Burma Burch. I thank each of these exceptional people for their patience and understanding as we have gone through this difficult process.

In particular I offer special thanks to **Dr. Lynn Austin** who has served as CDC's Chief of Staff since October 2005 and has played a critical role in the OD restructuring process. During the two-plus years Dr. Austin served as the Chief of Staff, she professionally contributed to numerous initiatives, while at the same time managing the day-to-day operations of a very dynamic and complex OD. Lynn was instrumental in the development of CDC's 60th Anniversary celebration as the chair and overall event coordinator, and played a key leadership role in the development and implementation of CDC's Organizational Excellence Assessment, which began in 2007. For these contributions and so many others, I'm truly grateful.

On Monday March 10, 2008, Dr. Austin was detailed to the Coordinating Center for Health Information Services to serve as the Conference Chair and Coordinator of the Leaders to Leaders Conference, scheduled July 8-9, 2008 in Washington, D.C. This conference is an important step as we strive to become "A Healthiest Nation". Lynn's management and organizational skills and her in-depth knowledge of CDC will prove invaluable to the success of this conference. Lynn's strong history as a seasoned CDC leader will serve her well as she takes on this new challenge.

Please join me in extending best wishes to Lynn for success in her new role, and to the staff of the OCOS who continue to demonstrate excellence in everything they do for CDC.

Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.

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Dear Colleagues:

I am very pleased to announce that **Dr. Hazel D. Dean** has been appointed as the Deputy Director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP). Dr. Dean brings a wealth of knowledge, public health science, and leadership experience to the Office of the Director.

We thank Dr. Dean for serving as the Acting Deputy Director of NCHHSTP for the past 18 months. Prior to this post, Dr. Dean served as NCHHSTP's first Associate Director for Health Disparities, where she led the Center in developing program policy and guidance and identifying strategies to improve the health of populations disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis. A 16 year veteran of CDC, Dr. Dean has also served as a supervisory epidemiologist, senior epidemiologist, and staff epidemiologist in the Divisions of HIV/AIDS Prevention. Before joining CDC, Dr. Dean worked at the Louisiana State Health Department, where she was an epidemiologist, biostatistician, and statistical coordinator with the HIV/AIDS Program.

Throughout her more than two decades of work in the public health field, Dr. Dean has contributed significantly to the development of national and international strategies and policies for using HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, STD, and tuberculosis program, surveillance, and scientific data to guide prevention and care program planning and to address infectious and chronic diseases health disparities. Dr. Dean has published widely on HIV/AIDS among racial and ethnic minorities, women, and incarcerated populations.

Her major research interests include developing methods, applications, and programs to detect, understand, and reduce health inequalities.

Dr. Dean received her bachelor's degree in biology from Spelman College, and earned a master's degree in public health in international health/biostatistics and a doctorate of science degree in biostatistics from Tulane University.

Please join me thanking Dr. Dean for her tremendous and longstanding contributions to our Center, and in welcoming her to this new leadership role.

Sincerely,  
Kevin A Fenton, MD, PhD, FFPH  
Director, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

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I'm pleased to announce that **Trudy Messmer, PhD** has accepted the position of Director of the CCID SSPU Extramural Program Team. Dr. Messmer brings a wealth of scientific and extramural research administration experience to her duties overseeing both extramural research and non-research activities for CCID.

Dr. Messmer received a Bachelor's of Science from the University of California Irvine. As an undergraduate, she worked in the laboratory of Dr. Leland H. Hartwell, a Nobel Prize Laureate. She received her Ph.D. in Biology from the University of California San Diego. Her thesis research was conducted at the Salk Institute in the laboratory of Dr. Robert Holley, also a Nobel Prize winner.

In 1983 she moved to Atlanta and did research at the Veterans Administration Medical Center and Emory University before being hired in 1991 at CDC as a Microbiologist in the Division of Bacterial and Respiratory Diseases/Respiratory Diseases Branch. Her research focused on development of rapid molecular diagnostic tests for bacterial pneumonias. Along with her colleagues she enjoyed the excitement of outbreak investigations and the team effort of scientists and epidemiologists across divisions to determine the cause.

Since 2004 Dr. Messmer has worked in Extramural Programs and by the end of 2007 has conducted 16 separate Special Emphasis Panels, helped write and had final review of 30 Funding Opportunity Announcements and monitored and administered a portfolio of over 80 grants and cooperative agreements.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Messmer and welcoming her to this new position.

I also would like to thank Dr. Brian Mahy for his years of service as the Acting Director of the CCID SSPU Extramural Program Team.

Joanne Cono, MD, ScM
Senior Advisor for Science
Office of the Director
Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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### **Award Nominees**

The 35th Annual Federal Employee of the Year Awards Luncheon and Program will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2008, at 11:45 a.m. at the Georgia World Congress Center, in Atlanta. Nominees from Atlanta Federal agencies in 17 award categories will be recognized for their achievements and services to the public over the past year. This year CDC, has 18 individual nominees and 5 group nominations for the Federal Employee of the Year Awards and they are as follows:

|                          |                                         |         |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------|
| Kip Duchon, PE, BCE, MCE | Outstanding Award for Volunteer Service | NCCDPHP |
| Diane Flournoy           | Outstanding Customer Service Award      | OCOO    |
| David A. Foster          | Outstanding Customer Service Award      | OCOO    |

|                                    |                                    |              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Nirmol Pearl Phillip               | Outstanding Customer Service Award | NCHHSTP      |
| Deborah Birx, MD                   | Outstanding Manager                | NCHHSTP      |
| <b>Clifford Scott Danos, MPH</b>   | <b>Outstanding Manager</b>         | <b>NCPHI</b> |
| Susan E. Gorman, PharmD, MS, DABAT | Outstanding Manager                | COTPER       |
| Carolyn Guenther-Grey, MA          | Outstanding Manager                | NCHHSTP      |
| Lisa Holman                        | Outstanding Manager                | OCOO         |
| Stephen Lester                     | Outstanding Professional Award     | OCOO         |
| Nancy M. Norton, MS                | Outstanding Professional Award     | OCOO         |
| Frank Whitlatch                    | Outstanding Professional Award     | NCHHSTP      |
| William C. Levine, MD,MSc          | Outstanding Scientific Award       | NCHHSTP      |
| Charles E. Daniels                 | Outstanding Supervisor             | OCOO         |
| Stephanie M. Dulin                 | Outstanding Supervisor             | COTPER       |
| Denise J. Jamieson, MD,MPH         | Outstanding Supervisor             | NCCDPHP      |
| Natalie M. Pinto                   | Outstanding Supervisor             | OCOO         |
| R. J. Simonds, MD                  | Outstanding Supervisor             | NCHHSTP      |

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|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------|
| Administrative Services and<br>Property Office Travel Team | <u>Outstanding Customer Service Award</u>         | OCOO |
|                                                            | Angela Avery                      Monique Blanton |      |
|                                                            | Jose Figueroa-Colon      Barbara King             |      |
|                                                            | Vickie Kindred              Dawn Mack             |      |
|                                                            | Deborah Shaut                                     |      |

|                                                              |                                                 |      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------|
| National Pandemic Influenza<br>Antiviral Medication Policies | <u>Outstanding Partnership Award (External)</u> | NCHM |
|                                                              | Lisa M. Koonin, MN, MPH                         |      |
|                                                              | CAPT Benjamin Schwartz, MD                      |      |

|                                                             |                                                 |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------|
| Administrative Services and<br>Program Office Property Team | <u>Outstanding Team Award</u>                   | OCOO |
|                                                             | Sabrina Battle                      Edward Dick |      |
|                                                             | Shelia Humphrey              Marilyn Nunn       |      |
|                                                             | Anita Sandmann-Hill      Debra Smith            |      |
|                                                             | Roxanne Williams                                |      |

|                                                            |                                                   |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------|
| International Laboratory<br>Branch CDC Global AIDS Program | <u>Outstanding Team Award</u>                     | NCHHSTP |
|                                                            | Debra Kuehl                      John Nkengasong  |         |
|                                                            | Sherry Orloff                      Chin-Yih Ou    |         |
|                                                            | Mark Rayfield, PhD              Shambavi Subbarao |         |

|                                                          |                                                     |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Pandemic Influenza Community<br>Mitigation Strategy Team | <u>Outstanding Team Award</u>                       | NCPDCID |
|                                                          | Diane Allensworth              Martin Cetron        |         |
|                                                          | Roger Bernier                      Claudia Chesley  |         |
|                                                          | James Clark                      Ralph Cordell      |         |
|                                                          | Nancy Cox                      Michael Doney        |         |
|                                                          | Shahul Ebrahim                      Teresa Hammet   |         |
|                                                          | Daniel Jernigan                      Lisa Koonin    |         |
|                                                          | Harvey Lipman                      Toby Merlin      |         |
|                                                          | Jennifer Morcone                      John O'Connor |         |
|                                                          | Scott Santibanez                      David Shay    |         |
|                                                          | William Thompson                                    |         |

Please join us in congratulating our nominees and come out to the luncheon to show your support. The cost of the luncheon is \$30.00. Checks should be made out to "2008 FEB Employee Awards Program." The deadline to purchase tickets is April 18, 2008. No tickets will be sold at the door. Please contact Billene Henderson (770) 488-1881 to purchase tickets or for additional information.

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TRANSFERS/PROMOTIONS

I have taken a new position with the Pennsylvania Mid-Atlantic AIDS Education and Training Center and no longer work for WV DHHR.

Thanks,

Kelly Shreve

WV Bureau for Public Health

STD/HIV Program

Charleston Office

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**Laura Kearns** transferred from DHAP/NCHHSTP to the Prevention Branch/Division of Viral Hepatitis/NCHHSTP. Laura is working for Program Operations Team Leader, **Hope King**.

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Dear All,

Please join me in congratulating the following four Senior Public Health Advisors on their selection for leadership positions in the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination (DTBE).

Heather Duncan, MPH, has accepted the Senior Public Health Advisor (PHA) position in the DTBE Office of the Director, effective March 2. Heather started her career with CDC in September 1991 as a Public Health Associate with the Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) program in Long Beach, California. In January 1993, she accepted a transfer to New York City to join DTBE's PHA training program with the New York City Bureau of TB Control, where she had several assignments (outreach worker, front-line supervisor, and city-wide clinical coordinator). In November 1998, she transferred to Chicago, Illinois, as a special projects coordinator. In January 1999, she transferred to Tallahassee, Florida, and served as the Senior PHA and Deputy Bureau Chief for the Bureau of TB and Refugee Health through May 2005. In May 2005, she transferred to Atlanta, Georgia, as the program consultant for the mid-Atlantic region and provided technical assistance and consultation to the nine cooperative agreement recipients in this region. Since arriving in Atlanta, she has completed temporary details in the NCHHSTP Office of the Director and DTBE's Office of the Director. Heather received her MPH degree in Health Systems Management from Tulane University.

Bryan Kim, MPH, has accepted the Senior PHA position in the International Research and Programs Branch, effective March 2. From 1998-2004, Bryan worked on a variety of HIV/AIDS prevention projects in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, CDC. During that time, he served as a Project Officer for several cooperative agreements focusing on capacity building activities for national HIV/AIDS organizations. He also worked on multi-site, community-level behavioral interventions focusing on HIV prevention for high risk populations. He also developed and facilitated trainings for national grantees involved in domestic HIV prevention activities for youth and racial/ethnic minorities. In 2004, Bryan was selected as a CDC International Experience and Technical Assistance Fellow, where he worked on technical and administrative HIV/AIDS projects in Vietnam. From 2004-present, he has served as a Public Health Advisor in DTBE's International Research and Programs Branch. In this capacity, he worked on a variety of technical and administrative Tuberculosis elimination projects in Botswana, Ethiopia, Russia, Brazil, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Croatia. Bryan received his MPH from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Vic Tomlinson, MPA, has accepted the Senior PHA position in Clinical Health Systems Research Branch, effective March 23. Vic started his public health career as a tuberculosis investigator with the Virginia Department of Health in the eastern part of Virginia in 1970-1971. He began his career with CDC as a public health advisor in the Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) program in 1972 in Washington, D.C. His first federal assignment as a TB public health advisor was with the Division of TB Elimination (DTBE) in Norristown, PA in 1975, followed by an assignment in Boston, MA in 1977. In the latter assignment, Vic was assigned to the City of Boston and also served as a liaison to the state TB program, which was located in another part of Boston. He then accepted a position as a project officer with the Bureau of Community Health Services in the Regional Office in Philadelphia (1977-81). Vic left federal service in 1981, returning to the State of Virginia where he worked in the state's certificate of need program and then as a budget analyst in local government before returning to CDC, DTBE in January 1990. From 1990-92, he served as the program manager for a statewide tuberculosis control program while assigned to Missouri's state health department. From 1992-96, Vic was assigned to the Texas Department of Health's TB control program and then to the Louisiana Department of Health in New Orleans. In 1996, he accepted a transfer back to Missouri and again served in the role of the program manager for tuberculosis control for most of his tenure

there (1996-2003). In addition to his work with tuberculosis control, Vic was also asked to accept the dual role of managing the Immunization and TB programs in Missouri from 1998 to 2003. From May 2003 to March 2008, Vic has served as a program consultant in headquarters in the Field Services and Evaluation Branch (FSEB) working with the Midwestern States initially, and then with the Southwestern States of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Oklahoma plus Kansas, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Paul Tribble, MA, has accepted the TB Outbreak Coordinator position in the Field Services and Evaluation Branch, effective March 16. Paul started his career in public health in 1985 as the Coordinator of the Refugee Health Program for the state of Oklahoma. In 1988, he was hired by CDC and selected for the Public Health Advisor position in the Hawaii State TB Program in Honolulu. In 1994, Paul was assigned to the Arizona Department of Health Services as the State TB Program Manager for the newly organized TB Section within the Office of Infectious Diseases Services. Paul accepted a Public Health Advisor position with the Division of Quarantine in Atlanta in 1996 where he provided technical assistance to state and local health departments on refugee and immigrant health issues (especially TB) relating to overseas medical screening and notification. For the past seven years, Paul has served DTBE as a program consultant for nine state TB programs in the Pacific Northwest and the Rocky Mountain region.

The selection for these new positions proved a difficult process because of the excellent pool of candidates. The application process was highly competitive and provided us with a great opportunity to learn much about the various applicants' knowledge and skill sets. We are very fortunate to have such highly qualified staff moving into positions with added responsibilities; all have shown a clear commitment to our current and future TB elimination efforts! I regret not having enough positions for all the excellent applicants; however I suspect we may have other future opportunities within DTBE.

I appreciate your support of Heather, Bryan, Vic, and Paul as they assume new roles and responsibilities.
Ken Castro

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**MEMBER NEWS**

**Kenney earns February Director's Recognition Award**

The NCHHSTP Director's Recognition Award for February goes to **Kerry Kenney**, public health advisor in the Program and Training Branch, Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP). While representing the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and CDC during an outbreak of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), Kerry demonstrated exemplary leadership skills in coordinating local efforts to train tribal health and IHS staff in STD case management and follow-up.

In April 2007, an outbreak of STDs was declared on the Tohono O'odham Nation (TON) in southern Arizona. TON shares an extensive border with Mexico and is the Native American tribe with the second-largest land area in the United States, after the Navajo Nation. In June 2007, requests by TON for assistance from the state health department and CDC prompted a large-scale response that included state, county, tribal, Indian Health Service (IHS), and CDC deployments. Kerry demonstrated exceptional leadership skills in representing ADHS and CDC, and also was instrumental in opening the communication channels among TON, state and local health departments, HIS, and CDC. In addition, Kerry established a tribal-run STD program whereby tribal community health representatives investigate STD cases in collaboration with IHS public health nurses. The program is a model for other tribal areas facing increases in STD rates in other parts of Arizona and across the country.

Kerry's leadership has resulted in significant improvements in the ability of the TON and IHS to monitor, address, and control rising STD rates among tribal members. One of the most significant outcomes of Kerry's intervention is the establishment of STD prevention programs at the IHS Sell Unit Area and the TON Health Department. The development of the tribal-run STD program required professional input, organization, and delegation of duties. Kerry overcame the difficult circumstances of working in a remote area with limited resources while building bridges among local public health entities to create this program,

which has significantly increased the capacity of the TON to address, screen and prevent STDs among tribal members.

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Bob Kohmescher, our treasurer, received this note from Tony Scardaci

Hi Bob:

We are staying quite busy, every weekday morning is taken up with volunteer work all morning. On Monday and Wednesday I work with a radio station that broadcasts 24/7 to the print impaired. I manage the station and do reading on Mondays and read on Wednesdays. We read from a variety of local print media. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays I am a volunteer tutoring (in the classroom) third graders who are having difficulty with math. Very rewarding at times yet quite challenging and sometimes frustrating when I fail to get concepts across effectively.

We have also been doing a lot of traveling since late 2004. Within the US- to CO to see a daughter and her family and to CA to see my Mom, uncle and sister as well as lots of trips to Atlanta to visit another daughter and her family and a variety of brief trips elsewhere often for birding. Internationally, we have been to Belize, China, Japan, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, The Galapagos Islands and elsewhere in Ecuador, Peru, and Italy. In June we will be in Great Britain for three plus weeks and in early December we leave with Jane and Larry Sparks for almost a month in Israel, Egypt (including eight-day Nile cruise) and Jordan Sparks.

Leslie stays very, very busy serving on the board of the local community college foundation and the board of the Haywood County Animal Welfare Association. And she also has her three horses at our place (we have just a fraction under 20 acres of which about 6 is pasture and most of the rest woods) which to my way of thinking is a full-time job in itself.

We both have gotten somewhat active politically in local issues and for local candidates and I participate in a weekly Wednesday anti-war protest along with a group of anywhere from 6-15 others. We are also spending as much time at the local fitness center as we can in a futile attempt to fight off aging! But we are in better shape than if we didn't do it. Bob, I can't run anymore because my back won't take it. But it may actually have been a good thing as now I swim, walk, do free weights and resistance machines, take water aerobics classes and Pilates. So all things considered we are doing fine up here in western NC.

Certainly hope that you are doing well. I am sure you are staying very busy!

Warmest regards,

Tony

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**RETIREMENTS**

**Jim Rabb**, PHA and Deputy Director of NCEH/EEHS retired on January 3, 2008. I didn't see this listed in the newsletter. I think he left pretty quietly without big fanfare... in classic Jim Rabb style.

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Martha (Marty) Remis will retire on April 3, 2008, after 36 years of federal service. She served most recently as the Deputy Chief of the Quarantine and Border Health Services Branch in the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine. Marty began her career in 1972 as a Quarantine Inspector in the Chicago Quarantine Station. In 1984, she was promoted to Officer in Charge of the Chicago Quarantine Station, a position which she held until 2005. During her tenure, strong working relationships were established with partners in the airport community, travel industry, and state and local health departments. Under her leadership, the Chicago Station became known for maintaining a standard of excellence in service to travelers and the public at large.

As a well-respected and seasoned Quarantine Officer, Marty was frequently called upon to assist with responses to public health crises. In 1990 in response to the emergence of the Ebola virus among imported primates, she was among a small group of staff who, along with public health veterinarians, were responsible

for inspecting the nearly 150 facilities licensed to import primates. These inspections resulted in the identification and removal of several facilities unable to implement required public health safeguards. In early 2002, she served on a task force charged with preparing the quarantine station system and US ports of entry for the threat of bioterrorism. In addition to developing a scenario for the interdisciplinary response to the arrival of a traveler with smallpox, her work laid the foundation for an ambitious plan to increase and expand the US Quarantine System. During the response to the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in 2003, Marty coordinated the training and deployment of over 150 CDC staff to 23 ports of entry.

In 2004, Marty was selected as the Deputy Chief of the Quarantine and Border Health Services Branch where she coordinated the implementation of a multimillion dollar expansion and reinvention of the Quarantine Station System. Her hard work, tenacity, and leadership are widely credited with the success of the expansion effort, which resulted in the addition of 12 new stations and more than 60 new staff in less than 3 years. Marty's unbounded enthusiasm and nurturing abilities have motivated her staff to excel and have endeared her to them. Though they will miss her sound guidance, delivered with that ever-present smile, she has left her personal mark of excellence on the CDC Quarantine Program that will be felt for many years to come.

Marty looks forward to exploring the United States with her husband Steve in their RV, stopping along the way to enjoy a game of golf or local theatre.

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**ELIZABETH (LIZ) BURGESS**, Executive Secretary to the Director  
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

Liz has spent the last 25 years working for various arms of the Federal government to include the US Public Health Service Hospital, the United States Army stateside and overseas (Germany and Italy), the Georgia Army National Guard and the CDC. Liz spent many years working in the private sector with various agencies as well as substitute teaching at elementary and junior high schools.

While at the CDC, Liz, worked as an Administrative Assistant to the Director for the Hematologic Diseases Branch, NCID from 1997-2002; Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director, NCHSTP from 2002-2004; Executive Assistant to the Director, NCHHSTP from 2004 to present.

Liz received an A.A. Degree in Secretarial Science (Legal Studies), Phillips College and a B.S. Degree in Business Administration from Strayer University.

Liz is married to CW5 (Ret.) Joseph Burgess, Jr., of Quincy, Florida. They have two adult children; daughter Dr. Kimberly Burgess, who is a faculty member with Western Governor's University, Salt Lake City, Utah, and Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, and son Joseph L. Burgess, who is the Principal at Springwood Elementary School in Tallahassee, Florida. Their only grandson, Deronte Burgess, is a graduating senior and accomplished athlete at James S. Rickards High School in Tallahassee, Florida.

Liz is looking forward to the retirement life.

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Robert Cicatello is retiring on April 3, 2008 after 30 years of service with CDC. Bob joined CDC as a Public Health Advisor in January 1978. His first assignment was with the Venereal Disease Program in Chicago. Other assignments with STD included New York City, Memphis/Shelby County, Miami/Dade County, and Los Angeles County.

Additional PHA field assignments included the Indian Health Service in Bemidji, MN, the Senior PHA with the Tuberculosis Control Program in Olympia, WA, the Administration Chief with the Los Angeles County HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Program and as the Regional Program Manager with the New York State AIDS Epidemiology Program.

In 1993, Bob relocated to CDC headquarters assigned to the Hematologic Diseases Branch, Division of HIV/AIDS /NCID as the project officer for the Hemophilia Surveillance System coordinating the development, implementation, and coordination of the hemophilia HIV surveillance data collection system.

In 1996, Robert moved to the Division of Reproductive Health/NCCDPHP, first as an Assistant Branch Chief with the Statistics and Computer Resources Branch and in 2001, promoted to Deputy Chief with the Women's Health and Fertility Branch.

In April 2004, he accepted the Deputy Chief position with the Program Operations Branch, Immunization Services Division where he was once again involved with supporting and mentoring headquarters and field assigned Public Health Advisors and Commissioned Corps Officers.

Bob is looking forward to having summers to travel with his wife and their teenage son. He plans to spend time volunteering at the local high school supporting the marching band where his son plays tenor saxophone, and volunteering at the elementary school where his wife teaches, helping first grade students learn to read and write.

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**Frank Meyers is Retiring!**

"Starting in San Francisco in 1972 as a peer educator to the Gay Community, then coordinator of the VD Information Center, it has been a great ride.

Funny, but writing about the VD Information Center, I still remember our hotline phone number -- 495-6463, or as we knew it, **495-OGOD!**

In May of 78, I began my CDC career assigned as a co-op to Chicago, then Los Angeles, Boston, Tallahassee (AIDS program), New Orleans, Baltimore and for the past nine years back in Tallahassee.

It is now time to go fishing so I can start lying about those that got away! Cannot let Larry Roberts be the only one finding fish that want to commit suicide by biting his hook!

It was difficult making the decision to not attend the National STD Conference this year, as I would have loved seeing many friends, renewing and reliving the "good old days." But, ultimately, I decided it was more important for those entering this career to attend and learning what lies ahead to be there in my stead.

They will be learning, I would be reminiscing."

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SHARE SPORTS

Please share this with any of your Atlanta area co-workers who play tennis!

The Annual CDC/ATSDR Tennis Round Robin is coming soon!

Mark your calendar--It's time again for the CDC/ATSDR Tennis Round Robin!!!

The Annual CDC/ATSDR Tennis Round Robin is sponsored by SHARE, and will be held on **Friday, May 2, 2008**, 1:00-4:00 p.m., at the DeKalb Tennis Center. In case of rain, the event will be held the following Friday, May 9. All current or former CDC employees, contractors, volunteers, their spouses, and children are invited to participate in this round robin event.

Entry fee is \$25.00 per person, which includes court fees, balls, T-shirt, and refreshments. Trophies will be awarded to the male and female winner in three levels —advanced, intermediate, and beginner. We will also have a drawing for fabulous door prizes. This is a fun event, so don't worry about your skill level—come out and enjoy a fun time with your CDC colleagues.

Registration deadline is April 25 and is limited to the first 48 players. For more information please contact:
Michael Campsmith
Bob Kohmescher

Please complete the registration form and send it to Michael Campsmith at E47 by the April 25 deadline. Make checks to the "CDC Tennis Tournament."

Note: if you register and then can't play, we will return your registration fee if you cancel before the April 25 deadline.

Additional information will be sent upon receipt of registration.

Registration form can be found on line

<http://intranet.cdc.gov/share/SHARE%20sports.htm>

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**SHARE VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE  
SPRING/SUMMER 2008**

SHARE sponsors a co-ed volleyball league played on sand courts at the CDC Chamblee facility. The SHARE volleyball league will begin its Spring/Summer season on April 15th, 2008 and generally runs through July. The league is divided into two: A-league teams play on Thursday evenings and are for more experienced players, B-league teams play on Tuesday evenings and are for beginner players or those who have not played for some time. Matches are at 5.30pm and 6.30pm. Employees, retirees, contractors of CDC/ATSDR, spouses and children over 15 are welcome to play. If you would like to enter a new team or are a player looking for a team to join this season, please [email](#) Raj Bhatt.

Please include in your email, **which league (B for beginners - A for advance)** you are interested in playing.

**...Hurry!** Sign up **deadline** for full team and/or individuals is **April 4th**.