



WATSONIAN NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 6, 2007
COMMITTEE NEWS CONDOLENCES
NEW ADDRESSES MEMBER NEWS
HAVE YOU HEARD? CDC HELPS PILOT PHA APPRENTICES
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
RETIREMENTS

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COMMITTEE NEWS

EVENTS:

**Annual CDC Watsonian Society Retiree Pig Roast**



**Date: November 17, 2007 from 11:00 - 4:00**  
TICKETS - \$ 8 /in advance and \$ 10 at the door, BYOB

**"The Hut"**

**American Legion Post 140**  
**3905 Powers Ferry Road NW**  
Atlanta, GA 30342

Watsonians who are retiring this year and a guest are free, but please RSVP to Ted Pestorius by 11/14 so that we can feed you!

**NOTE:**

We need volunteers to setup and tear down for the Watsonian Annual Pig Roast. They can contact Dwan Hightower 404-639-3766 or 404-486-7703 and thanks, Dwan

Thank you to our ticket sellers- You are GREAT!

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SAVE THE DATE-

WATSONIAN SOCIETY ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION:

When: **Thursday, December 7.**

Where: **Famous Pub in Toco Hills shopping center, Atlanta, GA**

Time: **5:00 – until...**

Cost: **tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door - available soon...**



Come join your fellow Watsonian members for a good time and some holiday cheer...

That includes family and friends. Feel lucky on door prizes, see old friends, and new ones makes for a great time for all!

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### November Notes from the Prez

...and when the leaves turn brown, the Sox will wear the crown.

Here's hoping that there's not too many mopey Rockies fans out there, and that you all enjoyed the past MLB season and the crowning of the Red Sox. Again.

It looks like our year is drawing to a close too, and there are only a few more events left before we turn the page to 2008.

Our annual retiree pig roast will be held at "The Hut" on the 17th, and this is always a fun event. More low-key than our other social events, this one basically consists of milling around and waiting for dinner while drinking refreshing beverages and catching up with old friends and hopefully making some new ones. If you haven't considered purchasing a ticket, please re-think your plans and come join us. It's cheap, it's fun, and it's open to the whole family. If you'd like to have a beer at **this year's event it will be BYOB**- so please prepare appropriately. We'll have sweet tea or lemonade, and maybe a cooler of pop, but the rest is up to you.

We'll also be recognizing our retirees with a small, but appropriately lavish retirement memento, so if you're retiring this year, and plan to attend the BBQ, please make sure that Kathryn Koski or I know. While I'm at it, I've gotten a couple of comments from people suggesting that we honor our retirees at our annual banquet as there is greater attendance, and thus a bit more recognition. If you've got some thoughts on this, please let me know.

Speaking of your thoughts and the banquet, I do have something that we may need to address in the coming years, and that is our selection of Honorary PHA's. This is the highest honor that we can provide to non-PHAs, and a recognition that we should guard and protect. This year we had three highly thought of nominees, and none were able to be elected due to an insufficient number of votes cast. The way our by-laws read, a person can be recognized as an Honorary PHA if 51% of our Full Members (this excludes Associate Members and other Honorary Members) vote yes or no and if 85% of those voting Yes or No vote Yes. Our by-laws also restrict selection of Honorary PHA's to no more than three per year, so on occasion we also have to generate a rank order. This year, despite the fact that all three candidates had over 85% of the voting member's support, none came anywhere close to the needed 51% of the membership voting either yes or no for them. I spoke to a number of people, and the general consensus, and I'm being very general, was that the younger generation of membership just doesn't know the candidates or the nominators and didn't feel comfortable voting yes or no. I may be way off, and this certainly wasn't the issue last year when we were able to select two candidates who were essentially no more well known than the individuals



Participant PC: 740797

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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 listserv.

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**CONDOLENCES**

**Bob Kohmesher's** father passed away

Norman Louis Kohmescher, age 90, passed away Saturday, October 27, 2007. Surviving are his wife, Eileen; children, **Robert (Carolyn) Kohmescher**, James (Kathy) Kohmescher, Rosemary (Terry) BeCraft; grandchildren, Rachelle (Fred) Taylor, Shannon Reed, Eric (Sarah) Kohmescher, Justin (Jillon) Kohmescher, Chad (April) Kohmescher, Douglas BeCraft, Diane BeCraft; seven great grandchildren; sister, Margaret Walsh. Mr. Kohmescher served in WWII as a Major in the US Army Air Force. He worked in sales with Heinz Company and Prudential Insurance, and was a very active member at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and volunteered at God's Kitchen. Mass of Christian Burial was held October 31, 2007 at Immaculate Heart of Mary, 1935 Plymouth Ave. SE with Rev. Troy Nevins, presiding  
Memorial contributions may be made to God's Kitchen, 303 S. Division Ave., Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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Obituary for **Margaret Taylor's** mother

Ann L. Hart, 69, of Charleston, passed away on Oct. 4, 2007, at Hubbard Hospice House in Charleston.

She earned a two-year Associate's Degree from the University of Toledo. Ann worked as a social worker and then began a career working as a librarian at Ohio State University and North Las Vegas Children's Library. She then worked for the phone company in California, where she also volunteered at St. Callistus Library for six years. Ann was a Eucharistic minister and belonged to the Legion of Mary.

Her survivors include sons, John and James Taylor, both of California; daughters and son-in-law, Dawn and Michael Berger of North Carolina and Margaret Taylor of Charleston; brother, William Koback and his wife, Carol, of Toledo, Ohio; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A Memorial Mass was held for Ann at the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, with Father Patrick McDonough as celebrant.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions in her name to the Hubbard Hospice House, 1001 Kennawa Drive, Charleston, WV 25311.

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**Ken Anderson** 's son has died

Ken Anderson was a long-time PHA in the National Immunization Program who retired a few years ago. His son (23 yrs old) has passed away.

Jeffrey Paul Anderson

Jeffrey Anderson age 23, died Saturday September 22, 2007 in Philadelphia where he had resided since graduating from LaSalle University. Jeff was a teacher and swim coach in Bucks County, PA. He grew up in Lawrenceville, Georgia attending Collins Hill High school where he was a member of the swim team, chorus, and theater. Jeff swam for Swim Atlanta from age 11 and had Jr. National times in 100 Fly and 200 IM. He continued his swimming career at LaSalle and coached the Rivershyre summer league swim team. He will be missed most for his ready smile, sense of humor, and devotion to his family. Jeff will be remembered as an inspiring swim coach, a caring person with a huge spirit, and a loyal friend. Celebration of life memorial service were held Saturday October 13th at 11:00 am at Crossroads Community Church in Lawrenceville Ga. Jeff leaves behind his father Ken, mother Sharon, brothers David and Marc, sister-in-law Samantha, grandmother Margaret Bennett, grandparents Jerry and Nora Bennett, aunt Gail Anderson, uncle Stephen Bennett, aunt Pat Bennett and 5 cousins

Contributions may be made in his memory to Georgia Special Olympics.

Published in the Gwinnett Daily Post from 10/9/2007 - 10/10/2007.

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Paul Regan's father has passed away:

Joseph L. Regan died: 10/21/2007 at the age of age: 77.

Contributions may be made in his memory to Lance Armstrong Foundation.

Lance Armstrong Foundation

National Mail Processing Center

P.O. Box 6003

Albert Lea, MN 56007-6603

<http://www.livestrong.org/site/c.khLXK1PxHmF/b.2660611/k.BCED/Home.htm>

If you are making an honorary or memorial gift by mail: Please include the family contact name and address (for memorials) or the individual's name and address (for honorary gifts). The Lance Armstrong Foundation will notify the family or individual of your thoughtfulness but will not reveal the amount of your gift.
(The Lance Armstrong Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) public charity, IRS Tax ID 74-2806618. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.)

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**Dr Joe Held** died on OCTOBER 29, 2007. Beloved husband of Carolyn Held, father of Lisa Doseff, Bob Held, Leslie Barnett, and Teresa Johnson. He is also survived by eight grandchildren. Services were held in Alexandria, VA on November 1.

**David J. Sencer** let us know of the death:

Dr. Joe Held, who was at CDC from 1955 to 1962, died Saturday in Washington after a short illness from a dissecting aneurysm.

Joe started his career as an EIS Officer in 1955 and was assigned to the rabies program. He then became Alex Langmuir's Assistant Chief of the WIS. He transferred to NIH in 1962. He was the Chief Veterinary Officer of the PHS from 1975 to 1984. After retirement he served with the PanAmerican Health Office.

Joe was a true professional and a real gentleman.

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Death of Former CDC Employee

Long-time CDC employee **Robin Conley** passed away this past Friday, October 19, 2007. Robin worked with the Computer Services Office (CSO), transferring to the Information Resources Management Office (IRMO) when it was formed in the early 1990's. He oversaw database and mainframe operations for IRMO's Management Information Systems Office (MISB) before becoming the IRM Coordinator for the National Immunization Program (NIP). When the Information Technology Services Office (ITSO) was created, Robin moved to ITSO to work on server consolidation efforts, while continuing with consultation and analysis on upgrades to vaccine ordering and tracking systems.

Family will receive friends at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday, October 23, at A.S. Turner and Sons on North Decatur Road. Memorial services will follow at 2:00 P.M. In lieu of flowers, Robin's family asks for donations to the American Lung Association of Georgia, or the American Diabetes Association..

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**MEMBER NEWS**

**Brian Wheeler** was promoted/relocated to the CDC Kenya Deputy Director position (replacing **Bill Gallo**) in September and that GAP is looking to announce the Deputy Director (PHA) position for Nigeria soon

**Lynn Carroll** and his wife Lisa had a baby—Lynn writes:  
Our baby boy Ansel is 3 mo. old now. Lisa stayed home with him for 12 wks. and now I'm staying with him until the 1st. of they yr. We're trying to keep him out of day care as long as possible.

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HAVE YOU HEARD?

Mr. Bill Gimson, Chief Operating Officer, CDC, will be accepting a temporary detail to the State Department to serve on a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Iraq. The PRTs are small operational units comprising military-civilian specialists in areas of expertise such as governance, economics, budget, public health, business, and public diplomacy. Team members work closely with Iraqi provincial leaders and the Iraqi communities that they serve. Bill has been to Iraq twice over the past several years, and each time he had a very positive and fulfilling experience. He knows firsthand that many challenges remain there, and he sees serving on a PRT as a historic opportunity.

The exact date that Bill will be called to serve has not been determined but is likely to be fairly soon. Before his departure, Bill has agreed to focus on the important challenge of getting our goal action plans properly resourced. In the meantime, I will be appointing an acting Chief Operating Officer. Please join me in wishing Bill the very best in this endeavor and a safe return.

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

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I am very pleased to announce that two of our outstanding senior Commissioned Officers at CDC, **RADM Steve Solomon** and RADM Ali Khan, have been promoted to

flag rank in the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps, effective October 1, 2007.

Promotion to flag rank recognizes an officer as part of the senior leadership of the Commissioned Corps. Upon promotion, flag officers become a member of a very select group: the 1% of the Commissioned Corps force who hold flag rank—the senior leaders, the counselors, the mentors, and the examples to the rest of the Corps. There are 6,000 commissioned officers in the USPHS, and a maximum of only 60 flag officers.

RADM Solomon was recognized for his contributions as Director of CDC's Coordinating Center for Health Information and Service, a position that he has held since 2005. He came to CDC originally as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer in 1981 and has held numerous positions of increasing responsibility since that time.

RADM Khan serves as Deputy Director, National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases, Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases. RADM Khan began his career with CDC as an EIS officer in 1991. He has held several important positions and coordinated many CDC responses to public health outbreaks since that time.

Please join me in congratulating RADM Solomon and Khan on this important step in their public health careers.

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

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I am very pleased to announce the selection of **Ms. Elaine L. Baker** as Director of the Management Analysis and Services Office (MASO). Since December 2006, Ms. Baker has served as the Acting Director of MASO, leading the organization in its many agency-wide support functions. She joined CDC in July 2005 as its Committee Management Officer where she led MASO's Federal Advisory Committee Management Team. While in this position, Ms. Baker also served for several months as the Acting Lead for the Internal Control and Risk Management Team.

Prior to joining CDC, Ms. Baker served as the Managing Partner of BEL, LLC, a management consultant company. She previously served in a senior role supporting the Federal Housing Finance Board and managing the docket of the Board of Directors which consists of five Presidential Appointees.

Prior to her Federal career, Elaine served as the Administrative and Operations Officer for Trustcorp Bank where she was selected to join an executive leadership team chartered to design, develop and implement the operational and financial infrastructure of a de novo bank. She was later selected to manage the Operations, Financial Control and Human Resources Departments of the new bank. Elaine served in various other management positions with Trustcorp Bank. She brings to this position extensive experience partnering at the executive levels to establish policy, procedure and administrative management, aligned to ensure overall effectiveness, achievement of strategic goals and regulatory compliance.

She holds Bachelors Degree in Political Science from Purdue University and is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Baker to her new role.

Jim Seligman, Chief Information Officer

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October 5, 2007

Dear Colleagues,

Today I am pleased to announce three additions to the NCHHSTP Leadership Team. We welcome the first NCHHSTP Associate Director for Program Integration, a new Associate Director for Communication Science and an Acting Senior Advisor for Partnerships.

**Associate Director for Program Integration**

I am thrilled to announce that **Susan DeLisle, ARNP, MPH**, has agreed to become the first NCHHSTP Associate Director for Program Integration. She has served as the acting Associate Director for Program Integration since January. Susan will lead our National Center's activities to advance cross-collaboration between our divisions and with other National Centers within CCID.

Before joining NCHHSTP OD on detail, Susan worked with the Portfolio Management Project (PMP), where she has been the Senior Management Official (SMO) with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and the District of Columbia, Department of Health. She previously was the Deputy Director of the Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP) from 2004 to 2005. From 1998 to 2004, Susan was the Chief of the Program Development and Support Branch within DSTDP. Susan was also the National Infertility Prevention Program Coordinator and was instrumental in the development of the first STD HEDIS measure.

Prior to joining CDC, Susan was the Regional Manager and Associate Executive Director of the Center for Health Training and James Bowman Associates in Seattle, Wash. Susan received her Bachelor's degree in Community Health Nursing from San Jose State University, and Master's in Public Health (Administration and Epidemiology) from the University of Hawaii. She is also a certified nurse practitioner.

**Associate Director of Communication Science**

It is with great pleasure that we welcome **Susan Robinson, MS**, as the new Associate Director of Communication Science. She will lead the Office of Communication Science and will work in close collaboration with communication and behavioral science professionals in each of the divisions.

A 15-year veteran of CDC/ATSDR, Susan was most recently the Chief of the Health Promotion and Community Involvement Branch at the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Prior to this, she served ATSDR as the deputy director of the NCEH/ATSDR Office of Communication and as a health communication team lead for the ATSDR's Division of Health Education and Promotion. Before joining ATSDR, she worked in CDC's Office of Communication, where she led collaborative projects with staff from across the agency to improve the CDC's Web channel usage and consulted to programs on strategic communication planning and production. Susan began her CDC career producing external communications and distance learning programs for public health professionals.

Before joining CDC, Susan was a principle in a communications and IT consulting firm serving Fortune 500 and government clients. She has extensive experience in creative arts across media, including interactive media and broadcast television and film. Early in her career, she received an Academy Award nomination for best feature documentary.

Susan brings a wealth of expert knowledge and skills in risk communication, qualitative research, the translation of audience research into strategy, and on-line/digital media channels to NCHHSTP. She earned her B.A. in Economics from the University of North Carolina and holds an M.S. in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) from the Georgia Institute of Technology, where she is pursuing a PhD in Digital Media, focusing on tangible media and collaboration technologies to support community engagement.

### **Senior Advisor for Partnerships**

I am also delighted to announce that **Niki Keiser, MA**, has agreed to become Acting Senior Advisor for Partnerships. Niki has done a tremendous job as the acting Associate Director for Communication Science since March 2006. She directed our Office of Communication Science through a very difficult time and we have all come to appreciate her leadership and dedication.

Prior to stepping up to the plate to help out when NCHHSTP needed an Acting Associate Director for Communication Science, Niki served as our Senior Extramural Community Liaison. She has a wealth of experience in all aspects of Partnership strategic planning, mobilization, maintenance, and support. Throughout her career at CDC, Niki has been instrumental in the establishment of many formal and informal partnership programs, including SafeUSA (Injury Prevention Partnership), lead poisoning prevention marketing and outreach for state and local partners, and partner outreach for CDC's "America Responds to AIDS" campaign.

In her new position, Niki will oversee NCHHSTP partnership activities, which includes the management of NPIN (National Prevention Information Network). She will work closely with each of the Divisions, but I have asked her to initially focus on working with the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP) in order to ensure that her expertise is brought to bear on their many partnership activities.

Niki began her CDC career in the old Center for Prevention Services (CPS) in 1988, but was quite rapidly recruited by the National AIDS Information and Education Program (NAIEP) which was, at that time, located in the Office of the Director. She has served in many management and leadership roles at CDC, including Acting Associate Director for Communication in the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities.

Niki graduated magna cum laude with a degree in Journalism from Georgia State University before earning her master's degree in Psychology from Argosy University. Her education, experience, commitment, and dedication make her uniquely qualified to serve as our Acting Senior Advisor for Partnerships.

Please join me in welcoming Susan, Susan and Niki to their new positions.

Sincerely,

Kevin A Fenton, MD, PhD, FFPH  
Director

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention  
<http://nchhstp/>

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I am thrilled to announce that the CCID Goals Team has two new staff members. **David Scharf** has joined as the Deputy Strategy and Innovation Officer (SIO) and will have as his primary responsibility the support of the goal teams. His office is on the Roybal Campus in Building 16 fifth floor. **Sophia Kasakova** has joined as scientific support for all the teams and is embedded with NCPDCID located on Roybal Campus in building 1, room 6065. Please join me in welcoming our new CCID staff.

David B. Scharf, MPH began his public health career at Children's Hospital, San Diego, where he was responsible for epidemiological research and program evaluation for the New Parent Support Program - a family violence and child abuse prevention and intervention program at eighteen United States Marine Corps installations worldwide.

In the fall of 1997, David joined the first class of the Public Health Prevention Service (PHPS) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. During his first year with CDC in Atlanta, David worked on a variety of projects and initiatives, including poison control issues and the development of a nation-wide toll-free telephone number for all poison control centers with the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), and the monitoring of cooperative agreements among CDC funded Prevention Research Centers (PRCs) while with the National Center for Chronic Disease Control and Prevention (NCCDCP).

Following his rotations at CDC in Atlanta, David was field assigned to a consortium of three local health departments in Southeastern Connecticut. Here, David worked on a variety of projects including indoor air quality and asthma, the development of communicable disease surveillance and food safety reporting systems at the local level, community child substance abuse prevention, and consulting on program evaluation efforts. In addition, David worked with the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health (CADH) in the development of statewide standards of practice for local public health departments, and provided staff support to the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) Sub-committee on Public Health.

While in PHPS, David met and eventually married his wife of seven years, Lynn Gibbs-Scharf, who is now with the National Center for Public Health Informatics at CDC.

In April 2000, David assumed the role of Executive Director with the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association (STIPDA). In this capacity, David was responsible for all aspects of operations, development, and implementation of STIPDA's strategic plan. David was also actively involved in national injury and violence prevention and control and safety initiatives as a member of national advisory groups and committees addressing injury and violence prevention and control.

Since May 2006, David has consulted several national public health oriented associations and Georgia-based non-profits on association management, planning and organizational development issues. When not consulting, David is steadfastly dedicated to making a difference in the lives of his family, including the creation of nutritious and enticing meals that daughter Emily (age 5) and son Ryan (age 2) will actually eat.

David received his undergraduate degree in biochemistry from Occidental College in Los Angeles, California, and his masters in public health/epidemiology from San Diego State University.

Sophia Kazakova, MD, PhD, MPH presently serves as a Senior Service Fellow in the Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases at CDC. During 2003-2005 she served as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer at the CDC's Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (formerly the Hospital Infections Program). After finishing EIS Dr. Kazakova worked in Moscow, Russia, for the CDC's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination. Prior to coming to CDC she conducted doctoral research at the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health in the area of access to care and racial/ethnic health and healthcare disparities using the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) data. Dr. Kazakova was also involved in projects related to quality of care while working at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research. Dr. Kazakova's areas of interest include health outcomes and patient safety research, quality of care, and healthcare policy analysis and decision making. Dr. Kazakova has a medical degree from the Urals State Medical Academy, Russia, a Masters Degree in Public Health from the Boston University School of Public Health, and a PhD in Health Policy from Johns Hopkins University.

CCID Goal Team:

Mitch Cohen - CCID Goal Champion
Blake Caldwell - Strategy and Innovation Officer David Scharf - Deputy Strategy and Innovation Officer Sophia Kasakova - Health Scientist Maurice Thompson - Program Manager Linda Cunningham - Program Assistant

Healthy Children - Beth Stevenson
Health Institutions - Hugh Potter
Healthy Healthcare - Anant Shah
Infectious Threats - David Withum
Anthrax Scenario Lead - Mary Ari

Blake Caldwell, MD, MPH
Strategy and Innovation Officer
Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases Email Bcaldwell@CDC.GOV Phone 404 639 1045

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October 29, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

I am thrilled to welcome back **Terence Chorba**, MD, FACP, to our National Center. Terry is returning to us as the Associate Director for Science (ADS), a position he held for two years before his retirement from the Commissioned Corps in mid-2006. For the past year, Terry has served as a Vice-President at Macro International.

Terry came to CDC in 1983 as an EIS Officer in the Division of Host Factors where he worked on AIDS surveillance for the hemophilia population and received the Alexander Langmuir prize. He also worked in the field at the State Health Department in North Carolina, before returning to Atlanta, where he served as a staff epidemiologist in the Epidemiology Program Office and in the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control from 1985 to 1995. Terry then turned his focus to international health.

Starting in 1995 when he was with EPO's Division of International Health, Terry established and directed CDC's Central Asian Office in Kazakhstan, coordinating technical assistance regarding diphtheria, polio, hepatitis, tuberculosis, malaria, typhoid, acute respiratory illnesses and diarrheal diseases in five former Soviet republics. In 1999, Terry joined our National Center, directing CDC's research field station in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (*Project Retro-CI*). Despite considerable political unrest, *Project Retro-CI* expanded HIV testing and care to thousands of patients in the early days of the Global AIDS Program. From 2001 to 2004, he served as a staff epidemiologist with the Division of STD Prevention in Atlanta.

Terry has authored over 130 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and *MMWR* publications. He received his B.A. from Columbia and his M.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He has an M.A. in Physiology and Experimental Psychology from Oxford, an M.P.H. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and an M.P.A. from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and in General Preventive Medicine, and is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases of the Department of Medicine at Emory.

I am told we are very lucky to have Terry working with us in public health. His first career choice was the entertainment industry, but he was rejected after an audition with the music group Sha Na Na.

### **Special thanks to Drs. Holtzman, Nakashima and Semaan**

I want to thank **Deborah Holtzman**, Ph.D., who has served as the Acting ADS for the last month. I have asked that she continue to consult with NCHHSTP leaders on key items of interest. Deborah will return to her recently appointed position of Senior Behavioral Scientist in the Division of Viral Hepatitis' Epidemiology Branch, and continue to serve as a key member of the NCHHSTP Surveillance Work Group.

I also want to acknowledge the contribution of **Allyn Nakashima**, MD, who served as the Acting Associate Director for Science (ADS) for NCHHSTP in late 2006 and earlier this year. Allyn returned to GAP in February to work on the TB/HIV Team in the HIV Care and Treatment Branch. Her contributions were invaluable.

Lastly, I want to recognize the work of our Deputy ADS **Salaam Semaan**, DrPH. She served as the Acting ADS many times in 2006 and 2007. Salaam's dedication to the job, attention to detail and energy has ensured that the Center ADS office has continued to run smoothly during this transition period.

Again, thank you to all of our acting ADSs and welcome back Terry.

Sincerely,

Kevin A. Fenton, M.D., Ph.D., FFPH  
Director  
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention  
<http://nchhstp/>

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Announcement of Three Permanent Associate Directors for Communication in CCID

National Center for Health Marketing has announced permanent appointments of three permanent CCID Associate Directors of Communication Science (ADCS). ADCSs serve a pivotal role at CDC as the principal advisors to National Center Directors on communication and marketing science, research, and practice. The ADCS's provide senior health marketing and communication leadership to direct development and advance research, surveillance, and prevention activities through implementation of comprehensive communication and health marketing programs. Each ADCS is a direct report to the Director of the National Center for Health Marketing (NCHM) and is matrixed to the Director of the National Center in which he/she is embedded, and these appointments were jointly selected by NCHM and the respective National Centers.

* **Kris Sheedy**, Ph.D., National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD)

Kris Sheedy has served as Acting Lead, Health Communication Specialist in the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) since August 2006. She served previously as team lead for the Information Management Team of NCHM's Emergency Communication Branch (ECB), and in several health communication roles for the National Immunization Program. As part of the health communication leadership at NCIRD, she has been responsible for planning and managing the CDC's annual influenza media campaign, the Center's largest health communication contract and pandemic influenza awareness public service project in concert with HHS. She has been involved in developing communication science research for key immunization issues and conducting outreach programs to parent groups who oppose vaccination, as well as communication efforts for smallpox vaccination, monkeypox, influenza vaccine shortage, and Hurricane Katrina. In 1997, she helped establish the communication component of the newly established Office of Genetics and Disease Prevention (OGDP). Kris holds a Ph.D. in speech communications from the University of Georgia, and master's and bachelor's degrees from the University of Arkansas.

* **Susan Robinson, M.S.**, National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP)

Susan Robinson brings to NCHHSTP expert knowledge and skills in risk communication, qualitative research, the translation of audience research into strategy, and on-line/digital media channels, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in digital media at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She most recently served as the Chief of the Health Promotion and Community Involvement Branch at the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Prior to this, she served as the Deputy Director of the NCEH/ATSDR Office of Communication and as a health communication team lead for the Division of Health Education and Promotion. Susan has worked in the former CDC Office of

Communication leading collaborative projects to improve the CDC's Web channel usage and served as consultant to programs on strategic communication planning and production. Susan began her CDC career in 1992 producing external communications and distance learning programs for public health professionals. Before CDC, Susan was a principal in a communications and IT consulting firm serving Fortune 500 and government clients. She has extensive experience in creative arts across media, including interactive media and broadcast television and film. Early in her career, she received an Academy Award nomination for best feature documentary. Susan holds a master's degree in human-computer interaction (HCI) from Georgia Tech and a bachelor's in economics from the University of North Carolina, and her Ph.D studies focus on tangible media and collaboration technologies to support community engagement.

* **John O'Connor, M.S.**, National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases (NCPDCID)

John O'Connor has served as the Acting ADCS in NCPDCID since January 2007, during which time he has directed communication science for issues including emerging infectious diseases and bioterrorism preparedness and response. He worked for 16 years in the Office of the Director, National Center for Infectious Diseases and in the Division of Viral and Rickettsial Diseases as a principal health communications expert and advisor working on a variety of infectious disease communication science issues, coordinating the division's emergency communication activities, and serving as a liaison to other CDC health communications and media relations offices. From April through December 2006 he served on detail as the communications lead with the Influenza Coordination Unit and the Pandemic Influenza Task Force. Prior to CDC, John worked for the National Indian Health Board on national proactive media campaigns, national and intertribal partnership and researched, planned and established a telecommunications program for tribal health issues. John is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara and earned a master's degree from the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communications.

CCID has the deepest gratitude and appreciation for the staff who have served in acting roles as ADCS's for NCHHSTP and NCIRD in recent years. Niki Keiser has made exceptional contributions to the communication and marketing outreach and service for NCHHSTP. Niki will transition to the role of Acting Senior Advisor for Partnerships at NCHHSTP, which includes the management of the National Prevention Information Network (NPIN). Charlis Thompson has been a key leader in the communication team of NCIRD for many years, and has been Acting ADCS since June 2004. Having dedicated much energy and communication expertise to CDC's important campaign work on immunization and respiratory diseases, she will retire from Federal service this month. NCHHSTP Director Kevin Fenton and NCIRD Director Anne Schuchat share CCID's sincere appreciation for Niki and Charlis and their commitment to the critical and ongoing communication work of CDC.

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**CDC Helps Pilot PH Apprentices**

10/17/2007

CDC and the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) joined forces this past summer to launch the Public Health Apprentice Program (PHAP) to help meet the growing workforce needs and challenges of the public health system at the federal, state, and

local levels. “This collaborative project will also help revitalize the public health advisor (PHA) pipeline,” says project director **Glen Koops**.

The PHAP is a three-year, work-based program designed to develop qualified candidates for eventual employment in public health program operations, management, and leadership positions with state and local health departments and the CDC. In August, the apprentices—and their host site supervisors from county health departments in Florida—converged on the Roybal campus for a week-long orientation to CDC and an introduction to public health.

#### Career Pathway for Entry-Level Public Health Workers

In 2006, the Office of Workforce and Career Development began working with the Portfolio Management Program to design a career pathway for entry-level public health workers that includes opportunities for gaining knowledge of public health systems, skills in front-line public health practice and program implementation, and experience in preparedness and response activities. Out of this effort, the PHAP was formed, and an initial pilot program with the FDOH was launched.

“Florida was an ideal location to introduce this pilot,” says Koops. “Kristin Brusuelas, CDC’s senior management official in Florida, was able to bring together the right individuals within the FDOH. There is a very robust public health infrastructure, and the FDOH leadership has a clear commitment to developing a strong public health workforce.”

Through the CDC-FDOH partnership, ten apprentices will participate for three years in the program and be assigned to local county health department host sites where they will engage in day-to-day operations to gain first-hand experience and develop skills in front-line service. Participants will also participate in three different programmatic assignments in county health departments.

The apprenticeships were selected from 32 proposals submitted by county health departments in Florida. The proposals selected reflect staffing needs related to eight specific program-based job functions often associated with PHA field assignments. Minimum requirements included a bachelor’s degree.

Each assignment is a learning opportunity built around a eight specific work functions:

- Public health patient/client interaction to elicit or provide information.
- Investigation of public health problems.
- Data collection, analysis, and reporting.
- Surveillance.
- Public health education.
- Provision of public health services.
- Community stakeholder involvement and partnership.
- Liaison with other public or private partners in public health.

The apprenticeship assignments will provide the candidates with experience that will make them well qualified to compete for positions in a variety of public health programs at the GS-9 level.

Recruitment in colleges and universities primarily in Florida yielded 99 applications for the initial positions. The ten candidates selected were chosen through interviews

conducted by senior officials from CDC, the FDOH central office, and a FDOH county health department.

The interview process yielded a group of outstanding apprentices with diverse educational experiences and social backgrounds. "All of them have demonstrated leadership, are engaged in their local communities, and have a strong desire to have a career in service in public health," says Koops.

#### Looking Forward; Recruiting 2008 Group

Looking forward, the plan is to begin recruiting for the next group of apprentices and county host sites in spring 2008. "Ideally we hope to have 60-90 apprentices participate in a 5-year pilot in 5-6 states. This number will help us to honestly evaluate the effectiveness of this strategy and its use in helping us meet the staffing gaps at the local, state, and federal levels for years to come," says Koops.

To learn more about this apprenticeship, contact Glen Koops at 404-498-0291.

This Inside Story by Glen Koops and Sonji Lee.

The new apprentice PHAs are: Donyelle Russ, Bobbie Strickland, Martin Honisch, Camille Gonzalez. Back row: Jabari Paul, Adrienne Huneke, Cecilia Galvan, Kara Johnson, **Toyin Ademokun**, Clayton Weiss.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Do you know of any current employees retiring in the next year or two or three?

Active Federal Employees! Join NARFE today for just \$25

Effective Jan 1, 2008 The fees for ALL new applicants will be \$33
Save \$8 by joining NARFE today!

The NARFE National Executive Board (NEB) voted to phase out the Current Federal Employees (CFE's) incentive program, effective 1-1-08. There will no longer be a one/two/three year option for new CFE members. The first year membership fee (\$33) will apply to both CFE's and retirees. The \$8 finder's fee will remain in effect. The target date is January 1, 2008. At that point, members who join NARFE will pay the normal first year dues of \$33 and renew at \$29 plus chapter dues of record. Multi-year dues will continue to be offered after the first year.

Annually renewing member (Multi-year Membership) One year - \$29 + 1 year chapter dues of record; two years - \$52 + 2 years chapter dues of record; and three years - \$74 + 3 years of chapter dues of record.

All CFE's who have already joined or will join prior to 12-31-2007 at the existing incentive rate and are still working for the government will be grandfathered and will continue to pay the one year at \$25; two years at \$45 and three years at \$60. Once they retire, they will be billed at the \$29 national dues, plus chapter dues of record, and of course, offered the multi-year rate.

There are no changes in the Retired Federal Employee membership fees. Retired Federal Retirees are reminded that their best deal is the dues withholding program at a cost of \$24.60 plus chapter dues of record. If you use the dues withholding program, you

will not receive renewal notices or payment reminders, saving the National Office and your Chapter time and the added expense of postage and mailings.

Current federal employees (CFE's), need to know that the changes will become effective on 1-1-08. If they have been undecided to date, they should join NARFE today and save!

For a membership application for the CDC NARFE Chapter 1419 call or e-mail **Bill Doyle**.

Thanks
Bill

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### **RETIREMENTS**

#### **Diane Jacobs Allgood will be retiring on October 31, 2007**

Diane Jacobs Allgood will be retiring on October 31, 2007, after 20 years of federal service. Diane joined CDC in 1987, continuing a tradition started by her mother, Ruth Kurtz, who retired from CDC in 1988. Diane's career within CDC has been diverse, spanning many programs and Centers, including the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, the National Immunization Program, the National Center for Infectious Diseases, the Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases, and the National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases. Her kindness and willingness to assist others in a wide variety of administrative tasks will be greatly missed, as will her always plentiful M&M dispenser!

While Diane has enjoyed her years at CDC and will miss her many friends, she is very much looking forward to retirement. She plans to pursue some of her travel dreams and to enjoy and help care for family members. She and her parents have built a lovely new home in Dallas, GA, and Diane is looking forward to the quiet, relaxed environment it provides.

In tribute to her career, Diane's colleagues and friends will be hosting a farewell celebration from 1:00 – 3:00 pm on October 22, 2007, in Bldg. 1, Room 6060, Roybal Campus.

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Jack Connolly is retiring October 31, 2007

Jack Connolly has worked with the Federal government for about 10 years, serving with the U.S Army and U. S. Army Reserve, IRS and CDC Procurement and Grants Office, Office of Oversight and Evaluation. Prior to his Federal Service, he was employed by Dain Management, Atlanta, Georgia, as Controller and South Eastern District Asset Manager of Real Estate Investments, responsible for 225 employees. He retired in 1996, took a year and did "his thing," traveling, gardening, reading, cooking, and volunteer work. He wanted to continue to share his knowledge and talents to remain active and returned to work in 1997 with the IRS as a tax examiner, reconciliation expert and instructor.

Jack joined the CDC/PGO VISA staff in January 2002 with the intention of working an additional couple of years (2). It would have been 5 years in January 2008. "Time flies when one is having fun, and getting a good job done," he says. "I have enjoyed being

part of the VISA Purchase Card Program with Janet Keck and Tanya Mercer and the Oversight and Evaluation Team with Jerry Shingleton/Gary Koontz as my supervisors. This group has made a difference in the lives of many individuals both internally and externally and has been a tremendous asset to the overall mission of the CDC/PGO organization. It has been a very rewarding and enlightening experience to be associated with such dedicated, knowledgeable, and professional individuals. Leaving is bittersweet, and I leave as a better person because of this association."

Jack has served CDC as an integral part of the VISA Purchase Card Program and has made an invaluable contribution to CDC. We will surely miss him.

Jack plans to keep busy in retirement by spoiling his granddaughter on a full-time basis, gardening, traveling more and hopes to share his knowledge, expertise and talents with those who are interested, to continue to enrich the planet a bit.

PGO/O&E will host a reception for Jack from 1:30-3:00 on Wed, Oct. 31, 2007. You are invited to drop by and wish Jack well.

The office is located in the Koger Center, Colgate Building, 2920 Brandywine Rd., Atlanta, GA 30341, room 106.

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**Diane Small is retiring Nov. 2, 2007**

Diane came to CDC back in 1976 to work as a photographer in the Printing Department CDC had in building 1 at Clifton Road. From there she moved into CDC's Graphics Department for several years. Then after that experience Diane was tapped to become the Brand Administrator for CDC which involved her becoming the project officer on the CDC Identity Management System or the Identity Guide as some CDCers may know it. It's where you go to get the official CDC logos and ancillary branding items for all CDC publications.

After the CDC Identity Management System was up and running Diane made yet another career change to become a Management Analyst. She has worked for the Management Analysis and Services Office the whole time she has been at CDC.

Diane wishes to bid farewell to all the fabulous co-workers and clients she has had the fortune to work with over these last 31 ½ years. Diane says "I could not have been successful in my career without the incredible support of those I've been lucky enough to work with, I am very thankful for this experience and for everyone's help along the way."

Diane's retirement farewell will be held October 25 at 1:00 in the Executive Park building 57, 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room.

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