



WATSONIAN NEWS LETTER November 8, 2005

**WELCOME NEW WS MEMBERS
SAVE THE DATE NOTICE
QUESTION FOR THE OLD TIMERS!
HAVE YOU HEARD?
MEMBERS NEW LOCATING INFO
TDYS / TRANSFERS / PROMOTIONS
CDC LEADERSHIP PROFILE**

**COMMITTEE NEWS
CONDOLENCES**

**AWARD WINNERS
MEMBER NEWS**

SHARE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME to our NEW WS MEMBERS

Barry Brooks is a new PHA who started his career with CDC in August 2003. Barry is assigned to the National Center For Environmental Health, Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services, Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch. He lists interests in running, gardening/lawn, and golf

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**Vera Soltero** is a new PHA assigned to the Coordinating Office For Terrorism Preparation and Emergency Response, Division Of State And Local Readiness, Program Services Branch, assigned to the San Juan, PR office. Vera started her CDC career in May, 2005. She lists as interest: Salsa dancing, reading, and traveling

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Denise Borotrager a Public Health Analyst is a new member. Denise started her CDC career in July, 2005- assigned to the NCHSTP National Center For HIV, STD, & TB Prevention, Division of HIV/AIDS s Prevention, Intervention Research & Support , Prevention Programs Branch here in Atlanta. Her areas of interest include: quilting, and animal rescue-greyhounds.

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**Danitza P. Tomianovic**, is a new PHA , with National Center For Infectious Diseases, DGMQ Division Of Global Migration And Quarantine, QBHSB Quarantine And Border Health Services Branch. She is assigned to the Miami International Airport, Miami FL. She started in this position January 2005 and it is her first position with CDC.

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Lehida Melendez-Morales, is a new Associate member. She started her career in July 2005 as an intern in the NCHSTP, Emerging Leaders Program. Lehida, identifies interest in reading, dance and volunteer work.

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WELCOME to our newest members!

**COMMITTEE NEWS:**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING** - all are invited to call in and participate.

November 15, 2005 2:30-4:00 pm  
Where: CORPORATE SQUARE, building 11, Room 2105 (Phil's office)  
Call In: Toll free #: 866-732-9603, Passcode 873632  
Executive Committee Meeting- open to all

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EVENTS COMMITTEE



The **WATSONIANS** took over the Petite Auberge Restaurant, on October 27, 2005 as the 20th Annual Watsonian Banquet got into full swing. There was a great turn out for the banquet- not a empty spot at the tables! The social hour before the meal gave attendees a chance to catch up with old friends and to meet and greet with the new WATSONIAN Members in attendance. The participants dined on trout, beef, or vegetable pasta entrees and enjoyed a chocolate mousse dessert.

Then the meeting aspect of the banquet began. There was a tribute by Phil Talboy and Jim Cobb remembering JAYSON TRUSSEL, who touch some many PHAs in his role at the Florida Training center. Participants also spent a moment in silence, honoring all of our WATSONIAN members who have left this life hopefully for something better.

The 2005 Outstanding PHA award went to **Anne-Renee' Heningburg** for an extraordinary career to control STDs in the United States, eradicate polio globally, and for leadership and support of CDC's Public Health Advisors. The plaque was presented to Anne Renee by our current President-Elect, **Stacy Harper**.

Stacy also presented a "flame crystal" plaque -inscribed: *In Appreciation of your contributions to the Watsonian Society President 2005*, To our current President, **Phil Talboy** for his dedication and service to the membership over his tenure as president and president-elect.

Phil Talboy presented **Robert Levenson** with his 2004 award plaque as HONORARY PHA. He was unable to attend the 2004 Pig Roast when Joel Lewis was presented with his award as the HONORARY PHA Awards. For 2004.

The keynote speaker for the banquet was **James W. Curran, MD, MPH** Dean, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University. Dr Curran, the WATSONIAN's Honorary PHA in 1989 had the crowd roaring with laughter as he shared his leadership anecdotal experiences he had with so many of our senior membership during his career at CDC. In his speech, Dr Curran focused on identifying how to know a leader by the consensus of the following. Among other ideas and concepts mentioned, Dr Curran's message was that *...you can not be a leader of one....*

(note: photos of the night's speakers and award winners will be posted on the WATSONIAN website shortly - <http://www.cdc.gov/watsonian/default.htm>)

EVENTS COMMITTEE



Mark your calendars, the time is near.
For the WATSONIAN Holiday Party, soon will be here

When: Thursday, December 15
Where: Famous Pub in Toco Hills, Atlanta, GA
Time: 5-8 pm
Cost: \$10 per person, tickets sold at the door

**Come join your fellow Watsonian members for a good time and holiday cheer...
And that includes family and friends, and all you hold dear**

**Feel lucky on door prizes perchance you do take
See old friends, and new ones make!!!**

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**AWARDS COMMITTEE**

**The awards committee is pleased to announce to the membership the winner of the OUTSTANDING PHA AWARD for 2005 .**

Congratulations to **Anne-Reneé Heningburg** the winner the Watsonian's 2005 Outstanding PHA award. Anne-Reneé Heningburg is currently assigned to the Polio Eradication Branch of the Global Immunization Division, National Immunization Program  
The citation read: *for an extraordinary career to control STDs in the United States, eradicate polio globally, and for leadership and support of CDC's Public Health Advisors.*

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CONDOLENCES:

Death of a member

Sadly, we need to report that **George DeRoller** passed away 10/13/2005. George was a tenured PHA and many of our Watsonian brothers and sisters worked with him over the years. He will be missed.

Throughout his 27 year career with CDC, George served as a Public Health Advisor with the Division of STD Prevention. His many field assignments included North Carolina, New York, California, Tennessee, and Florida. He had spent the last 13 years as a Lead PHA in Frankfurt, Kentucky. He was a valued member of the Division's field staff and he will be missed by his colleagues.

The memorial service was held in Frankfurt, Kentucky and George will be buried in his family plot in Rochester, New York.

In lieu of flowers- donations can be sent in George's name to the Woodford County Humane Society, 890 Tyrone Pyke, Versailles, KY 40387.

The Watsonian Society sends our sympathy to his family and friends.

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Death of CDC Retiree

**Carole Dean**, CDC librarian who retired earlier this year, passed away last weekend. Carole's career at CDC spanned more than 34 years and her institutional knowledge was an irreplaceable treasure. She was also active in many library professional groups and was recently elected honorary member of the Georgia Health Sciences Library Association.

We are deeply saddened with this loss and send our sympathy to her family and her many CDC friends and co-workers. The memorial service will be held this Saturday, October 15th at 11 a.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 455 Peachtree Street N.E., Atlanta. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Luke's Episcopal Church Building Fund. Memorial gifts can be sent to the CDC Information Center, c/o Sheila Butler, or directly to the church.

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QUESTION FOR THE OLD TIMERS!

David Sencer's request for help-

Do any of the old timers have a Shepard tube stashed away in their memorabilia? If so would you like to donate it to the CDC Museum to use with STD exhibits? If you need to ask what a Shepard tube is, don't bother, you are too young.

Thanks,
Dave Sencer
If you can help--Please contact DAVE

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**HAVE YOU HEARD?**

Mr. Robert J. Delaney Selected as Chief Management Officer and Dr. Lynn Austin Selected as Chief of Staff for the Office of the Director

I am pleased to announce that Chief of Staff **Robert J. Delaney** has accepted the newly-created position of Chief Management Officer (CMO) for the Office of the Director, CDC. Mr. Delaney's expertise in personnel issues, budget and resource management, and operations management will be crucial in developing the Office of the Director and other OD offices, in establishing management and organizational structures, managing budgets, and working on succession planning among other personnel issues. With 325 FTEs and a budget of approximately \$50 million, this HHS-approved CMO position is a pivotal job for the very visible and challenging management responsibilities confronting CDC. Mr. Delaney's excellent management skills, his depth of knowledge about CDC, and his strong relationships with OD senior leadership make him well-suited for this position.

I appreciate all that Mr. Delaney has done to improve the Office of the Chief of Staff and its efforts supporting the Executive Leadership Board and the Management Council. Prior to becoming Chief of Staff in October 2003, Mr. Delaney has had a series of senior management positions, including most recently Deputy Director for Management for the National Center for Environmental Health. I am confident that he will use his skills and experience to make similar improvements with the management challenges facing the Office of the Director.

I am also pleased to announce that **Dr. Lynn Austin** has accepted a new role as Chief of Staff. Dr. Austin has the experience and skill, especially in the health policy and

change management area, to take on the role of Chief of Staff. A Georgia Tech graduate with a doctorate in public policy, Dr. Austin is currently the Strategy and Innovation Officer for COCHP, where she serves as the lead on goals management, strategic planning, evaluation, policy, legislation, and planning. These position changes will go into effect October 17. In the meantime, please congratulate Mr. Delaney and Dr. Austin, and join me in welcoming them to their new positions.

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

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CCID is very pleased to announce that **Sandra De Shields** has been selected as the Workforce and Career Development Officer for CCID. She will join our Coordinating Center's Team on November 7, 2005.

Ms. De Shields has more than 25 years of experience in the development of a sustainable diverse workforce through the use of innovative consultation, recruitment strategies and various human resources programs and tools. She has broad experience in the field of human resources management including classification and pay administration, staffing and recruitment, employee and labor relations and training and development.

Ms. De Shields has also served as a senior advisor/consultant to a number of CDC – wide steering committees, task forces and transition teams. She currently is the Workforce Development and Succession Planning Strategic Analyst for the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. She is bringing a combination of knowledge and experience in human resources, public health programs and initiatives, and workforce development and succession planning programs to CCID. Ms. De Shields is excited about her new charge and looks forward to working in collaboration with CCID to establish a sustainable Workforce Development and Succession Planning Program. Please welcome Sandra De Shields as she joins CCID in this important leadership role.

Mitchell L. Cohen, M.D.
Director, Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases

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**AWARD WINNERS**

***CDC Connects > Inside Story > CDC's 53rd Honor Awards Ceremony***

The 53rd CDC/ATSDR Honor Awards Ceremony was held on Wednesday, October 26, 2005, at the new Global Communications Center, in Atlanta. In her opening speech, CDC Director Julie Gerberding, MD, MPH, thanked “first and foremost buildings and facilities for their work in opening CDC's new buildings on time and on budget.” This year's awards ceremony featured 23 categories and honored 66 individuals and groups. In addition, Commissioned Corps Officers were recognized for their outstanding achievements or service to public health. The award winners are listed at the end of this article. More than 100 people were on hand to applaud the honorees as Gerberding presented the awards.

**20th William Watson Award**

**Roger (Mike) Parvin**, NCCDPHP, received the William C. Watson, Jr., Medal of Excellence for 30 years of visionary leadership, extraordinary career achievements, and sustained dedication to advancing the public health mission and strategic imperatives of the CDC. Parvin received a standing ovation as the medal was presented to him. The William C. Watson, Jr., Medal of Excellence is the highest honor bestowed by CDC/ATSDR. The medal, established in 1977, was originally called the CDC Medal of Excellence. In 1985, it was renamed the William C. Watson, Jr., Medal of Excellence on the occasion of the former CDC Deputy Director's retirement from CDC.

**Bill Watson** and his wife, Marge, are long-time supporters of CDC and the CDC Foundation. They have donated generously their time, effort, and money to establish an endowment fund that allows for a cash prize to accompany the William C. Watson, Jr., Medal of Excellence.

Watson and Gerberding were on hand to present this year's William C. Watson, Jr., Medal of Excellence. This is the second year recipients have received a medal. Last year, four winners took home the special medal, which contains Watson's image on the front and on the back notes values of "commitment, leadership, health, spirit, and vision" that are the hallmark of CDC.

In presenting the medal, Watson noted that "the Medal of Excellence is the most meaningful award I have ever received, and the caliber of people who have received it makes it more meaningful." He also congratulated CDC on the new facilities.

While sitting in the audience, Parvin reflected on the importance of the award. He also looked back on all its past recipients and felt extremely honored to be chosen. "The most important thing I realized," says Parvin, "is that if I were to share this award with everyone who helped me along the way, it would be broken into a million pieces. I really owe a great debt to all who helped me get where I am."

#### Special Honor Awards

Three special awards were presented this year: Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Executives, Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executives, and the Thomas Jefferson Star for Foreign Service.

The Presidential Rank Awards are presented to strong leaders, professionals, and scientists who achieve results and consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, industry, and a relentless commitment to excellence in public service. All recipients receive a framed certificate signed by the President.

**Bill Gimson**, CDC's Chief Operating Officer, received the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Executives. One of last year's William C. Watson, Jr., Medal of Excellence winners, Gimson is proud of the 32 years he has dedicated to the work of CDC and looks forward to contributing more. "The greatest honor is truly the privilege of working at CDC," says Gimson.

Barbara Harris, FMO, was presented with the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executives. "It's a great privilege to receive this award," says Harris. "I am also fortunate to work with such highly regarded professionals within HHS and CDC, both in public health and business arenas." The presentation of the award came as a surprise to Harris, now in her 17th year with CDC, who did not know she had been chosen.

Paula Abdallah, NCID, who has served with CDC since 1986, received the Thomas Jefferson Star for Foreign Service award. The Thomas Jefferson Star for Foreign Service may be awarded by the President, upon the recommendation of the Secretary, to any US Government employee who, while employed at, or assigned permanently or temporarily to, an official mission overseas or while traveling aboard on official business, incurred a wound or other injury or an illness. On August 7, 1998, Abdallah was severely injured by the terrorist bombing at the Nairobi embassy. In addition to her own injuries, she lost many friends in the attack, including one close relative: her beloved sister, Lucy. Mary Louise Martin, DVM, staff of the Task Force for Child Survival, former EIS officer, and wife of CDC Employee, Douglas Klaucke, MD, also died in that bombing. Despite her injuries and sorrow, Abdallah returned to work within months, and performed her duties as cheerfully and effectively as before the attack.

Abdallah was elated to be chosen for the award. "It's a wonderful feeling. I'm speechless. I never dreamed of receiving such a prestigious award," says Abdallah. "I'm glad to be part of the CDC family and am honored to have served at the CDC Nairobi office."

After promising to name the auditorium where the ceremony was held, Bill Gimson gave closing remarks, inviting everyone to next year's festivities. The ceremony ended with a reception.

### **CDC/ATSDR Honor Awards Winners**

Public health administrative support award:

Janet K. Herrington, OCOO; Pamela L. Robbins-Render, OCOO; the PGO Branch V group, OCOO; the administrative support travel team, NCID; the administrative services team; NCEH/ATSDR.

Silo busters: collaborative success award:

The CDC influenza response team, NIP

Communication services award:

Cynthia A. Gelb, NCCDPHP; Jane P. Mitchko, NCIPC; Sandra S. Smith, NCHS; the "Learn the Signs Act Early Team," NCBDDD.

Contributions to health, safety, and workplace wellness award:

Angie L. Fugo, OCOO; the Quarantine Station Workgroup, NCID.

Employee humanitarian service award:

Richard R. Jaeger, OCOO.

Employee equity award:

The DACH diversity council workgroup, NCCDPHP.

Facilities planning and management services award:

Thomas C. Bruce, Jr., NCEH/ATSDR.

Global health achievement award:

Ali H. Mokdad, NCCDPHP; the measles outbreak response team, NCID; the WHO collaborating center group, NCCDPHP

Information services award:

Jianmin Li, NCHSTP; the public health image library workgroup, NCHM.

Partners in public health improvement award:

William J. Callan, NCEH/ATSDR; David Hoffman, NCCDPHP; Jaime Raymond, NCEH/ATSDR; the informatics team, NCID; the American social health association group, NCHSTP.

Excellence in business systems and services award:

Lily Asrat, NCHSTP; Annette Gay, NCBDDD; Brenda C. Gilbert, NCCDPHP; the standard administrative code restructuring team, OCOO.

Excellence in systems for program operations award:

**James E. Barrow**, NCID; Donald J. Spatz, NCID; the emergency communication response team, NCHM.

Customer service award:

Donna E. Glenn, NCHS; Jeffrey C. Hageman, NCID; Christine N. Pettie, OCOO; the Florida hurricanes mosquito control response group, NCID.

Public health epidemiology and laboratory research award:

Antonia M. Calafat, NCEH/ATSDR; Sherri D. Hall, NCEH/ATSDR; Ronald D. Stall, NCHSTP; Carl P. Verdon, NCEH/ATSDR; the asia/avian influenza team, NCID.

Public health protection research award:

Dana B. Barr, NCEH/ATSDR; Johnny V. Nguyen, NCEH/ATSDR; the botulism toxin method development team, NCEH/ATSDR.

Public health secretarial support award:

Elfrieda M. Alston, NCIPC; Rainy O. Amos, NIP; the secretarial support staff, NCHSTP.

Public health statistical research and services award:

Maya R. Sternberg, NCHSTP; Thomas H. Taylor, Jr., NCID; Leisa H. Weld, NCID; the influenza vaccine shortage team, NCCDPHP.

Contributions to employee motivation and development award:

Larry L. Needham, NCEH/ATSDR.

Volunteer service award:

Gayanga Weerasekera, NCEH/ATSDR; the friends of greenwood group, NCHS.

James Virgil Peavy workforce development award:

Mark E. White, OCOO; the project officer program team, NCCDPHP.

William C. Watson, Jr., medal of excellence award. Michael Parvin, NCCDPHP.

Excellence in innovation award:

Mac Otten, NIP; the international emergency and refugee health branch team, NCEH/ATSDR.

Health equity award:

Jeanne Bertolli, NCHSTP; Connie B. Johnson, NCID; Marian C. McDonald, NCID; Jose A. Mendizabal, NCHM; the Office of Health Disparities, NCHSTP; the Office of Health Disparities Mentoring Team, NCHSTP; the TB bi-national card group, NCHSTP.

Commissioned Corps Officers Award Winners

Distinguished service medals:

CAPT Suzanne G. Binder, NCIPC; CAPT Larry Edmonds, NCBDDD; CAPT Eugene McCray, NCHSTP; RADM Walter A. Orenstein, NIP.

Meritorious Service Medal:

CAPT David M. Bell, NCID; CAPT Mary E. Chamberland, NCID; CAPT Donald D. Dollberg, NIOSH; CAPT Robert W. Linkins, NIP; CAPT David M. Mannino, III, NCEH/ATSDR; CAPT Gary P. Noonan, NCEH/ATSDR; CAPT Marie H. Sweeney, NIOSH.

Outstanding Service Medal:

CDR Brenton T. Burkholder, NIP; CDR Victor M. Caceres, NIP; CDR Eric J. Esswein, NIOSH; CDR Susan T. Goldstein, NCID; CAPT Alan E. Greenberg, NCHSTP; CDR Dale J. Hu, NCHSTP; CAPT Robin M. Ikeda, EPO; CDR Rose J. Key-Schwartz, NIOSH; CDR Peter H. Kimark, NCHSTP; CAPT Daniel S. Miller, OGH; CAPT Joseph Mulinare, NCBDDD; CAPT Michael J. O'Leary, NCID; CAPT Scott M. Presson, NCCDPHP; CAPT Stephen C. Redd, NCEH/ATSDR; CAPT Susan E. Reef, NIP; CAPT Mary R. Reichler, NCHSTP; CAPT Robert T. Rolfs, Jr., NCCDPHP; CAPT Teresa M. Schnorr, NIOSH; CAPT Jean C. Smith, NIP; CAPT Douglas B. Trout, NIOSH.

Also, all Commissioned Corps officers recently received a letter from Surgeon General Carmona, acknowledging CDC's officers for the fine work during recent response activities to hurricanes.

This Inside Story by Yolanda Barnes, on detail for CDC Connects.

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NEW ADDRESSES

Victor Negrón was recently reassigned from the field to HQ...Victor came from KY on Sept. 4th to be with the immunization program. He reported to Atlanta on 9/4/05 as the Team Lead for the Funds Allocation Team, Program Operations Branch, Immunization Services Division, National Immunization Program. The funds allocation team is responsible for making grantee program operations and vaccine funding recommendations.

William Comeaux - I am the new Dep. Dir. of Ops for Cameroon.. we are establishing a new HIV Research Station for the Epi Branch in DHAP...

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**LOOK WHO HAS TRANSFERRED!**

**Scott Salo**, DSTDP has accepted a position with the Program Development and Support Branch, San Antonio, TX, effective October 2, 2005.

**Tchernavia Gregory**, DSTDP has accepted a position with the Program Development and Support Branch, Philadelphia, PA, effective August 7, 2005.

**David Johnson**, DSTDP has accepted a transfer to NCHSTP, DSTDP, Program Development and Support Branch, Atlanta, GA, from the Program Development and Support Branch, Atlanta, GA (Fulton County) effective October 16, 2005.

**Geri Toyekoyah**, DSTDP has accepted a transfer with promotion to Charlotte, NC, effective October 16, 2005.

**Kitty Middleton**, DSTDP has accepted a transfer to New York, NY, effective October 2, 2005.

**Carol Trotter**, DSTDP has accepted a transfer to Harrisburg, PA, effective September 4, 2005.

**Patrick Harris**, DSTDP has accepted a transfer with promotion to Detroit, MI, effective September 4, 2005.

**Antoine Thompson**, DSTDP has accepted a transfer with promotion to Gallup, NM, effective September 4, 2005.

**Alfredia Weaver**, DSTDP has accepted a position with promotion in Chicago, IL, effective August 21, 2005.

**Michelle Amar**, DSTDP has accepted a transfer to Baton Rouge, LA, effective, August 21, 2005.

**Sheri White**, DSTDP has accepted a transfer to Baton Rouge, LA, effective, August 21, 2005.

**Tameeka Johnson**, DSTDP has accepted a transfer to Chicago, IL, effective August 7, 2005.

**Tamara Cox**, DSTDP has accepted a position with promotion potential in Chicago, IL, effective July 10, 2005.

**Gayreon Cowan**, DSTDP has accepted a transfer to Jacksonville, FL, effective, July 10, 2005.

**Gloria DeLaGarza**, DSTDP has accepted a transfer with lateral promotion to San Antonio, TX, effective July 10, 2005.

**Andronicus Linzy**, DSTDP has been reassigned to New York, NY, effective, June 12, 2005.

**Vincent Fears** DTBE has transferred from Detroit MI TB to the Chicago, IL TB Program.

**Name:** Lynn Austin, PhD

**Title:** Chief of Staff (October 2005)

**Responsibilities:** As Chief of Staff, Austin manages day-to-day activities of the Director and the day-to-day operations of the Director's inner office. She provides leadership in the resolution of issues which cross organizational lines, aids in determining policy and program objectives, coordinates scientific and program input to the decision-making process, and assists in maintaining a focus on the highest priority public health initiatives.

Austin manages and prioritizes the increasing number of requests for the Director's time from the public, the media, Congress, other government agencies, community stakeholders, and agency staff. She ensures that the Director is prepared for each week's activities with appropriate information about current and emerging issues, briefing material, speeches, and presentations. She resolves conflicts arising from political, policy and media requests to ensure that the Director can focus on CDC's highest priority public health initiatives. She serves as Executive Secretary for the CDC Director's Advisory Committee and the Executive Leadership Board.  
First job at CDC: Personnel Management Specialist, Personnel Management Office (now called AHRC) (1988)

**Path to public health:** "Both my parents, Carolyn and Ray Austin, were government employees. My mother worked for CDC in the 70's for about 10 years. I remember her telling my sister and me stories of her experiences as a secretary. On her second day on the job at CDC, she told me about a cholera outbreak in Texas and how she was responsible for answering the phone and triaging the media calls. My father worked for the General Services Administration on building and facilities issues.

"I followed in my parents' footsteps with a career in government beginning in 1974. I previously worked for the US Department of Labor, OSHA, and with EPA here in Region 4 before coming to CDC. Being an Atlanta native and through my mother's work here, I've always known about CDC and wanted to work in the headquarters of a federal agency without having to move to Washington, DC. So, in 1988, I took a downgrade to come to CDC from EPA.

"My first job was as a personnel management specialist. After that I worked for the old Center for Prevention Services as an administrative officer and then in 1995 became the Associate Director for Management and Operations for the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP). After completing my PhD in Public Policy from Georgia Tech, I became the Assistant to the Director for Policy and Planning in DHAP. In 2001, I was selected as Deputy Director for the Division of Adolescent and School Health in NCCDPHP. During the last 2 ½ years, I led the FMO Business Transformation team in the implementation of the new Unified Financial Management System with responsibility for all training, communications, and change management.

"Through these various positions, I have managed budgets ranging from \$55 million to over \$634 million, provided management support for national and international program

activities, managed staff ranging from 3 to 100 employees, developed one- to five-year strategic plans, developed and managed GPRA performance measures, conducted policy research, aligned financial and staff resources to support program activities, developed a regional training program from scratch including training for State, city and county staff, and led efforts to institute organizational and business transformation changes.

"In 1996, I received the CDC Honorary Award for Administrative Services, and both my parents attended the ceremony. It's a bittersweet memory for me because my dad at that time was undergoing cancer treatment at Emory and came over here in the afternoon to see me after his treatment. He died about six weeks later. The photographer took a picture of me with my parents that day. It means a lot to me that they were able to be here with me for that ceremony.

"I love working in public health because I feel like we are making a difference. It's something very personal. I know people who have had cancer, who have had issues with obesity and diabetes. It's something I can relate to in my life with my family, and I feel like my contributions make a difference here. CDC is known throughout the world—it's really an honor to work here and be a part of CDC's global public health mission." Last book(s) read: "I love listening to books on tape on my drive to work every day. I go to the library every three weeks and get audiotapes. My favorite authors are mystery writers James Patterson and Patricia Cornwall. It's a great way to relieve stress."

**Family:** Resides in Atlanta with husband of eight years, Tony McDonald, an information technology specialist in the Knowledge Management Division of NCPHI. Tony maintains CDC's homepage websites and has been the SHARE entertainment/recreation chair for many years. The couple met at CDC and married on Valentine's Day 1998 (see related article). Lynn has two daughters, Katie, a freshman at Furman University, interested in a sports marketing and communications career, and Ashley, a junior at Greater Atlanta Christian School, interested in the graphic design or the teaching fields. "I also have two dogs, Cricket and Sasha, which we rescued through a pet adoption, and a cat named Angel, that we found abandoned behind a school."

"My family has always been very active in sports. My eldest daughter, Katie, is on full scholarship playing basketball for Furman University, and my youngest daughter, Ashley, plays volleyball in high school and hopes to get a college scholarship for volleyball. And Tony is a girls basketball coach at Greater Atlanta Christian, so I spend a lot of time in the gym. I'm also a huge Braves fan and have been watching them play since I was a child."

**What are the top priorities you are working on?** "Dr. Gerberding wants to focus on the strategic issues that face CDC. She feels strongly that she can rely on the Executive Leadership Board to handle the tactical and operational decisions and activities so she can focus on the strategic issues—such as avian influenza, preparedness for a potential pandemic, and the related political and media requests.

"Dr. Gerberding is constantly in demand. She is the most visible leader CDC has ever had. The news media want to learn the facts about avian influenza and the nation's preparedness for a possible pandemic. Political leaders request roundtable discussions and she regularly briefs Congress through hearings. My job is to assist the Director in responding to all of these demands.

“Another strategic priority is making sure CDC is prepared for a disaster. We responded well with Katrina and Wilma. We are constantly assessing our response capabilities—looking at how to ensure that we are prepared for the next event. In a local emergency, we are on standby until the state or local public health agency requests our assistance. Then CDC responds with what is needed from supplies, people, expertise, and communications to support the efforts of the State and local public health agencies.

“One of my goals is to identify and delineate the strategic issues that Dr. Gerberding must focus on and those that are more tactical that can be handled by the ELB. My focus is to assist Dr. Gerberding and the ELB in carrying out their responsibilities. I want to ensure that the Office of the Director is running as efficiently and effectively as possible so that we can respond to the strategic and emerging issues.”

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CDC CONNECTS: CDC Leadership Profile: Meet Gilbert Camacho, 10/18/2005

As part of our series of leadership profiles, we continue with a profile of Gilbert Camacho, Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity (OEEO).

Name: Gilbert Camacho

Title: Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity (OEEO)

Responsibilities: “My responsibilities include to enforce Title 7 and also to help in alternative dispute resolution. Our focus is to help this organization increase its effectiveness in utilizing our human capital.”

First job at CDC: This is his first job at CDC. Before this, Camacho was with the US Department of Agriculture, where he served as the Director, Regional Operations and Director of the Food Stamp program. He has extensive experience and a background in diversity, equal opportunity, and civil rights work, which includes working with a variety of public and private organizations including the Department of Defense, National Aeronautic and Space Administration, Gannett News, and the South African Policy Service and Ministry of Defense.

Camacho holds a bachelor's of science in behavioral studies from the University of Southern Colorado and a master's of science in applied behavioral counseling from the Johns Hopkins University, and is currently working on his PhD in human and organizational development (specializing in diversity and structural inequality) at Fielding Graduate University. In addition, he is also a certified trainer and mediator.

Path to public health: Camacho says he was eager to come to CDC because “it provided an opportunity to move back into the field which is my passion, equal opportunity. I was very impressed by the commitment of the senior leadership to ensure equal opportunity. CDC’s pledge of integrity and accountability also resonated with me.”

Last book(s) read: The Art of War by Sun Tzu and Polar Shift by Clive Cussler.

Family/ Hobbies/Interests: Camacho is married to Annie Harrison-Camacho. They will celebrate their 27th anniversary in March. They have two daughters: Holly, 20; and Logan, 13. “I don’t have too much time for hobbies, but I do focus on fitness. I like to play chess when I have time. It is a good outlet for me. I am working on continuing my education by getting my PhD.”

What are the top priorities you are working on? “My number one priority is to help CDC achieve its vision by providing support and customer service. Our office will play an important role in this mission.”

Camacho commenced his new job on October 3 and has spent the month of October visiting CDC locations from Hyattsville to Morgantown to Anchorage to San Juan.

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[CDC CONNECTS: CDC Leadership Profile: Meet \*\*Richard Besser\*\* 10/11/2005](#)

As part of our series of leadership profiles, we continue with a profile of Richard Besser, MD, Director, COTPER

**Title:** Director, Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response. (His first day on the job was August 29, two hours before Hurricane Katrina hit.)

**Responsibilities:** “COTPER has overall responsibility for coordinating CDC’s preparedness activities. As Hurricane Katrina has demonstrated, preparedness is essential for all hazards, from terrorism to natural events.”

**First Job at CDC:** In 1991, Besser was an EIS officer in the Enteric Diseases Branch, Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases, NCID. “My first mission was in November, 1991, an outbreak of hemolytic uremic syndrome in Boston. I was able to link the cases to E. coli O157:H7 transmitted from unpasteurized apple cider. It was the first documented outbreak of this disease from this pathogen in cider. But that wasn’t the highlight of that mission for me. I was in Boston for three months and I met my wife there. I am probably the only EIS officer to go out on an outbreak and come back with a spouse! We were profiled on a TV show called Vital Signs, where they reenacted the outbreak and how it led to our romance. That was a lot of fun!”

Another EIS highlight he recalls was being part of the team to help control the cholera pandemic in Central and South America. “I worked on investigating an outbreak that came in on an airliner. One hundred people were infected. Our investigation highlighted the lack of preparedness of the medical community for recognizing and treating this disease, although cholera was rampant in parts of South America. It really brought home for me the importance of preparedness for this sort of natural event, given how easily infectious diseases can be introduced from any part of the world.”

**Path to Public Health:** “I became drawn to public health through an interest in international health. After college, I spent a year traveling around the world, primarily in Southern and Southeast Asia, and became sensitized to the enormity of global health disparities. I went to medical school with the full expectation that I would pursue a career in International Health. Following my pediatric residency I took a job in Dhaka, Bangladesh, at the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research, working on a polio vaccine study, and getting intensive experience in the management of diarrheal diseases including cholera. It is also where I heard about the EIS program, spending time with an EIS officer performing a rapid health assessment in a refugee camp. I completed my chief residency in pediatrics and then came to CDC for the EIS program.

“Following EIS, I spent five years in Southern California, as residency director in Pediatrics at the University of California - San Diego and working on pediatric tuberculosis control for the county health department. Although this was a wonderful

time in my life, I missed CDC and the opportunity to work at a national level on public health issues.

“One of the highlights of my career was being the founder and medical director of Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work, a program promoting the appropriate use of antibiotics. This program works through partners to change the way in which these essential drugs are used, hopefully reducing the spread of antimicrobial resistance. Through this work I have learned the importance of partnership, teamwork, and accountability. We have been able to document a 40% decline in antibiotic use for children over the past decade. While this is not directly attributable to our campaign, it does demonstrate the ability of well-designed public health programs to change practice.”

**Last book(s) read:** “I read a lot for pleasure, mainly new fiction. My favorite book from this summer was *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, by Jonathan Safran Foer. It is set in New York during the aftermath of the World Trade Center collapse and is written from the perspective of a 9-year-old boy who lost his father. The author is able to capture the sense of loss and longing in a voice that rings true. “I also enjoyed *A Fine Balance*, by Rohinton Mistry, which is set in India in the 1970’s, during the state of emergency. It’s about issues of class and power.”

**Family:** “I am married to Jeanne Besser. She is a food writer at the Atlanta Journal and Constitution. She just published her third cookbook entitled *The 5:30 Challenge* and is based on one of her weekly columns. We have two children: Alex, 10, and Jack, 7, who attend Fernbank Elementary. As a family we love baseball and are big Braves fans. I’m also an avid tennis player.”

**What are the top priorities you are working on?** “COTPER has the enormous responsibility for ensuring that we are prepared for public health emergencies, be they natural or intentional. Preparedness is a continuum rather than a state of being. We need to work to improve our ability to measure our state of preparedness and determine where gaps lie so that we can continually improve our ability to prevent, respond to, and recover from these events.

“I want to ensure accountability. The American people have given CDC an enormous amount of resources to address preparedness. It is our responsibility to use these resources in the most appropriate manner and to be able to demonstrate improvements in our preparedness and response capabilities.”

A second priority, he says “is to continue to improve the integration of public health science in the work we do. It is essential that the projects that we fund are based on the best public health available and address identified gaps in preparedness. I see it as a major priority to strengthen the bridges between CDC’s science and programmatic activities.”

He says starting work on the day Hurricane Katrina hit really put things in perspective. “Coming on board with COTPER at the beginning of a crisis let me see our strengths and gaps as well as the enormous talent across the agency. As an agency, CDC really stepped up to the plate in working with federal, state, and local partners to face a disaster on an unprecedented scale in this country. We must now make sure to learn from this experience to improve our preparedness and response for future

emergencies.”

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SHARE Services to Help All Regular Employees
Contact: Tony McDonald - 404-498-6217

CDC ASO Appreciation for Golijov's Ainadamar ("Fountain of Tears")

Location: WAC Symphony Hall - \$12 CDC tickets specials –

Wednesday, November 09, 2005 From: 07:30 PM To: 10:30 PM

Read link below for more info...

Web site: <http://intranet.cdc.gov/ecp/groups/share/shnews.html#cdcaso>

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CDC/SHARE ASO Holiday Entertainment Specials

Location: Woodruff Arts Center –

Sunday, December 04, 2005 From: 02:00 PM To: 05:00 PM

Email Tony to reserve Contact: Tony McDonald - 404-498-6217

- Web site: <http://intranet.cdc.gov/ecp/groups/share/shnews.html#hes>
- Read link above for more details

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