

Call for Abstracts Announced for 2009 Symposium

The 2009 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium agenda planning committee invites interested individuals to submit abstracts for consideration as concurrent track presentations for the conference, which will be held June 1-4 at the Atlanta (GA) Marriott Marquis. The theme for the 2009 conference is **Leading the Public Health Workforce in America**. The deadline for abstract submissions is **November 14, 2008**. Visit, www.phscofevents.org for more information or to submit.

Submitters should be prepared to make a 30 or 60-minute presentation as part of tracked sessions. The committee currently anticipates six concurrent tracked sessions throughout Wednesday June 3 and Thursday, June 4. Decisions on approved abstracts are expected by December 31, 2008.

Abstracts are sought that provide an opportunity for those engaged at all levels and settings of public health to share innovative and effective practice and research that relate to the meeting's overall theme or any of the four sub-themes described below. The examples listed below are for illustration purposes only. Any topics falling within the realm of the overall theme or sub-theme will be considered.

Track 1: Leading the Public Health Workforce in America

The focus of this track is on public health workforce leadership, trends, strategies and needs. Topics can range from public policy issues related to leading and sustaining a viable public health workforce to clinician career pathways in becoming a public health leader. Case studies and examples of leadership and/or successful public health workforce strategies at all levels would be of interest. Example topics could include:

- What does it mean to be a Public Health (PH) leader? Elements of leading a public health workforce. Developing public health leaders.
- Projected needs and public policy issues for sustaining a viable public health workforce over the next 25 years. What is the public health workforce?
- Culturally competent leadership of the public health workforce in an increasingly more diverse society.
- Leading a public health workforce through change, a crisis, or in uncertainty.
- Answering the call - realizing the PH leader within. Transitioning from patient to community health. Identifying a personal action plan and career pathway.
- Think globally, act locally – how clinicians can best interact with the public health leadership and infrastructure.
- The rise of a vertically integrated (local to global) public health workforce.
- Power and Influence- Leading national health care reform with an emphasis (platform) on Public Health – impact on public health workforce requirements
- Providing public health leadership to a global public health workforce
- The impact of an aging public health workforce on providing essential public health services

Track II: Strategies for Ensuring a Viable and Effective Public Health Workforce

The focus of this track is on preparing the public health workforce now and in the future. Case studies and examples of the following possible example topics would be of interest:

- Preparing the public health workforce for future public health challenges
- Strategies for recruitment and retention of public health professionals from among the next generation; understanding generational differences.
- Strategies of addressing the education needs of the for developing the next generation of public health professionals
- Education, training, and credentialing standards for the public health workforce
- Standardizing core competencies for the public health workforce
- Providing training and real-life experience to public health students
- Equipping the public health workforce with information technology tools
- Didactic and on-line public health workforce training and development programs
- Career development for the public health professional
- Training clinicians to be public health leaders
- The significant roles of clinicians in public health practice
- Developing linkages in health care and public health practice
- Preparing Public Health Workers for disasters and the aftermath
- Information technology and its impact on the public health
- Resources for Public Health Workers during disasters
- Strategies for personal wellness for public health workers

Track III: Partnerships to Improve Public Health

This track will focus on areas where leadership in partnering, including leveraging of people and resources, both domestically and internationally, can result in more effective and efficient public health workforce. Case studies and examples of private-public partnerships, academic and state or local government interactions, NGO and federal or international aid program partnerships, and international collaborative opportunities are of interest. Example presentation topics could be as follows:

- Joint IHS/VA health care programs for Native American veterans
- Use of community consortium in the Federal Healthy Start Program
- Corporate involvement to improve community health
- Successful partnerships with media to disseminate health messages
- International, federal, state, and local collaborations to improve health through surveillance or innovative programs
- Partnering with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to facilitate successful translation of research to practice
- Strategies for constructing effective partnerships among diverse agencies/organizations
- Organization and ethical challenges of partnerships and how to overcome them
Developing partnerships with community health centers for emergency preparedness planning

- Expanding the public health workforce by collaboration with the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), people living with HIV/AIDS, and people with disabilities.
- Partnering with faith based communities/organizations to address a wide range of public health issues to achieve better health and eliminate disparities
- Partnering with public health laboratories to improve frontline defense against emerging infectious diseases
- Public-private partnerships to develop strategies for improving US food safety
- The importance of partnerships between health care and public health

Track IV: Preparing the Public Health Workforce for All Hazards

This track is for presentations and discussions regarding the roles of the public health workforce for preparedness and response to all hazards. Case studies and examples would be of interest. Example presentation topics could be as follows:

- Workforce standards and competencies for ESF 8 preparedness and response
- Preparing the workforce for ESF-8 core functions (what works, what doesn't work, strategies for future efforts)
- Measuring preparedness capability in the workforce
- Developing a surge capacity for health workforce, hospitals (treatment and patient isolation), laboratories, and patient transportation
- The 2008 hurricanes response experience: federal, state, and local public health workforce coordination
- Leveraging all health care workers to respond to disasters: Medical Reserve Corps, etc.
- Preparing the public health workforce for the pandemic flu
- Public health legal preparedness for emergencies
- Cross sector Federal coordination for emergency response (HHS, DHS/FEMA, FBI)
- Risk communication for the public health workforce
- Resources/tools/training for emergency preparedness and response
- Special public health missions (e.g., formaldehyde testing in travel trailers)