

## FPHA President's Message for the *Florida Public Health Review*

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It is with great pleasure that I write to initiate Volume II of the *Florida Public Health Review* that is a joint collaboration between the University of South Florida College of Public Health and the Florida Public Health Association. Dr. Robert J. McDermott, the article authors, the *FPHR* staff, and the Founding Board of Editors have, in Volume I, provided a great start to timely communication of public health research and best public health practices in the state. Use of online technology makes this vehicle of communication easily available to not only those of us in Florida but those worldwide with an interest in public health. The *Florida Public Health Review* is an important vehicle to link the public health academic community (both students and faculty) with public health practitioners. It also provides a forum for public health practitioners to communicate with one another about innovative and successful projects or about lessons learned in the daily challenging work of public health.

FPHA will be meeting with the Florida Association of Public Health Nurses, Inc.(FAPHN) for our Annual Education Conference this year. The theme of the July 26-29, 2005 Annual Education Conference of the Florida Public Health Association is EMBRACING CHANGE: A HEALTHIER FLORIDA FOR ALL. We hope to have you with us at this exciting event to be held at the Hyatt Hotel in Sarasota, Florida. Certainly the initiation of the *Florida Public Health Review* with its state-of-the-art format is about "embracing change." The *Florida Public Health Review* is another avenue that FPHA members and others can use to find out about changes and proposed changes that can potentially impact the health of Floridians and visitors to the state of Florida.

Participation in the publication of an online journal strengthens the Florida Public Health Association's ability to accomplish its mission: "to advance public health through advocacy, education, and networking." My vision would be that we would see one or more authors from each of Florida's counties having written an article for the *Florida Public Health Review* within the next three years.

This FPHA year (2004-2005) has seen the Florida public health scene tackle a variety of challenges that we need to discuss in the *Florida Public Health Review*. Examples include: the public health responses to an unprecedented number of



hurricanes in fall 2004, obesity prevention initiatives on the local and state levels, the links with city planners to build environments that support health, injury prevention efforts, and the availability of influenza vaccine. We also can share progress toward meeting *Healthy People 2010* objectives through our online journal.

The *Florida Public Health Review* is YOUR professional journal. I encourage all FPHA members to submit articles to the *Florida Public Health Review*, and to read its timely articles. You can submit in a variety of categories- Practice Notes, Commentaries, Interviews, State of the Art Reviews, and Research. Each year, the plenary sessions, the Poster Session, the Public Health Student and Faculty Presentation session, and FPHA Section meetings at the FPHA Annual Education Conference highlight interesting public health programs or research work that would serve as the basis for a submission. I am continually amazed at the creative and pioneering work that is being accomplished in Florida's Department of Health, Florida's universities, and other public health community organizations in the state. Let's resolve in 2005 to share this work and our thoughts more with each other through the online *Florida Public Health Review*.

Lastly I want to end this message for a word of congratulations to our online journal partner, the University of South Florida College of Public Health. The College has achieved a major milestone now having served the public health education needs of Florida for over 20 years. FPHA, as your partner and friend, salutes this achievement.