



## &gt;&gt; TAKE NOTE !

Pan American Health Organization/ USF COPH 15<sup>th</sup> Summer Session in Epidemiology Starts Today!

The primary objective of the program is to provide intensive instruction in the principles, methods, and applications of epidemiology. It includes three intermediate level courses in epidemiology and biostatistics. Each course has 21 sessions of one to one and a half hours each. The intermediate level course in biostatistics includes 30 sessions of one hour. All three courses include practical sessions that account for 50 percent of the seminar time. This program is targeted for Spanish-speaking public health professionals at the graduate level. It is required that participants have had previous training in basic epidemiology and biostatistics. The current group of students includes physicians, lawyers, nurses, agricultural engineers, and veterinarians, among other professionals.

This is the longest running collaborative program with PAHO. We have over 400 alumni of the program who are the decision makers in their respective countries. They are Ministers and Vice Ministers of Health as well as Deans and Directors. This year we have 31 students from 12 countries. The sessions are taught in Spanish.

## PERT Certifiers for Spring 2005 (12/22/04-05/06/05) - Certification Deadline is Friday, September 2, 2005

The SPRING 2005 PERT effort reports are currently under review and will be released as soon as they have been verified by HR and Research Compliance. At this time you will need to make sure that you can access GEMS - Self Service without any problems. The instructions for accessing GEMS - Self Service is noted below:

Access to Pert reports

You may access the PERT system and your effort report via:

Through GEMS/GEMS Self Service:

<https://gems.fastmail.usf.edu/gemspro/signon.html>

You will need your userid (**11 digit emplid**) and password. If you don't remember your ID and password, or if your password has expired, you can get the information by contacting the IT helpdesk

<<http://itsupportservices.custhelp.com>> or send request to

[helpdesk@admin.usf.edu](mailto:helpdesk@admin.usf.edu) <<mailto:helpdesk@admin.usf.edu>> or by contacting Betty Persky.

The default password for new users is: last four digits of SSN PLUS birth year PLUS a period (for example, **99991960.**). *Please remember it could take up to 24 hours to have password reset and obtain access to your PERT report. If you having problems accessing GEMS, please contact Betty Persky at 974-4609.*

## Students



## COPH Students to Perform at FPHA Meeting

Six students from the James and Jennifer Harrell Center for the Study of Family Violence will be performing *She's OnThe Bus*, a one-act play written by Marc J. Yacht, MD, MPH, at this year's Florida Public Health Association conference in Sarasota.

Lindsey Childs (CFH), Cara de la Cruz (CFH/GLH), Chiniqua Northern (HPM), Debbie Patrick (CFH), Vierre Placide (GLH) and Marilyn Williams (EOH) comprise the cast for this story about a victim of domestic violence and those who help her through the recovery process. The performance will be Thursday evening at the Hyatt Sarasota at 6:30PM. Be sure to check your FPHA conference schedule for the location.

## Jacqueline Johnston Participates in AAFCP Meeting

Jacqueline Johnston, an MPH student concentrating in Maternal & Child Health in the Department of Community and Family Health, recently attended the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Academy of FertilityCare Professionals (AAFCP) held at the Dolphin Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach, FL. The AAFCP provides certification for Creighton Model FertilityCare Practitioners, Educators and Medical Consultants; provides accreditation for teacher education programs; and promotes research and continuing education in natural methods of family planning.

The Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System has applications for natural family planning, infertility, and a variety of women's health issues. It is the foundation of NaPro TECHNOLOGY, a new women's health science that, after almost thirty years of research, is now able to specifically address and treat (in consultation with physicians) certain reproductive and gynecological problems. These may include: infertility, recurrent miscarriage, recurrent ovarian cysts, abnormal menstrual bleeding, premenstrual syndrome, postpartum depression, and pre-term birth.

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## &gt;&gt; Students continued...

Success with NaProTECHNOLOGY exceeds that of current treatment using oral contraceptives, abortion, sterilization, and in *vitro* fertilization. Thorough diagnosis using the tools of hormone assay, ultrasound, and microsurgery allow specific treatment in cooperation with a woman's cycle. A study published in the Journal of Reproductive Medicine using over 17,000 couple months of use shows a method effectiveness rate of 99.5% and a user effectiveness rate of 96.8% (Hilgers, T.W., & Stanford, J.B., 1998.)

Standardized education about fertility awareness and monitoring remain at the center of the FertilityCare Program. Couples, and single women of reproductive age, receive training and tools to identify and track changes in the woman's cycle in order to achieve or avoid pregnancy. Current demands for a method of family planning that is scientifically-based, highly effective, reversible, cost-effective, and easy to learn are met by the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System. This system offers women a true choice, empowering them by promoting knowledge and understanding of their bodies, and communication within their relationships, while also respecting the value of life.

Sponsored by the AAFCP, Jacqueline's attendance at this meeting was an invaluable source of networking, professional development, and insight into women's physical, social and emotional health. For additional information about NaProTECHNOLOGY and the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System, please feel free to contact Jacqueline through e-mail at [jjohnst1@hsc.usf.edu](mailto:jjohnst1@hsc.usf.edu)

Hilgers, T.W., & Stanford, J.B. (1998). Creighton Model NaProEducation Technology for Avoiding Pregnancy: Use Effectiveness. *Journal of Reproductive Medicine*, Vol. 43, pp 495-502.

## &gt;&gt; Faculty continued...

**Dr. Hana Osman is Awarded Synergy Research Grant**  
"In response to Dr. Steve Klasko's request for proposals for the Synergy Research initiative and the interdisciplinary Pilot Research Grant Program, Dr. Kathy Black (School of Social Work), Dr. Sandy Reynolds (School of Aging Studies), and Dr. Hana Osman (College of Public Health Department of Community & Family Health) applied for a one-year partial funding of a health disparities research proposal. The project titled: *Examining Disparities in Advance Care Planning among Older Adults in Southwest Florida* was funded for the total amount available (\$20,000)."

**Dr. Michael Reid Participates in Meetings**  
Dr. Michael Reid of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health participated in a meeting of principal investigators of CDC's public health preparedness centers grants in Boston on July 11 and 12. He also attended the annual meeting of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in Boston on July 13, 14, and 15. The Center for Leadership in Public Health Practice that Dr. Reid directs is an affiliate member of NACCHO

## Links of Interest

[Meetings / Courses / Training Opportunities](#)

[Calls for Applications / Proposals](#)

## &gt;&gt; Faculty

**Dr. Ira Richards Appointed to the USF Laboratory Safety Committee**  
Dr. Ira Richards, Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health has been appointed to the University of South Florida's Laboratory Safety Committee. The Committee is charged with advising the University's administration on all matters pertaining to safety in the research and teaching laboratories a USF.

**Ms. Natalie Preston Honored by Florida Center for Survivors of Torture**

Ms. Preston was honored for her significant contributions to the Florida Center for Survivors of Torture. She received a framed certificate and a letter of thanks from the President and CEO, Mr. Michael Bernstein.

## Alumni

Kristin Houseknecht (Global Health) will begin studies at the USF College of Medicine this fall.

Please submit news/information to Peggy Smith at [msmith3@hsc.usf.edu](mailto:msmith3@hsc.usf.edu)

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## Administration

**Request from the United States Postal Service**

We have been requested the USPS to use the following return address on all outgoing mail:

13201 Bruce B. Downs Blvd  
Tampa, FL 33612-3805

If you have not been using the Zip + 4 Code, please do so from this point forward.

## &gt;&gt;Resources

**Environmental Health Concerns Along the US-Mexico Border: A New Neighborhood for Tox Town**

Tox Town (<http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/>), a Web-based introduction to environmental health risks and toxic chemicals, allows visitors to explore various communities to learn about air pollution, drinking water quality, workplace hazards, pesticides, rats and snakes, lead poisoning, backyard trash burning, and many other environmental concerns that may affect one's health. For more information please visit:

[http://www.asph.org/press/fridayletter/article\\_view.cfm?FLE\\_Index=2421&FL\\_Index=1370](http://www.asph.org/press/fridayletter/article_view.cfm?FLE_Index=2421&FL_Index=1370). From ASPH Friday Letter #1370.

## Important Dates

**Florida Public Health Association Annual Meeting**

July 26-29, 2005, Sarasota, FL

**COPH Summer Graduates Honorary Luncheon**

August 9, 2005

**USF Summer Commencement**

USF Commencement for Summer 2005 graduates - on Saturday, August 13, 2005 in the USF Sun Dome... 2p.m. for College of Public Health graduates - as well as Business Administration, Architecture, Education, Engineering, Marine Science, Medicine, Nursing.

**COPH New Student Orientation**

College of Public Health New Student Orientation for our Summer and Fall 2005 students on Friday, August 26, 2005. The program begins in the Auditorium at 8:30a.m. The Orientation Agenda will be posted in August.