NDSU Public Health Week Wrap Up

April 4-8, 2016 was National Public Health week. This was the inaugural year of American Indian Public Health week as well on April 4th. The week was full of exciting and intriguing events, panels, speakers, and more. For all the events and details check out NDSUMPH!
Grant Highlight

In the fall of 2015, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) engaged the Center for Immunization Research and Education (CIRE) to study immunization policies and practices in the state of North Dakota. Why? Over the last fifteen years, kindergarten immunization rates in the state have been steadily declining, and North Dakota now ranks as one of the five worst states in terms of kindergarten immunization rates. The NDDoH wanted the CIRE to study immunization attitudes, beliefs, policies, and practices in the state and ultimately make recommendations for policy, rule, and process changes to improve vaccination rates in the state.

Kylie Hall, NDSU MPH Class of 2015, is the project manager for this study. Together with Dr. Paul Carson, Dr. Abby Gold, Dr. Rick Jansen, and graduate students, Danielle Pinnick and Nathan Fix, CIRE staff members canvassed the state to conduct focus groups and one-on-one interviews with immunization stakeholders. Over 20 focus groups were conducted, with 165+ stakeholders reached to date. Danielle Pinnick and Nathan Fix have also been conducting pertinent literature reviews and reviewing other states’ policies and procedures surrounding this topic. The CIRE final report is due May 1st to ND DoH.

In August, Kylie Hall will be presenting this project at the North Dakota Immunization Conference held in Bismarck, ND.
Hannabah Blue, public health services project manager for the American Indian Public Health Resource Center, was selected to present about Hepatitis C in tribal communities with a representative from the Office on Minority Health Resource Center and the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center at the National Indian Health Board Tribal Public Health Summit.

Dr. Ardith Brunt, Health Promotion faculty, was selected by the NDSU Faculty Awards and Recognition Committee as the recipient of the 2016 Excellence in Mentoring Award. Dr. Brunt was also promoted to full professor.

Dr. Wonwoo Byun, Health Promotion faculty, presented a poster at the at the American Heart Association EPI/Lifestyle 2016 Scientific Sessions in Phoenix, AZ titled, “Fitbit Provides Valid Measurements of Sedentary and Physical Activity in Preschool Children.” The abstract will be published in an online version of Circulation. Co-presenters: A Barry, JM Lee, and Y Kim.

Dr. Paul Carson, Management of Infectious Diseases faculty, published “Utility of a single nasal polymerase chain reaction assay in predicting absence of skin and environmental contamination in hospitalized patients with past methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus” in the American Journal of Infection Control. Co-authors: M Guerrero, M Wagner, G Carson, C Hanish, J Thompson, M Orr, and F Roth.

Ramona Danielson, MIECHV project manager, was chosen as the graduate student winner for her poster presented at the College of Human Development and Education’s Research Showcase, “Adverse Childhood and Family Experiences among American Indian and Alaska Native Children in North Dakota: Analysis of 2011/12 National Survey of Children’s Health Data.” Co-presenters: MK Kinney and D Muccatira.

Dr. Abby Gold, DPH Vice Chair and Public Health in Clinical Systems faculty, received the College of Health Professions research seed grant for the project, “Organizational, Physical and Interpersonal Factors Associated with Children’s Physical Activity at Childcare Centers.” Co-principal investigator: M Strang.

Dr. Andrea Huseth, American Indian Public Health faculty, was asked to serve as Affiliate Representative to the Governing Council (ARGC) of the American Public Health Association (APHA) for the North Dakota Public Health Association (NDPHA).

Dr. Rick Jansen, Management of Infectious Diseases faculty, submitted a grant to the National Institutes of Health Exploratory Research Grant program (R21) titled, Comparison of Dietary Assessment Methods Using a Diverse, Urban Cohort from Chicago. Co-Principal investigators: E Delp, C Boushey, B Aschebrook-Kilfoy, and H Ahsan.

Dr. Mary Larson, Health Promotion faculty, received a Tobacco Treatment and Prevention grant from the North Dakota Department of Health to conduct a Tobacco Systems Change (TSC) intervention with chiropractors. Co-Principal investigator: K Buettner-Schmidt, D Miller, B Maack, M Orr, and B McDaniel.

Dr. Molly Secor-Turner, Public Health in Clinical Systems faculty, was nominated for the YWCA Woman of the Year Award in the category of advocacy and equality for her work in Kenya and locally advocating to support adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

Dr. Mark Strand, Public Health in Clinical Systems faculty, was inducted into the NDSU Memorial Union Tapestry of Diverse Talents.

Dr. Donald Warne, DPH Chair and American Indian Public Health faculty, presented “Indigenous Health Equity” in Winnipeg, Manitoba on March 17 at the University of Manitoba / Children’s Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba.
Public Health Chair’s Corner

Dr. Warne’s travels took him to the Clinton Health Summit and many other places this semester.

In January, Dr. Warne was invited by President Clinton to speak at the Health Matters Annual Activation Summit for the Clinton Health Matters Initiative with the Clinton Foundation. The picture to the left from the event is Dr. Warne with Donna Shalala, the former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services under President Bill Clinton.

February brought Dr. Warne back to one of his alma mater’s, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, to speak on American Indian Health Policy. It was also the month that he was mentioned in the AMA Wire for his representation of the distinguished panel at the Clinton Global Initiative as the representative for the AMA Minority Affairs Governing Council. He also traveled to Washington D.C., to be an expert panelist at a White House Domestic Policy Council panel focused on rural child poverty. While he was out in D.C., he was able to connect with Sen. Heidi Heitkamp and Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, Dr. Mary Wakefield. Augsburg College hosted the Batalden Seminar and invited Dr. Warne to present on Traditional Lakota Approach to Health Equity, an opportunity that was great way to share the NDSU MPH program and recruit for future students!

During spring break Dr. Warne kept up the momentum providing a keynote address at the 29th Annual Research and Policy Conference on Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health in Tampa, FL. The keynote was entitled ‘Impact of Historical Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences on American Indian Health Inequity.’ He also presented ‘Indigenous Approaches to Health Equity’ at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. NDSU Department of Public Health was well-represented! In March he also was a keynote at the Meeting of the Minds Dementia Conference in St. Paul, MN.

Upcoming Events/Resources

CEPH Accreditation site visit May 9-10th

Graduation Ceremony for MPH May 14th

Student Opportunities

The link below is frequently updated with jobs, assistantships, and other professional development opportunities.

http://www.ndsu.edu/publichealth/student_opportunities/

Student Travel

The link below will take you to the information and application for applying for student travel awards. Please review this information carefully if you are considering applying. Please understand that this opportunity is not a guaranteed funding source.

https://www.ndsu.edu/publichealth/student_opportunities/

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