



Public Health Student Caucus

News & Views

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Conquering the Annual Meeting: Tips for Students

Caryn D. Etkin
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More than 13,000 public health professionals are expected at the 128th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA) in Boston, MA. The Meeting, which will be held from November 12-16, will be the showcase for more than 900 sessions and over 3,000 scientific papers. For many students who are attending the annual meeting for the first time, the size and magnitude may appear to be overwhelming. APHA can be a great learning experience, a way to meet many new people, and tons of fun, as long as you stay organized and relaxed. Here are some tactics for making the experience more manageable and enjoyable for all students.

First of all, remember that you cannot do it all! This meeting will be taking place all over Boston, and it is virtually impossible to see and do everything you want. Some find that trying to get back and forth between the varying hotels and the conference center can be time consuming and frustrating. It is helpful to pick one venue, hotel, etc. and plan to spend the day there. Limiting yourself to one spot per day eases the frustrations. By going through the final program and planning each day before it starts, you will be able to prioritize what you want to see and do.

Also, the meeting is the time to really see the broad scope of our profession. Use the meeting to attend scientific sessions that are outside of your current interest area, to broaden your horizon and perhaps learn about new ways to approach your topics.

Think about attending the Business Meetings and Socials for groups related to your section area, to learn about key players or developments. Sections are another way for you to get involved in APHA.

Interact with other professionals during sessions. Specifically during roundtable sessions. These are a great way to meet and talk other people in your interest areas.

By going through the final program and planning each day before it starts, you will be able to prioritize what you want to see and do.

Bringing along business cards (if you have them) is also a great way to network with current and future

colleagues at these sessions.

Identify where key people of interest you will be presenting, ask them questions, see who else is attending the session who may be of assistance to you in the future.

In addition to scientific sessions, plan to spend a significant amount of time at the Public Health Expo. It is a great chance to visit booths, learn about organizations, agencies, other schools, and finally...gather a lot of fun goodies!

Last but not least, PHSC sponsors a number of programs and sessions where you will have the opportunity to meet students from all across the country. We encourage you to attend our welcome session on Monday from 4:30 to 6 p.m., our business meetings on Monday and Wednesday, other student sessions during the course of the meeting, and of course stop by our booth (#722) at the Public Health Expo. For more information, contact the PHSC Advancement Chair via email, cetkin1@uic.edu.

President's Corner...

In 1998, APHA took another step forward to incorporate more student involvement and presence at its Annual Meeting. APHA started the Student Connection, under the guidance of Lynn Schoen. It is a great opportunity for local schools of public health and public health programs to encourage students to become more active in their participation at the APHA Annual Meeting. In addition, it is a place for students to mingle with other students.

Often times the Annual Meeting can be overwhelming, and the Student Connection offers a place for students to congregate and feel more at-home. The Student Connection will be hosting prominent speakers to come and speak to students, such as Anne Fidler who is the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Academic Liaison and Assistant Dean for Environmental Health Practice at Boston University. This is an ideal place to serve as a forum for students to informally meet these leaders up close and personal.

The Student Connection is just one way that PHSC and APHA are trying to maximize stu-

dents' experience at the Annual Meeting. Flyers of internships, advocacy information, and other items pertinent to student should be available at the tables. Lastly, the schedule of the sponsored events of the Public Health Student Caucus will be clearly displayed, so be sure to stop by and mark your schedules to attend our events. Be sure to especially note our Welcome Session on Monday!

The Public Health Student Caucus applauds APHA for its support and initiative. We hope that all of you who will be attending will be sure to stop by and utilize this space. If we don't use it, we can lose this space for future meetings; thus, the PHSC strives for more student representation at the Annual Meeting, but we cannot do it without your support and attendance. It has been a great year and I was proud to serve as your President. You will be in good hands though with the incoming President, Melissa Stigler. See you in Boston!

*France Nguyen
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Student Networking Tips

So, you're a regular at the Annual Meeting. Think you are an expert on networking? If so, use these tips as a friendly reminder. However, if the thought of having to network at the Annual Meeting keeps you awake at night, read the following tips carefully.

- **Be proactive.** Don't wait for others to come to you. This is the best opportunity for you to meet professionals and students from around the country and the world at one event. Don't pass up a chance to meet great people in your field!
- **Always wear your nametag.** Others may want to talk to you about your school and/or area of expertise.
- **Remember your business cards.** Pass them out to students and professionals alike.
- **Make a list.** Are there significant students or

professionals at the Meeting that you would like to meet? It is easy to get swept up in all of the activities and forget to seek them out. In the program, locate where they will be (or are likely to be) and then attend the event.

- **Know what you're going to say.** Mentally prepare an icebreaker or script the praise you will offer them for their work in the field. After a smooth delivery, you will appear confident and at ease.
- **Ask someone to dine with you.** Invite someone to eat lunch or dinner with you at one of the great eateries in Boston.
- **Be yourself.** Above all, be yourself. Talk about your interests and what you are studying. The individual(s) you'll be speaking with may have similar interests or introduce you to someone who does!

PHSC Annual Meeting Program Plan

Session Number	Meeting/Session	Date	Time	Location
	Business Meeting I	11/13	8-9:45 am	Hilton
3067	Public Health Student Caucus: Oral Presentations	11/13	12:30-2 am	Hilton, Madison
3143	First Monday 2000-01: Student Advocacy for Gun Violence Prevention <i>Speakers: Judith A. Bonderman, Arinn Dixon</i>	11/13	2:30-4 pm	Hilton, Copley
3225	Public Health Student Caucus: Welcome Session	11/13	4:30-6 pm	Hilton, Copley
3268	Eliminating Health Disparities: Using Personal Empowerment to Create Safe Places for Intimacy After Illness <i>Speakers: Jaspreet Chowdary, Sarah Stockbridge</i>	11/13	8:30-10 pm	Hilton, Madison
4079	Public Health Student Caucus: Oral Presentations on Education	11/14	8:30-10 am	Hilton, Copley
4153	Public Health Student Caucus: Mentoring Program Welcome Session and Reception	11/14	12:30-2 pm	Hilton, Washington
4229	Women in Public Health Leadership <i>Speakers: Tessie Guillermo, Carol Woltring, Helene Gayle, Helen Rodriguez-Trias</i>	11/14	2:30-4 pm	Hilton, Madison
4229	Getting Started in International Health <i>Speakers: Ahmed Moen, FJ Cava, Ronald Waldman, Thomas Hall, James Curran</i>	11/14	4:30-6 pm	Hilton, Madison
5074	Eliminating Disparities in Health Care: Change Through Definition <i>Speakers: Jaspreet Chowdary, Sarah Stockbridge, Susan Stocker</i>	11/15	8:30-10 am	Hilton, Madison
5075	Public Health Student Caucus: Student Poster Session	11/15	8:30-10 am	Hynes CC, Ballroom A
5156	Mentoring: Challenges and Successes	11/15	12:30-2 pm	Hilton, Adams A/B
5215	Information for Improvement of Programming	11/15	2:30-4 pm	Hilton, Copley
	Business Meeting II	11/15	6-8:30 pm	Hilton

*Note: The PHSC Student Social will be held on Monday, November 13, beginning at 8:30 p.m. The location of the event has not yet been determined, but will be included in the updated version of this newsletter which will be distributed at the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Saturday 11/11	Events	Sunday 11/12	Events	Monday 11/13	Events
7:30 am - 8:30 pm	Business Meetings	7:30 am - 8:30 pm	Business Meetings	6:30 am - 9:30 am	Business Meetings
7:30 am - 8:30 pm	Organization Meetings	7:30 am - 8:30 pm	Organization Meetings	7:30 am - 5 pm	Registration
8:30 am - 5:30 pm	CEUs 1001-1011	8:30 am - 5:30 pm	CEUs 2012-2022	9 am - 5 pm	Public Health Expo/ Career Mart
1 pm - 7 pm	Registration Hynes CC	10 am - 7 pm	Registration Hynes CC	10 am - 12 noon	Opening General Session
		12:30 pm - 6 pm	Grand Opening/ Public Health Expo/ Career Mart	12:30 pm - 2 pm	Scientific/Poster Sessions 3001-3074
		6 pm - 7:30 pm	New Connections Reception	2:30 pm - 4 pm	Scientific Sessions 3075-3157
				4:30 pm - 6 pm	Scientific/Poster Sessions 3158-3233
				6:30 pm - 8 pm	Socials/Business Meetings
				8:30 pm - 10 pm	Scientific/Poster Sessions 3237-3270/ Business Meetings
Tuesday 11/14	Events	Wednesday 11/15	Events	Thursday 11/16	Events
6:30 am - 8 am	Business Meetings	6:30 am - 8 am	Business Meetings	6:30 am - 8 am	Business Meetings
7:30 am - 5 pm	Registration	7:30 am - 4 pm	Registration	7:30 am - 10 am	Registration
8:30 am - 10 am	Scientific/Poster Sessions 4000-4085	8:30 am - 10 am	Scientific/Poster Sessions 5000-5082	8:30 am - 10 am	Scientific Sessions 6000-6033
9 am - 5 pm	Public Health Expo/ Career Mart	9 am - 12:30 pm	Public Health Expo/ Career Mart	10:30 am - 12 noon	Closing General Session
10:30 am - 12 noon	Special Sessions 4086-4089	12:30 pm - 2 pm	Scientific/Poster Sessions 5088-5165		
12:30 pm - 2 pm	Scientific/Poster Sessions 4090-4160	2:30 pm - 4 pm	Scientific Sessions 5166-5223		
2:30 pm - 4 pm	Scientific Sessions 4161-4235	4:30 pm - 6 pm	Scientific/Poster Sessions 5224-5296		
2:30 pm - 6 pm	Satellite Broadcast	6:30 pm - 8 pm	Socials/Business Meetings		
4:30 pm - 6 pm	Scientific/Poster Sessions 4236-4304	8:30 pm - 10 pm	Scientific/Poster Sessions 5298-5319/ Business Meetings		
6:30 pm - 8 pm	Socials/Business Meetings				
7 pm - 10 pm	APHA Celebration				
8:30 pm - 10 pm	Scientific/Poster Sessions/Business Meetings				