



# Public Health Student Caucus News & Views

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## Setting the Stage: Preparing for the 128th Annual Meeting

**A**ttention all public health students! The 128th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association is rapidly approaching. The event will be held November 12-16 in Boston, MA. The theme for the meeting is "Eliminating Health Disparities."

Students are invited to join the activities taking place throughout the meeting. Each year the event offers research presentations, renowned speakers, and aisles of booths with public health information and representatives.



The Public Health Student Caucus will be hosting a wide variety of activities for students attending the meeting in Boston. The first business meeting will take place on Monday, November 13, at 8 a.m. A second meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15.

The PHSC has scheduled welcome sessions for students as well as mentoring participants. Oral and poster presentations will take place throughout the meeting in addition to the business meetings and welcome sessions. A program plan highlighting the session, session number, date and time of each activity is listed on page four in this edition of *News and Views*. In addition to the program plan, please note the useful Web sites for Boston and APHA.

## Introducing...The Green Corner

**G**reetings from the American Public Health Association's Environmental Section. My name is Neal Rosenblatt. I am a Public Health Student Caucus member and I serve the Caucus as liaison to the Environmental Section and as a Public Health School liaison. I am also a member of the APHA Environmental Section. Professionally, I work as an Epidemiologist at the Louisville/Jefferson County Health Department, Division of Environmental Health & Protection.

The purpose of this column is to open a portal to those of you who are interested in environmental health issues as student members of the APHA. It will cover such topics as leading environmental health issues, activities of the APHA Environmental Section, potential career paths, academic preparation, and mentorship. Ultimately, we hope to launch a PHSC Environmental Health Group and listserv.

The Environmental Section at APHA serves as a multi-disciplinary home for professionals, leaders and students involved in environmental health. The Section's mission is to influence policy and other changes that create and sustain healthy environments and enhance research, public awareness, prevention and treatment of disease caused or exacerbated by environmental factors; develop alliances and professional support with others who work in a variety of public and private settings; and keep up to date with relevant science and policy.

General principles of the Environmental Section are: to recognize and support different interests, viewpoints and backgrounds of Section Members; provide access to information about Section activities; facilitate proactive and well-planned advocacy; and seek opportunities to work closely with other APHA Sections and activities (for

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## The Green Corner

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example, the National Environmental Coalition, the Environmental Health Partnership, the Environment and Health Task Force; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health).

Goals of the Section are to improve environment and health practice such that public health and environmental protection are integrated into practice level decision-making; strengthen APHA's role as a respected national and international force to improve environmental health and other policies so that the policies recognize environmental components of disease and

promote prevention; mobilize Section members to collaborate with APHA staff and leaders in work on environmental health policy and practice and serve as the primary source for APHA staff and leadership of expertise and guidance

*"The Environmental Section at APHA serves as a multi-disciplinary home for professionals, leaders and students involved in environmental health."*

on environmental health issues; build and sustain a strong and active membership base through strategic recruitment, opportunities for participation, effective communication and member recognition; and ensure that the APHA Annual Meeting is a dynamic and current forum for environmental health issues.

The Section is led by its elected officials – chairperson, chair-elect, secretary, six Section councilors elected from the members at-large, and four members of the Section elected to the APHA Governing Council. In addition there are numerous opportunities for other Section members to become involved in the Section in a leadership capacity. Helping with the Section newsletter, chairing one of the

various standing or ad hoc committees, or participating in the APHA policy process are all activities that are open to any of our members. In addition, the Section Council has established additional committees over the past several years to focus more attention on the priority goals outlined above.

To learn more about the Environmental Section and its more than 100 years of active existence, take a look at the Environmental Section on the Web. To access this site go to <http://www.apha.org> and click on *Sections, SPIGs & Caucuses*, then click on *Links to Section Web Sites*, then click on *Environment Section site* and you're there. Officially launched after the 127th Annual Meeting, the site features links to information about Environment Section's history, mission and activities; a roster of current Section leadership complete with address information, phone numbers and email contact information; an on-line version of the Section newsletter; notes of recent Section Council meetings; information on the APHA Annual Meeting; the Strategic Plan; current activities; and ways to become involved. To view Environment Section sponsored sessions at the 128th Annual Meeting in Boston, go to [http://apha.confex.com/apha/128am/techprogram/program\\_4.htm](http://apha.confex.com/apha/128am/techprogram/program_4.htm).

If you are interested in forming an APHA Public Health Student Caucus Environmental Health Group, please send me an email at [neal.rosenblatt@louisville.edu](mailto:neal.rosenblatt@louisville.edu). Include your name, address, phone number, fax, and email address.

*Neal L. Rosenblatt  
Environmental Section Liaison  
Public Health School Liaison  
[neal.rosenblatt@louisville.edu](mailto:neal.rosenblatt@louisville.edu)*

## Unite to End Gun Violence

*Andrew D. Kessler  
Project Coordinator  
First Monday 2000*

*Physicians for Social Responsibility*

**W**e encourage you to bring *First Monday 2000: Unite to End Gun Violence* to your campus on October 2, 2000! *First Monday 2000*, sponsored by Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) and the Alliance for Justice, is a national campaign promoting education and action geared toward reducing gun violence. Students from schools of public health will be organizing hundreds of campus programs, along with students at schools of medicine, nursing, law, and social work. City-wide events in over 40 locations will feature elected officials, experts on gun violence, parents, students, and celebrities. These events aim to keep the

momentum from the Million Mom March going, and catalyze activism for common sense gun laws that goes beyond October and into 2001.

Gun violence represents a nationwide public health crisis that kills more than 32,000 Americans each year, 4,000 of whom are children. Only cancer, heart disease, and motor vehicle accidents cause more deaths in this country. These statistics highlight the severe public health implications of gun violence—and force us to see that we must take action to reduce its deadly effects. APHA Executive Director, Dr. Mohammed N. Akhter, MD, MPH, speaks for the organization when he says, "Easy access to guns makes it very difficult to address other areas of violence prevention. As a first step, Congress must enact sensible gun control measures."

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## President's Corner...

The APHA Annual Meeting is both the oldest and largest gathering of public health professionals in the world. More than 13,000 people will attend the 128th meeting, which will feature over 500 information booths and 900 oral and poster sessions where more than 3000 scientific papers will be presented.

The sheer size of the Annual Meeting can be overwhelming, especially for first-time attendees and students. Let me assure you, however, that attending the Annual Meeting can be one of the best investments you make in your education as a student of public health. This is an experience you will not soon forget. The sessions are informative. The speakers are interesting. The attendees are engaging. You will walk away from this meeting exhausted, but refreshed and inspired!

These annual meetings are designed to enhance knowledge and exchange information about key public health-related issues. They provide many opportunities to meet other students of public health, network with respected public health professionals, explore different career paths, improve professional skills and knowledge, and learn about internship and job opportunities worldwide. The Career Mart, for example, is often a popular destination for students at the Annual Meeting. It offers job seekers and employers an opportunity to meet and talk about prospective jobs. For more information, visit Ca-

reer Mart online at [www.apha.org/career/cmfront.html](http://www.apha.org/career/cmfront.html). The annual PHSC Social, which is being co-sponsored this year by three local schools of public health, is another favorite of public health students. This PHSC Social gives students a chance to unwind, relax and share their experiences with one another. This year's Social will be held on Tuesday, November 14 (time and place to be announced).

Attending the Annual Meeting is a terrific way to get involved in APHA and PHSC. Many Sections, in addition to PHSC, highlight student work at the meeting via numerous scientific sessions. I encourage you to attend these presentations, as well as the Business Meetings and Socials that these groups, and others, will be coordinating. Visit these events and talk with students and professionals with whom you have similar interests. Stretch yourself at this meeting. Make new friends and create new possibilities for you and your future career. You will enjoy yourself. And you will be reminded why you chose to pursue a career dedicated to improving the public's health, motivating you to return to school to achieve more.

*Melissa Stigler*  
PHSC President-Elect  
University of Minnesota  
[stigler@epi.umn.edu](mailto:stigler@epi.umn.edu)

## Unite to End Gun Violence

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*First Monday* will be a call to action for students to get involved in gun violence prevention. For information, email Andrew Kessler, First Monday Project Coordinator, Physicians for Social Responsibility, at [akessler@psr.org](mailto:akessler@psr.org), or call Andrew at (202) 898-0150 ext. 240. Detailed information about *First Monday* and the schools that are currently participating can be found at [www.firstmonday2000.com](http://www.firstmonday2000.com), or [www.psr.org/firstmonday.html](http://www.psr.org/firstmonday.html).

All participating schools will receive (at minimal cost) a copy of "America, Up in Arms," a 30-minute documentary film produced by the Alliance for Justice. Directed by award-winning filmmakers Liz Garbus and Rory Kennedy, it presents three faces of the gun violence epidemic, each a dramatic illustration of the public health crisis caused by the ready availability of guns in the U.S.:

- A California teenager shot unintentionally by a friend who was playing with a gun he thought was unloaded;
- A despondent 19-year-old in Texas who committed suicide with a handgun; and
- A 26-year-old shot and killed by armed robbers on the streets of Philadelphia.

The film can be used as the centerpiece of your school program. It explains the public health implication of gun violence and

how government regulation of gun design, manufacture, advertising, and distribution could save thousands of lives each year.

If you are thinking of organizing a *First Monday* event, Andrew will send you detailed information about how to handle the logistics, find space, get publicity, etc. You'll get an organizer's kit with publicity posters and a short preview of the film. A complete resource package will be sent with talking points for discussion after the film, ideas for guest speakers, and action items for students. You might want to plan a town meeting with police, community leaders, and victims of gun violence. Or convene a panel to discuss the epidemiological research on gun violence. Or hold a local rally or gun buyback program. Certainly you will want to develop questions for candidates running for office this November, to find out where they stand on gun issues. And "get out the vote" drives are critical.

I sincerely hope you will all join with *First Monday 2000*. Let us know what you are planning. The film will be shown at the APHA Annual Conference in Boston this November. A *First Monday 2000* panel presentation, to be sponsored by the PHSC, will also include students who organized particularly interesting and effective programs for October 2. We'd like to hear from you.

## PHSC Annual Meeting Program Plan

Session Number	Meeting/Session	Date	Time
<i>Meeting</i>	Business Meeting I	11/13	8-9:45 am
3067	Public Health Student Caucus: Oral Presentations	11/13	12:30-2 am
3143	First Monday 2000-01: Student Advocacy for Gun Violence Prevention	11/13	2:30-4 pm
3225	Public Health Student Caucus: Welcome Session	11/13	4:30-6 pm
3268	Eliminating Health Disparities: Using Personal Empowerment to Create Safe Places for Intimacy After Illness	11/13	8:30-10 pm
4079	Public Health Student Caucus: Oral Presentations on Education	11/14	8:30-10 am
4153	Public Health Student Caucus: Mentoring Program Welcome Session and Reception	11/14	12:30-2 pm
4229	Women in Public Health Leadership	11/14	2:30-4 pm
4229	Getting Started in International Health	11/14	4:30-6 pm
5074	Eliminating Disparities in Health Care: Change Through Definition	11/15	8:30-10 am
5075	Public Health Student Caucus: Student Poster Session	11/15	8:30-10 am
5156	Mentoring: Challenges and Successes	11/15	12:30-2 pm
5215	Information for Improvement of Programming	11/15	2:30-4 pm
<i>Meeting</i>	Business Meeting II	11/15	6-8:30 pm

## Annual Meeting Websites

Topic	Site(s)
<b>PHSC Meeting Updates</b>	<a href="http://www.phsc.org/meeting.html">www.phsc.org/meeting.html</a>
<b>APHA Annual Meeting</b>	<a href="http://www.apha.org/meetings/">www.apha.org/meetings/</a>
<b>Online Meeting Registration</b>	<a href="http://www.apha.org/meetings/registrn.htm">www.apha.org/meetings/registrn.htm</a>
<b>Public Health Expo</b>	<a href="http://www.apha.org/meetings/expo.htm">www.apha.org/meetings/expo.htm</a>
<b>Housing</b>	<a href="http://www.apha.org/meetings/access1.htm#house">www.apha.org/meetings/access1.htm#house</a> (or) <a href="http://boston.citysearch.com/Boston/Yellow_Pages/Travel_Services/Hotels_Lodging/">boston.citysearch.com/Boston/Yellow_Pages/Travel_Services/Hotels_Lodging/</a>
<b>Airline Discounts</b>	<a href="http://www.apha.org/meetings/gtaround.htm">www.apha.org/meetings/gtaround.htm</a>
<b>Sections, SPIGs, and Caucuses</b>	<a href="http://www.apha.org/sections/">www.apha.org/sections/</a>
<b>Boston, MA</b>	<a href="http://www.bostonusa.com/">www.bostonusa.com/</a> (or) <a href="http://boston.citysearch.com/">boston.citysearch.com/</a> (or) <a href="http://www.boston.com/">www.boston.com/</a>