



~ **October 6th Issue** ~

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American Academy of Pediatrics Opportunity

Dear Public Health Colleagues,

I write to tell you about an extraordinary conference that the American Academy of Pediatrics will hold on November 4, 2006, in Orono, at the Black Bear Inn, and which has immense relevance to our public health work. Please, if at all possible, consider taking part in this event.

Three of the outstanding researchers on the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on adult health (Vincent Felitti), Resiliency (Emmy Werner), and Adolescent Positive Youth Development and Resiliency (Robert Blum) - who have never been together in the same meeting before - will present their work ; and there will be opportunities among a great diversity of partners to go into depth and create ways for Maine to apply this work at all levels - clinical practice, community leadership, and state level policy and systems. This advances the public health vision of creating a safe, secure, and hopeful world for all people. For more information about this opportunity call the Maine Chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics at 685-9358 or email agridleyentwood@aap.net

MORE

American Academy of Pediatrics Continued...

Here's my request: **Could you please consider coming to this conference and/or give a call to your personal physician to urge her/his participation in this event.** Not just pediatricians, but any other primary care physician.

And of course, people from all perspectives are invited to take part in this event, to strengthen partnerships at all levels - public-private, state-community, etc.

A note from Dr. Burt Richardson, in which he articulates why this conference is so important specifically to the medical community, follows.

Thank you.
Dick Aronson

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Note from Dr. Burt Richardson:
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The greatest help you could be at this point is to spread the word to the residents, faculty, attendings, nurses, social workers, psychologists, and parents about the Forum on November 4, 2006. This is a unique conference. Both Dr. Felitti and Dr. Werner are giants in their fields of research, Dr. Felitti with adults looking back to their childhood and Dr. Werner with infants and children following them now for 50 years. When I spoke to them last spring, dreaming of their presenting together, they were unfamiliar with each other's work. Dr. Werner's health makes her unable to travel, but her energy and brilliance is apparent any time of day I contact her. She will be on speaker phone all day. They are both looking forward to the event, and Dr. Bob Blum, who has worked with Dr. Werner, is a wonderful researcher and spokesperson for the power of Resilience, with a focus on adolescents. The event will be a once in a lifetime opportunity and a wonderful privilege for Maine pediatricians to host it.

I've found that a lot of physicians don't recognize Vincent Felitti's name. It's been hard for us to follow the literature about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Even though I had read several of the articles resulting from CDC's Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study as they were published, I had no idea of the scope of the study or its implications for health and mental health outcomes until a little over a year ago.

At that time I heard Vincent Felitti, co-principal investigator, present a summary of the study and its major findings. The first article in the general medical literature, published in JAMA in 1999, showed that the risk of smoking (and increasing difficulty giving it up) rose as the number of types of Adverse Childhood Experiences (elicited by medical history) went up. Although there have been over 30 peer-reviewed articles in the medical and psychiatric literature, 12 of them in pediatric journals, few pediatricians and family practitioners seem familiar with the scope of the data and apply it in their practice.

MORE

American Academy of Pediatrics Continued...

Dr. Felitti's presentation was powerful and provided for me a paradigm shift in my medical thinking unmatched by any other presentation in my now 50 years since medical school entry. I'm expecting that others will gain the same exciting insights as we hear Dr. Felitti on November 4. As an internist, Dr. Felitti has been thinking about preventing ACEs but hasn't had the access that we in pediatrics and our Family Practice colleagues have. It's exciting that he'll be with us all day on November 4 as we explore together with other child advocates in our towns and cities what we can do in our offices, in less than a minute per visit, that will really make a difference for our patients and their parents. I wish every pediatrician in the state could be there and hope that anyone who can possibly come will register soon. Burr Richardson

If you could publicize this in any way possible, I would deeply appreciate it. Some scholarship support will be available. If anyone wants to come but is concerned about the cost and can't make local arrangements, please be sure they mention it on their application. Warm regards, Burr

9th Annual New England Rural Health RoundTable Symposium

Crisis in Rural Health Care: Creative Workforce Solutions

October 18-19, 2006

Sheraton South Portland Hotel, Portland, Maine

The NERHRT Annual Symposium provides an unparalleled opportunity to network, share information and best practices, and generate solutions across state and sector boundaries. This year's Symposium focuses on the rural health care workforce: the providers, ancillary staff, and administrators on whose supply, distribution, training and diversity health care access and quality depend.

For more info:

<http://www.newenglandruralhealth.org/activities/symposium.htm>

Health Literacy of America's Adults

Results from the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy

The Health Literacy of America's Adults is the first release of the National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL) health literacy results.

The results are based on assessment tasks designed specifically to measure the health literacy of adults living in the United States.

MORE

Health Literacy Continued...

Health literacy was reported using four performance levels: Below Basic, Basic, Intermediate, and Proficient. The majority of adults (53 percent) had Intermediate health literacy. About 22 percent had Basic and 14 percent had Below Basic health literacy. Relationships between health literacy and background variables (such as educational attainment, age, race/ethnicity, where adults get information about health issues, and health insurance coverage) were also examined and reported. For example, adults with Below Basic or Basic health literacy were less likely than adults with higher health literacy to get information about health issues from written sources (newspapers, magazines, books, brochures, or the Internet) and more likely than adults with higher health literacy to get a lot of information about health issues from radio and television.

The report is available at: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006483>

Environment 2006: A Candidates' Forum

7 p.m. Thursday, **October 12, 2006**

Ballroom - Eastland Park Hotel - Portland, Maine

Come hear the candidates for governor discuss their views on topics critical to Maine's future: Clean Air and Water, Climate Change and Energy, Coastal and Marine Resources, North Woods and Forest Lands, Smart Growth, and Wildlife and Habitat Conservation.

Free. No reservation required. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.environment2006.net to register for a chance to win a prize, to print a flyer that you can share with others, and for directions or more info.

MORE INFO: www.environment2006.net

All Maine gubernatorial candidates whose names will be on the ballot have been invited to participate in Environment 2006: A Candidates' Forum. Moderated by Susan Sharon of Maine Public Broadcasting Network, the free public forum will give candidates a chance to address questions on a wide range of environmental and conservation issues. Joe Payne of Friends of Casco Bay will offer opening remarks.

Environment 2006 is hosted by Maine Audubon, the Maine Conservation Voters Education Fund, The Nature Conservancy, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, and the Northern Forest Alliance as well as additional organizational sponsors.

Career Opportunities at MaineHealth

Program Manager - Asthma Program

Description:

Primarily responsible for all operational aspects of the assigned program including development, implementation, maintenance, and evaluation. Works with other teams and ensures that all tasks are completed in a timely manner and in coordination with the work teams. Oversees the work of additional staff, if applicable. 1. Bachelor's degree in health care or related field required. Master's degree preferred.

2. Knowledge of project management, administrative practices and hospital/healthcare systems normally acquired during 3 to 5 years of related work experience. 3. Licensure may be preferred or required. 4. A high level of analytical skills necessary to assist in the development and implementation of new systems, techniques, to assess patient care and business workflow and/or procedures, to help determine departmental needs, to support improvements in departmental functioning, and to prepare special and recurring reports or analysis. Ability to use a wide array of evaluative and analytic techniques, including quantitative and qualitative methods. 5. Knowledge of healthcare systems, including but not limited to the organization and financing of health systems and healthcare, managed care systems, health policy, process improvement, and public health principles. 6. Knowledge of, and preferably experience in, clinical process improvement literature, techniques, methods, and facilitation. 7. Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively in writing and in public presentations; ability to write papers, reports and proposals for a variety of audiences. 8. Excellent organizational skills necessary for project planning, definition, implementation, and evaluation of effectiveness. Ability to lead work teams. 9. Ability to work both independently and to collaborate with teams of individuals in diverse settings. 10. Knowledge of relevant practice in medical care, patient care, and support systems. Ability to research and synthesize medical and health services literature. Department: Clinical Integration Hours Per Week: 40 hour days

Apply online at www.mmc.org

Program Manager - Stroke Program

Description:

Primarily responsible for all operational aspects of the assigned program including development, implementation, maintenance and evaluation. Works with other teams and ensures that all tasks are completed in a timely manner and in coordination with the work teams. Oversees the work of additional staff, if applicable.

Bachelors degree in health care or related field required. Masters degree preferred. 2. Knowledge of project management, administrative practices and hospital/healthcare systems normally acquired during 3 to 5 years of related work experience. 3. Licensure may be preferred or required. 4. A high level of analytical skills necessary to assist in the development and implementation of new systems, techniques, to assess patient care and business workflow and /or procedure, to help determine departmental needs, to support improvements in departmental functioning, and to prepare special and recurring reports or

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MaineHealth Opportunities Continued...

analysis. Ability to use a wide array of evaluative and analytic techniques, in including quantitative and qualitative methods. 5. Knowledge of healthcare systems, including but not limited to the organization and financing of health systems and healthcare, managed care systems, health policy, process improvement and public health principles. 6. Knowledge of, and preferably experience in, clinical process improvement literature, techniques methods, and facilitation. 7. Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively in writing and in public presentation; ability to write papers, reports and proposals for a variety of audiences. 8. Excellent organizational skills necessary for project planning, definition, implementation, and evaluation of effectiveness. Ability to lead work teams. 9. Ability to work both independently and to collaborate with teams of individuals in diverse settings. 10. Knowledge of relevant practice in medical care, patient care, and support systems. Ability to research and synthesize medical and health services literature. Department: Clinical Integration Hours Per Week: 20 hour (part time - benefit eligible) Apply online at www.mmc.org

Data Analyst - Level II

Description:

Identifies, collects, integrates and analyzes data in support of the assigned project and/or department. This position works independently and uses methodologies consistent with the established policies, procedures and regulator requirements affecting the department.

1. Bachelor's degree required. Master's in related healthcare field preferred. 2. 3 - 5 years experience analyzing data required. 3 - 5 years in healthcare preferred. 3. Other degrees/certification in an allied health profession preferred. 4. Department specific certification may be required. 5. Ability to work and interact with multiple departments to achieve maximum compliance. 6. Ability to manage and lead multiple projects. 7. Effective verbal and written communication skills. 8. Strong analytical and problem-solving skills are essential attributes for this position. 9. Intermediate knowledge of spreadsheet, relational database, graphics and word processing software is required. Skills with additional statistical software packages are desirable. 10. Ability to work independently and self directed. 11. Ability to pay attention to detail.

Department: MH Clinical Integration Hours Per Week: 20 Hours Days

Apply online at www.mmc.org

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Conference Announcement

Advancing Maine's HIV Prevention & Care
Moving Maine Forward

integrate*educate*build community*collaborate*advocate

October 16, 2006

Augusta Civic Center – Augusta, Maine

Sponsored by: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV, STD and Viral Hepatitis Program

Conference Website:

Visit the Conference Website for Registration and Additional Conference Information

www.neias.org/HIV.html

Emerging Infectious Diseases in Maine: the Public Health Response

~Save this Date ~

November 14, 2006

Augusta Civic Center

for program information & registration: www.neias.org/MeCDC/ID.html

**Fourth Annual Maine Benzodiazepine
Study Group International Conference**

Third Annual Unused Drug Return International Conference

Monday-Tuesday, **October 23-24, 2006** - Eastland Park Hotel - Portland, Maine

Attention health care professionals, policymakers, law enforcement personnel, environmentalists, substance abuse professionals, and others concerned with the human and environmental impact of prescription drugs:

The announcement of the 4th Annual Maine Benzodiazepine International Conference and the 3rd Annual Unused Drug Return International Conference has now been updated. Mark your calendars for October 23 and 24, 2006 at the Eastland Park Hotel in Portland.

One conference track addresses the multitude of issues surrounding the appropriate uses, misuse and alternatives to benzodiazepines, a class of medications used to treat anxiety, stress and insomnia, as well as other prescription medications. Pertinent health safety and improved medication prescribing practices will be considered.

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Benzodiazepine Continued...

A second track focuses on the environmental and social impact of unused prescription drugs stored in homes and flushed or otherwise discarded into the environment. Innovative return and disposal policy and program responses will be illustrated.

Conference registration instructions, up-to-the-minute sessions topics and speakers, and hotel reservation information are all available on our website: www.mainebenzo.org

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Muskie School Forum for Health Care Leaders

In just two weeks (**October 18 and 19**), The Muskie School's Graduate Program in Health Policy and Management will host its 2nd Annual Forum for Health Care Leaders.

The seminar in current mental health topics has been over enrolled and, unfortunately, we are not able to take anymore participants in this session.

Please join us on Wednesday afternoon and evening, October 18th, when Dr. Mary Jane England will present a keynote address based on her work as chair of the Institute of Medicine's committee: Improving the Quality of Health Care for Mental and Substance-use Conditions. This work is part of the IOM's continuing series entitled: "Crossing the Quality Chasm." Following Dr. England's comments, Senator Michael Brennan, Dr. Andy Cook, Dr. Girard Robinson and Dr. Wendy Wolf will provide additional context and insights as they apply to Maine. All attendees are also invited to a networking reception (that includes an hors d'oeuvres buffet) prior to Dr. England's address.

Forum attendees are also welcome to participate in the research setting agenda meeting on Wednesday afternoon.

We think you will find this evening's event to be important and engaging. To register, please visit the Forum website at: www.muskie.usm.maine.edu/healthforum
Please feel free to forward this e-mail to other interested colleagues and associates.

Gino Nalli, MPH, Assistant Professor, Chair, Graduate Program In Health Policy and Management Institute for Health Policy, Muskie School of Public Service,
(207) 780-4237

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October is Children's Health Month

It is the perfect time to remind policy makers that kids oral health is an essential part of overall health. Take advantage of candidate forums, public events, county fairs, and other occasions to educate others about oral health and find out what candidates for various positions can or will do to help improve kids oral health. Even if you only talk with one candidate, you can have a positive impact. Here are some samples you can use.

We know now that periodontal disease is a confounding factor in many chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease. Will you support efforts to increase the number of dental care providers in Maine through expanded tuition reimbursement, scholarships, and training?

Studies published in the past year make it increasingly clear that periodontal disease is a contributing factor in premature and low birth weight babies. Do you support making comprehensive dental care part of MaineCare benefits for pregnant women?

Nearly ½ of Maine's 3rd grade students already have dental disease. Kids whose teeth hurt have a harder time paying attention in class. Do you support school-based health centers and will you support funding to allow these health centers to offer dental screening and care?

New products and technologies make it possible to slow the progression of dental disease and prevent up to 90% of cavities in kids. Will you support increased funding to expand the availability of school-based programs that provide fluoride rinses and application of sealants for kids in schools?

Dental decay is caused by a bacteria. Consequently, once dental decay begins, you can never completely get rid of it. Proper preventive care can reduce the progression of dental decay. There are currently fewer than 10 pediatric dentists in Maine. Would you support rule changes that would allow appropriately trained family practice and pediatric medical providers to be paid by Maine Care for oral health screening and preventive care for kids up to age 5?

Insurance industry studies have shown that a dollar of good dental preventive care saves between \$7 and \$50 dollars in restorative care. Yet the federal deficit reduction act threatens to gut dental care in the Medicaid program. What are you willing to do to protect funding for preventive dental care for kids in Maine?

Maine dentists and hygienists are, like the rest of us, getting older. What kinds of policies will you support to improve access to dental care in Maine?

Do you support incorporating oral health into existing chronic disease prevention and care initiatives?

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Children's Health Month Continued...

We've been busy trying to get people to eat more fresh fruits and vegetables. But frankly, it's hard to eat all those healthy crunchy foods if your teeth hurt. Do you support expanding the ability of comprehensive school health programs to actively address oral health?

Dental disease in kids is five times more common than asthma. What are you going to do to improve kids oral health in Maine?

I'm frustrated by how difficult it is to find a dentist who will take care of kids. What can the legislature do to improve this situation?

Many Maine dentists either won't take MaineCare or can't afford to take any new MaineCare patients. What can the legislature do to fix this situation?
(feel free to pass this along to others or post in your organization's newsletter!)

Kathleen E. Perkins, MPA, Director, Population Health Programs,
MCD, 11 Parkwood Drive, Augusta, ME 04330, ph: 207-622-7566 x225
email: kperkins@mcd.org, web: www.mcd.org

Raising Readers Gets Attention from APHA!

We thought it would be great for folks to know that we are receiving some good national publicity by APHA!!

<http://www.apha.org/newsletterpub/index.cfm?fuseaction=newsletter&secid=20>

For more information about "Raising Readers" contact: Diane Skog, MSB
Director, Raising Readers Program, MaineHealth, www.raisingreaders.org
Phone: (207) 541-7560 or skogd@mmc.org

Deadline for Next MPHA E-News

The deadline for the MPHA E-News is **Thursday, October 12th for the Friday, October 13th**. Please keep this in mind when submitting information. If you have questions about this publication, please contact Michelle Caliandro at mcaliandro@mainelung.org or 1-800-499-5864 x 103.