

News from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine

Newsletter #25; April 2005

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May edition deadline is 31 April, all items to k.forde@unsw.edu.au

1. Launch of the NSW chapter of People's Health Movement Australia
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1. Launch of the NSW chapter of People's Health Movement Australia

A launch and planning workshop for the NSW Chapter of People's Health Movement (PHM) Australia was held on 21 March 2005 in the historic Claffey Lecture Theater, Sydney Hospital. Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, Governor of NSW gave the inaugural address. Over thirty people from varying backgrounds, including community health representatives, public health, primary care practitioners and academics participated in the workshop.

The workshop began with acknowledgement of the land by Aunty Ali Golding. Following Aunty Ali's welcome to the country, Professor Anthony Zwi welcomed the Governor and the participants. He spoke of the School's interest in PHM and why PHM was important. The PHM is a network of global and national organisations committed to giving voice to the people whose health is shaped by policies and programs so often imposed rather than built up in partnership. PHM arose from a range of initiatives by a number of countries responding to globalisation and its impact on health.

In her inaugural address, Marie Bashir spoke of the critical relationships between health, poverty, globalisation, economic rights and discrimination. She reiterated the need for keeping alive the issues of social justice. The Governor's address was followed by four key note speakers: Prof. Ron Labonte, Canada Research Chair, Global Health Equity of University of Ottawa provided an analysis of globalisation and health focusing on ways in which the global economic regime damages people's health (and possible remedies). Professor Fran Baum, Head of Dept of Public Health of Flinders University and newly appointed Commissioner with the WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health spoke about the origins of the PHM and some of its early projects. A/Professor David Legge of School of Public Health of La Trobe University spoke about the development of PHM in Australia. He talked about the successes that solidarity movements in health have achieved through global links and grass roots action over the last decade or so. He spoke about the 'entry points' where PHM could focus its action; issues which have a real presence in Australia but which also have important implications and determinants at the global level. He emphasised that PHM can make a difference and gave examples of where this was the case. Dr. Shanti Raman of Area Child Health Adviser, Western Sydney Area Health Service, focussed on

some of the grassroots level activities especially in India, carried out under PHM international that has made a difference to peoples' health.

For the remainder of the workshop participants discussed issues of concern to people's health in Australia. They identified issues that fall into the broad categories of social determinants, access to services, issues related to specific groups such as refugees and Aborigines and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) peoples. The group also suggested gathering stories related to children in detention, mental health funding, Macquarie Fields, tiered health system and health problems related to ATSI peoples. These stories were to be taken to the second Peoples' Health Assembly that is to be held in Ecuador in July 2005.

Another meeting of PHM Oz (NSW) is to be held on 18th of April at Claffey Lecture Theater of in Sydney Eye Hospital from 4pm – 6pm. Anyone interested in participating is welcome to attend. For further information please contact Ms Husna Razee by email h.razee@student.unsw.edu.au or telephone 9385 3274.

Further information on PHM at <http://phmovement.org>. Information related to PHM Oz at <http://phmoz.org>

2. Office of Media and Communications

The Office of Media and Communications is always looking for stories that promote your work through external media, the UNSW homepage and Uniken. To register or update details on the University's media expert database you should go to: <http://www.unsw.edu.au/news/adv/updateDetails.html>
A rundown on the services provided by the Media and Communications Office, as well as contact details for the journalists who look after particular faculties, can be found at:
<http://www.unsw.edu.au/news/adv/media/mediacontacts.html>

3 Recent grants

Susanne McKenzie has received a grant of \$20,000 from the FRGP for research into "Sharing decision making: helping GPs to work with patients who have diabetes in planning their care".

Peter Harris and Leah Bloomfield have received a grant of \$206,525 from RANZCRadiologists to review and redevelop curricula for postgraduate training in diagnostic radiology and radiation oncology.

4 Achievements

Anthony Zwi has been appointed as an Editorial Consultant (honorary) to *The Lancet*. He has also been appointed as Associate Editor, Global health and

development, for a new journal Global Public Health, which will be launched in 2006.

Linda Kurti has been offered, and accepted, the position of National Director of the Anglican Board of Mission, with a starting date of 1st June 2005.

Anthony Zwi, on behalf of the UNSW Tsunami Group, has mobilised \$40,000 from the Vice Chancellor's discretionary fund. These funds will be used to develop one or more University projects in response to the Tsunami.



