



Health Department

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Confronting Growing Public Health Challenges Together

Milwaukee to host annual conference for public health professionals

The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) has been instrumental in the planning and coordination of this year's Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA) annual conference to be held on **May 20-21, 2003**. The conference will focus on the future of the public health in the 21st century as 250 public health professionals gather from all across the state at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee.

From bioterrorism to "walkable" communities, the conference will cover a variety of topics relevant to the public's health. The conference will kick off with American Public Health Association (APHA) President, Jay H. Glasser, PhD, MS. Glasser will highlight 2003 APHA themes, priorities, and initiatives that relate to diversity, elimination of community health disparities and homeland security. At the conference attendees will be able to tour the **52 foot long HazMat Unit and receive "hands-on" training** in effective use of the public health laboratory and HazMat resources during a chemical or biological terrorism event.

Some of the keynote speakers include:

- Hugh H. Tilson, MD, DrPH, University of North Carolina School of Public Health, "*The Future of the Public's Health in the 21st Century*"
- William C. Wilkinson III, AICP, National Center for Bicycling and Walking, "*The Impact of Transportation and Community Designs on Public Health*"
- Maureen Y. Lichtveld, MD, MPH, Centers for Disease Control, "*From Response to Readiness: When Emergencies Become Everyday Public Health*"

"The City of Milwaukee is proud to host the 2003 public health conference. It is a wonderful opportunity for public health leaders and partners from across the state to join together in addressing critical public health issues impacting the health and lives of Wisconsin residents," said Health Commissioner, Seth L. Foldy, M.D.

Mayor John Norquist said, "Milwaukee's hosting of this event reflects our health department's statewide – and often nationwide -- leadership at a time when the public health challenges we face from issues such as bio-terrorism are bigger and more complicated than ever."

The WPHA is an organization dedicated to promoting sound public health policy and providing public health education for its members and the people of Wisconsin. Formed in 1948, it is the largest organization of public health professionals in the state.

Editor's Note: Following is a conference schedule. To cover a plenary or breakout session, please check in at the registration table for the WPHA conference.

Conference Highlights:

Tuesday, May 20

7:30-8:30 a.m. *EARLY BIRD SESSION* (Regency AB)

Blue Cross-Blue Shield Funds: Briefing and listening session

President Bolger from the Medical College of Wisconsin and Dean Farrell from the UW Medical School will be joined by members of the Public & Community Health Oversight Advisory Committees.

9:00 a.m. *PLENARY*
"2003 APHA THEMES, PRIORITIES, AND INITIATIVES" (Regency AB)
Jay H. Glasser, PhD, MS
President, APHA

10:30 a.m. *PLENARY*
"THE FUTURE OF THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH IN THE 21ST CENTURY" (Regency AB)
Hugh H. Tilson, MD, DrPH

1:00-2:00 p.m. *PLENARY*
"THE IMPACT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNITY DESIGNS ON PUBLIC HEALTH" (Regency A)
William C. Wilkinson 111, AICP
National Center for Bicycling and Walking

2:30-4:30 p.m. "BREAKAWAY" SESSIONS
Breakaway 1 *"WALKING-LET'S DO IT!"* (Crystal A)
Kit Keller, JD Public Policy Consultant, Organizer,
Wisconsin Walks (A mini Walking Workshop which includes 1/2 hour 'urban walk' through downtown Milwaukee)
Deborah Pasha, Moderator

Breakaway 2 *"EFFECTIVE USE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY AND HAZMAT DURING A CHEM-BIO TERRORISM EVENT"* (Regency A)
David Degenhardt, BS
Environmental Health Division Manager,
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Steve Gradus, PhD
Director, City of Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory
Carol Kirk
Laboratory Network Coordinator,
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Jayne Meyer
Coordinator, Wisconsin Regional Response Team Network
Pete Shult, PhD
Director, Communicable Disease Division and Emergency Laboratory Response, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
(Specimen collection, chain of custody, analysis and interpretation.
Take a look inside the HazMat Unit and demonstrate field-testing capabilities.)

