

In this issue

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Dear colleague,

2016 will, undoubtedly, be an interesting year for public health internationally, nationally, regionally, and locally in Delaware. Internationally, refugee health due to the Syrian crisis is a massive concern, and is composed of multiple subsets of public health issues, including mental health, poverty, discrimination, and unemployment. Nationally, the US health system has become accustomed to Obamacare and gears up for new changes which will affect all health systems. The CDC Influenza report provides some positive news- thus far a less deadly flu season than we experienced last year. With the vast majority of circulating viruses being similar to the vaccine virus components for this season, it is imperative (and beneficial!) to get vaccinated immediately. In Delaware, we continue to face the challenges of chronic diseases such as diabetes and obesity, and in the city of Wilmington, alarming rates of gun-related violence and infant mortality. Our work has never been more important or more necessary.

Here in Delaware, we are preparing for collaborative educational activities around hypertension, with the focus on Hypertension Conference (March 10th); lay education through the Delaware Mini-Medical school running in March and April; and HIV/AIDs and the Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PreP) education conference (May 24th), and our own annual meeting on Thursday, April 21st at the Gold Ball Room, Hotel du Pont. The invited speaker is United States Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Vivek Murthy, MD, MBA- stay tuned for more!

We are also setting the stage for National Public Health Week, which runs April 4 – 10, and we look forward to a return to the STAR campus to collaborate with the activities of the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance and the University of Delaware. During that week we'll also be conducting our first 5k Walk/Run – details to follow.

See our complete calendar of events on page 3.

Exciting new education activities are in the works, thanks to your DPHA Advisory council. These include a Public Health Grand rounds series, which will engage our partners across the state for relevant, interesting topics which you will not want to miss.

The Academy/DPHA, in partnership with the Delaware chapter of the American Planning Association, has been awarded funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to undertake an important effort in Kent County, Delaware – and you can read more about that on page 15.

In this edition of the DJPH, guest edited by Dr. Kathleen McNicholas, we address end-of-life issues and the new Delaware Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (DMOST) regulations and form. Virtually every public health activity seeks to improve the circumstances we live in, leading to a higher quality of life free from the burden of disease and premature death. The end of life deserves the same level of meaningful research and study, legal, and ethical consideration, viewed through the lens of access and equity. We hope you will find this issue thought provoking and informative.

Our March edition of the Delaware Journal of Public Health will be predominately focused on sexually transmitted infections, which while remaining largely preventable, still remain a significant public health issue, resulting in high costs and tremendous burdens. Other topics to be covered in the March edition include the rapidly spreading Zika virus, which is attracting the attention of public health officials globally.

As always, we would be glad to hear from you, our valued members. Drop by, or drop us a line!

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