

The APHA Annual Meeting and Expo - “Creating the Healthiest Nation: For Science. For Action. For Health” was held from November 2 – 6th in Philadelphia.

Timothy E. Gibbs, MPH

There is a certain energy that happens for me when the annual conference of the American Public Health Association occurs. Some of that energy is the excitement of being with 13,000+ like-minded individuals who care about public health as I do. Another part is the “get down to work” energy which comes from being a member of the Council of Affiliates and Governing Council. For me, the annual meeting experience is as much deliberating policies and sitting in legislative sessions as it is visiting the exhibition halls and attending educational lectures and various receptions.

This year, there was an even greater energy that came with being a host committee organization and having the meeting close enough to commute to and return home each day. On Sunday evening, at the headquarters of the Public Health Management Corporation, adjacent to Philadelphia’s iconic City Hall, the Academy/DPHA co-hosted a special reception with public health associations from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland.

While there is always the collegial energy of sharing the experience with colleagues from Delaware, and especially hearing them present, this year, I was fortunate to attend many presentations by our Delaware colleagues. In total, 47 individuals from Delaware presented, including Delaware Department of Health and Social Services Cabinet Secretary **Kara Odom Walker, MD, MPH, MSHS**; and Division of Public Health Director **Karyl Rattay, MD, MS**.

“Advancing Public Health Science across the Clinical Sciences”

Omar A. Khan, MD, MHS

This presentation discussed the essential role played by medical schools, health systems and state actors and the critical functions of strong local public health affiliates in bringing them together (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Dr. Omar Khan



“Understanding the Implementation of the Revised Nutrition Standards in the USDA’s Child and Adult Care Food Program among Child Care Providers in Delaware”

Laura Lessard, PhD, MPH

While significant changes were made to improve the nutritional quality of meals served in child care settings under the USDA’s Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) beginning in October 2017, little is known about the barriers to implementation faced by child care providers. Understanding these barriers and exploring potential solutions is essential to ongoing support of these efforts (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Dr. Laura Lessard



“Addressing the Impact of School-based Health Centers”

Khaleel Hussaini, PhD

School-based Health Centers (SBHCs) provide students access to health services, and are located within schools or at off-site locations. SBHCs benefit students’ physical, psychosocial, and emotional needs. The study aimed to assess the impact of SBHCs in Delaware using linked data between both the SBHC program and Medicaid claims from 2014-2016 for 13-18 year olds.

“Addressing community health through university-community partnerships: Evaluation challenges and early lessons learned”

Allison Karpyn, Ph.D.

Institutions of higher education have been criticized for being insular, exclusive communities disconnected from the problems of the “real” world, detached from the needs of the local communities in which they reside. At the same time, universities can lead collective action across sectors, supporting new forms of community engagement and partnerships required to achieve health equity (see Figure 3).

Figure 3. Dr. Allison Karpyn



When the meeting was over and all was said and done, I took away an energy of renewal, and hopeful conviction that the work we do can - and does - make a difference.

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