



CSTE update

Fall

2003

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Calling all Members

We would appreciate your feedback about the newsletter. Please email Shundra Clinton with comments, ideas or suggestions; sclinton@cste.org.

President's Message

Welcome to another year with CSTE! I'm excited to be back a second time as president of CSTE, and I'd like to thank the membership for the opportunity. I've served on the Executive Committee since 1998, and I'm glad to say that we've made great progress in rebuilding the national office and stabilizing our funding. This year, we will continue to move forward with activities to support our most important assets – you, our members.

We will also continue our focus on CSTE's role in providing opportunities for professional development, particularly for mid- to senior-level epidemiologists in state and territorial public health agencies. Our efforts will concentrate on addressing leadership development, policy development and continuing education. In strengthening this area of our organization, we can further CSTE's role as an integral part of doing business for our state, territorial and local public health members.

Other public health organizations may have larger memberships, but they are not focused as clearly or as specifically on what we need in the area of state and territorial epidemiology. In CSTE, we've found a unique balance – we are individual members of a professional organization and at the same time represent and serve our respective public health agencies. This balance between member-driven and organization-driven issues and concerns gives us a chance to bring value to our organizations and agencies while reaping personal and professional benefits as well.

I look forward to working with you all over the next year and to continuing to further the appreciation of CSTE as a source of valuable information and expertise, and as a critical developmental tool for you.

*Matthew Cartter, M.D., M.P.H.
Epidemiology Program Coordinator,
Connecticut*

2003 Pumphandle Award Winner Richard Hoffman, M.D., M.P.H.

The Pumphandle Award of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists is awarded annually for outstanding achievement in the field of applied epidemiology.

The Pumphandle Award is the latest in a long list of honors bestowed upon this year's recipient, Dr. Richard Hoffman. In a long career in epidemiology and public health, Hoffman has received many awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Colorado Public Health Association and three Star Performer awards from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, where he worked for 15 years.

Along the way, Hoffman has worked in a variety of areas. And like many others, he got his start in the field as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "I ended up in EIS with the CDC and was assigned to New Mexico," he says. "My mentor and supervisor was Jonathan Mann. It was fascinating and wonderful and I never looked back."

After his experiences with the EIS and subsequently working with the CDC's Center for Environmental Health, Hoffman decided to focus his work at the state level. An opportunity opened up in Colorado, so off he went. Of his experiences there he says, "I had the opportunity to do lots of different things, which was wonderful. Because of its size – it's medium tier, two to six million people – there were sufficient resources, but it was small enough that I had the ability to do a variety of things."

Hoffman served the state of Colorado as Chief, Communicable Disease Control and Chief Medical Officer, and spent more than 14 years as State Epidemiologist. During this time, he worked on and supervised surveillance and investigation programs in many areas, from bioterrorism preparedness to injury epidemiology to childhood lead poisoning. From 1986 to 1997 he virtually single handedly wrote,

edited and published the "Colorado Disease Bulletin," a regular publication for 3,000 Colorado physicians, infection control practitioners and public health practitioners.

As State Epidemiologist, Hoffman used a statutory and regulatory approach to build a comprehensive disease surveillance system, working with legislators to draft bills and testifying before legislative committees. He partnered with the Colorado Board of Health to create and propose modifications to regulations concerning surveillance and investigation of communicable and non-communicable conditions, school immunizations and the state's trauma system.

Hoffman also led the effort to design and implement one of the country's first internet-based reporting systems, the Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System (CEDRS). This secure, internet-based reporting system is now used by local health agencies and hospitals throughout the state.

Though he has spent many years in Colorado, Hoffman understands and believes in the importance of epidemiologists working together across state borders. "One of the high points of my career was being a part of the CSTE leadership," he says. He served on the Executive Committee for five years and as President from 1994 to 1995, and organized two annual conferences.

Now a consultant in epidemiology, public health practice and health policy, Hoffman has worked on projects with the New Mexico Department of Health, the Caring for Colorado Foundation, and the Boulder County Health Department, among others. Typifying the "never look back" attitude he has had about public health since his days with the EIS, he is still excited by the work, saying, "I may have changed my job, but I haven't changed my career."

CSTE congratulates Dr. Richard Hoffman on his recognition as the 2003 Pumphandle Award winner.

Read and Win Returns!

Are you a CSTE Membership Card holder? If so, read the CSTE newsletter and search for your membership number. If you find your number hidden somewhere within this issue, you win!

Contact Shundra Clinton at sclinton@cste.org to receive your prize.

Good luck!

Infectious Disease Update

FOOD SAFETY

The CSTE Food Safety Committee held a workshop in Boston, Mass. to begin its second enteric disease surveillance and response timeline study in collaboration with ASTHO, NACCHO, NEHA, APHL and CDC. The goal of the study is to investigate the progression and time intervals of systematic reporting of foodborne illness from the first report of disease to its report to the CDC.

HEPATITIS

To build and bolster hepatitis program planning in public health agencies, CSTE has funded selected states, through a CDC cooperative agreement, to develop written hepatitis plans. On July 24, 2003 the six states (Colorado, Connecticut, Louisiana, Minnesota, Vermont and Wisconsin) met in Atlanta to present their plans formally. Two newly awarded states, New York and Maine, updated the group on their progress as well. The finalized plans will be placed on the CSTE Web site.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Infectious disease epidemiology had a big year at the CSTE Annual Conference in Hartford, Conn. The pre-conference workshop featured an intriguing history of epidemics and an unforgettable visit to the historic Smallpox Hospital Rock. The conference offered sessions and roundtables in many infectious disease areas, including a late-breaker session on Monkeypox.

A record number of 13 Infectious Disease position statements were adopted in the areas of SARS, Smallpox, Importation and Exportation of Exotic Animals, Food Safety, Hepatitis, HIV/AIDS and others. The position statements can be found on the CSTE Web site.

Results and recommendations from the National Assessment of Epidemiologic Capacity in Public Health were presented at the CSTE Annual Conference, and the poster entitled "Overview of the National Assessment of Epidemiologic Capacity in Public Health" will be presented at APHA

in November. Copies of the complete final report may be obtained by contacting the National Office.

On another note, the Food and Drug Administration provided generous funding support for sponsored travel to the conference. CSTE was pleased to offer travel scholarships allowing the attendance of members from jurisdictions where we are seeking greater involvement and interaction, including our tribal and territorial partners and other members who ordinarily would not be able to attend the Annual Conference.

CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) also offered grant travel scholarships, which provided the invaluable opportunity for some members to attend the conference. NCEH's generosity offered the chance to hear formal presentations from our state and federal colleagues, and to share experiences and practical knowledge in both Environmental Health Tracking and Environmental Health Indicators.

CSTE's Super Staff Award



The Super Staff Award was created in 2001 as a way to recognize staff members for their dedication and for working "above and beyond" job requirements. Nominations are made and voted on by CSTE staff, and the award is presented at the CSTE annual conference.

This year's recipient of the Super Staff Award, Shundra Clinton, was quite surprised by the honor. She says, "It was kind of like the Susan Lucci syndrome. I had been nominated a couple of times, but I didn't actually think I would get it."

Even so, others at CSTE strongly believe she deserves it. Director of Operations Beverly McLeod says, "Shundra is always so conscientious and she strives to do a good job. She comes up with such innovative things for the membership. We wouldn't know what to do without her."

Clinton received her bachelor's degree in Social Work from Savannah State University and was a social worker for about six years before coming to CSTE. She says, "I enjoyed helping people, but I was looking for a different way to do that. CSTE gave me the chance." She first joined CSTE in 1997 and held several administrative

positions, and later returned to the organization as Member Services Coordinator.

In this role, Clinton is responsible for many things that keep CSTE members informed and in touch, including the Web site, newsletter, member and consultant databases, and conference calls. She also assists with the annual conference.

Though surprised, Clinton is grateful for the award. She says, "It's an honor to be recognized for your work like this." She is also grateful for the chance to work at CSTE. "It's such a family-like, friendly environment," she says. "We're all different, but we get along well."

CSTE congratulates Shundra Clinton on her recognition as the 2003 Super Staff Award winner.

Jonathan M. Mann Memorial Lecture

The Jonathan M. Mann Memorial Lecture is held at the annual conference of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. The lectures are sponsored by the Hoffman Family Foundation through the CDC Foundation in recognition of Dr. Mann's exemplary work as New Mexico's state epidemiologist.

The 2003 Jonathan Mann Memorial Lecturer laughingly refers to himself as a "recovering epidemiologist." While currently the deputy director for Public Health Services at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Ed Thompson spent 10 years as the state epidemiologist for Mississippi and another almost 10 years as the state's health officer. Throughout his career, he has worked, been published and testified before Congress on a variety of public health topics, ranging from AIDS to immunization to bioterrorism. "But," he says, "I'll always be an epidemiologist at heart."

Because of this, Thompson considers it a tremendous honor to have been chosen to speak at CSTE's Annual Conference this past June in Hartford, Conn. As a past state epidemiologist, he understands the importance of public health working well at the state and local levels. "These are the practicing professionals in the street and in the field," he says of CSTE members. "I know from personal experience how important it is to work together and share information at the field level."

Thompson believes that on every level, public health now must recognize the old adage, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." In his presentation at the conference, he discussed the importance of learning from what we have seen in the past few years and realizing what the focus of public health is and should be. In all that has been happening - the threat of bioterrorism, followed by its reality in the anthrax incidents, then West Nile Virus, the return of the smallpox vaccine, and new diseases like SARS and monkeypox - he believes we have to look for common threads.

"In the recent past, public health has grown and 'moved on' from infectious disease to chronic disease and injury prevention

and the like," says Thompson. "This is very important work, but we've been jerked up short and hard in the last two years. What we need to recognize is that infectious disease will always be our core business. We ignore that at our peril."

Addressing the core business requires many tools, such as mass vaccination and quarantine and isolation, that have been used relatively infrequently in recent years. One of these tools is good, old-fashioned surveillance. Thompson considers the state-based disease surveillance system 8207 the foundation for all public health surveillance in the United States. And surveillance requires what he believes to be the most vital tool of all - people. "Public health is human," he says. "It eats and breathes, and there's no cord to plug in. Doing proper surveillance - detecting, identifying and responding - will require trained, *human* epidemiologists. No computer is ever going to replace that." He is encouraged by the increasing trend of people wanting to be a part of public health and to work in epidemiology.

Along with surveillance, Thompson encourages reducing risks for the public and keeping them well informed. He believes it is very important to talk about things people can do to protect themselves - something as simple as using mosquito repellent for example - but that public health also must be honest when there is nothing the public can actively do. "We have to be dependable," he says. "It's up to us to protect the public."

Thompson believes that through surveillance and other measures, public health will continue to be able to detect problems quickly and respond appropriately as infectious disease and the world around us change. He says, "We can make the difference between a few and dozens or thousands of casualties. This is part of our skill set. We have the ball, and we have to run with it."

For the complete text of the fifth Jonathan M. Mann Memorial Lecture, given by Ed Thompson, M.D., M.P.H., at the 2003 CSTE Annual Meeting, visit the CSTE Web site at www.cste.org.

CSTE Membership Structure Changes

CSTE is pleased to announce changes to our membership structure. These changes are effective for the 2004 annual membership renewal:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

- New Member Dues - \$30
 - First Time Members
 - Active
 - Associate
- Returning Member Dues - \$40
 - Active
 - Associate
- Students Member Dues - \$25

STATE MEMBERSHIP DUES

- Territories - \$550
- States with Population less than 1 Million - \$800
- States with Population 1 to 4 Million - \$850
- States with Population 4 to 6 Million - \$1,250
- States with Population more than 6 Million - \$1,500

Membership is the backbone of CSTE,

and membership dues account for only the minimum funds needed to operate membership services. Why Join? As a member, you will receive a variety of benefits:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

- Bi-Monthly CSTE Washington Report
- Quarterly CSTE Update Newsletter
- Members Only Web Site
- Discount for the CSTE Annual Conference
- Web access to all CSTE publications
- Opportunity to author Position Statements (Active Members)
- Opportunities for Consultancy through our consultant system
- Post resumes/job postings
- Opportunity to participate in influencing important current public issues
- Speaking opportunities at CSTE Annual Conference

STATE MEMBERSHIP

State members have the opportunity to:

- Participate in the CSTE Workforce Development project

- Provide expert testimony at Congressional Hearings
- Provide comments and input on documents of public health importance
- Receive training and capacity building for state health departments
- Develop recommendations for state-based public health surveillance
- Provide state-based expertise on a variety of health topics

These are just a few of the benefits that we have to offer. CSTE has more than 600 professional epidemiologists as members. We are very proud of that, but we would like to reach and serve every epidemiologist and state as CSTE members. Join today! We don't want you to miss out on a single benefit.

For more information, please contact:

Shundra Clinton
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(770) 458-3811
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Monkeypox: Embargo and Prohibition of Specific Animals

In a recent outbreak of monkeypox in animals and humans, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a joint order to prevent the importation of all rodents (order Rodentia) from Africa, and "banned the sale, offering of distribution, transport, or release into the environment, of prairie dogs and specific African rodents implicated in the current monkeypox outbreak."

For additional information regarding Questions and Answers on the CDC and FDA joint order, go to the CDC Monkeypox link below.

RESOURCES:

Monkeypox
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/monkeypox/

CDC and FDA Joint Order
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/monkeypox/pdf/embargo.pdf

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

CSTE Position Statement
"Developing Importation and Exportation Restrictions on Exotic and Native Wildlife with Potential Adverse Impact on Public Health"
www.cste.org

Staff Update



Tarajee Knight joined CSTE in August 2003. As the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director, Tarajee is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the director and the Executive Committee.

Knight is originally from Albany, Ga. There she was the Administrative Assistant to the Director of the Indigent Defense Office, where she interviewed State inmates for court appointed attorneys.



Adrienne Wilschek joined CSTE in August 2003 and will serve as an Administrative Assistant. She will assist in organizing activities in the Office of the Executive Director and will provide support for the Executive Committee.

Wilschek received her bachelor's degree from The State University of New York College at Oneonta in Sociology and Applied Anthropology. Her work experience includes Project Management, and she was a supervisor at a survey research firm in Princeton, N.J.

Research *versus* Public Health Practice

Under an agreement with CSTE, the Center for Law and the Public's Health is engaged in an important endeavor to address and clarify the distinctions between public health practice and research. The scope of this project will entail thorough examination, accompanied by a legal perspective, of past proposed cooperative agreements, grants and projects between states and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that illustrate the distinctions.

A guidance document will be developed to serve as a resource for public health practitioners, institutional review board (IRB) board members and others.

The commencement date was August 1.

IT Corner

Wondering where you can find information about CSTE as an organization? All you have to do is go to the "About CSTE" link on the left hand side of the CSTE homepage.

There you will find a virtual CSTE cornucopia. You can view the CSTE by-laws, Past Presidents, and even the names of our "Pumphandle" award winners.

Chronic Disease/MCH/Oral Health Update

CSTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The sessions and roundtables covered areas such as chronic disease indicators, chronic disease surveillance and evaluation, alcohol surveillance, investigating MCH epidemiology, genomics, social determinants of health, and asthma surveillance. Thank you to all moderators and participants for your help in making the conference a success.

Through the sponsorship of CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, we were able to bring to the conference 11 chronic disease epidemiologists who otherwise would have been unable to attend.

During the Business Meeting, CSTE adopted the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) position statement that supports the findings and recommendations from the MCH epidemiology capacity assessment. This resolution, "Implementation of the Recommendations in the Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Capacity Assessment," will be posted on the CSTE Web site.

If you missed the poster presentation for the overview of the findings and recommendations from the MCH epidemiology capacity assessment at this year's conference, there will be another presentation in San Francisco at APHA.

CHRONIC DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

Currently the Chronic Disease Epidemiology Capacity Assessment has received an overall response rate of 82 percent—our aim of a 100 percent response rate has not yet been met. If you are unsure whether your state or territory has completed the assessment, please feel free to contact Rachel Barron-Simpson, Associate Research Analyst, at the CSTE National Office (rsimpson@cste.org).

We are currently in the data analysis stage and a workgroup will be convening to discuss the findings of the assessment. These findings and recommendations will be compiled in a report that will be published at the end of the year.

CHRONIC DISEASE ONLINE JOB BANK

Please remember that chronic disease epidemiology job opportunities may be posted on the CSTE Online Job Bank. This supports an effort to increase the number of epidemiologists working on chronic disease epidemiology issues within state and territorial agencies. It not only serves as a resource for epidemiologists to locate job availabilities at state agencies, but as a resource for state employers to post epidemiology position openings within their agencies. The job bank can be found by going to the CSTE homepage and selecting the link "Public Health Job Openings" or by going to www.cste.org/Employment/Employment.htm.

ESSENTIAL CHRONIC DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY FUNCTIONS

An RFP was distributed inviting a contract consultant to develop a White Paper describing the essential chronic disease epidemiology functions appropriate for state health departments, and recommending the personnel requirements necessary to accomplish these functions. This project is scheduled for completion by the end of September 2003. For more information, please contact Rachel Barron-Simpson, Associate Research Analyst at the CSTE National Office (rsimpson@cste.org).

CHRONIC DISEASE INDICATORS

Ninety-three (93) chronic disease indicators exist in 6 subject areas. Currently there are plans to construct a CDC Web site that will allow access to the latest data available for these indicators. Publication of a comprehensive volume of Chronic Disease Indicators data in the "Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report" (MMWR) Surveillance Summary is scheduled for the beginning of 2004.

ENVIRONMENTAL INTERNS

We would like to congratulate CSTE/IMHOTEP interns Deanna Williams, Shakirudeen Amuwo and Shanell McGoy for successfully completing their environmental internship projects, "Evaluating Carbon Monoxide Surveillance and Response in the State of Wisconsin," "Health Risk of Eating Fish: What Women of Childbearing Age Should Know," and "Preventing Pollution and Protecting the Health of Auto Repair Workers." These projects were presented to their peers at Morehouse College in Atlanta on Aug. 7 and 8.

SAVE THE DATE

2004 CSTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 6 – 10, 2004

See you in Idaho!

Staff Directory

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Executive Committee

CSTE is governed by a 10-member Executive Committee. Four members serve as officers, three as Members-at-Large, and three represent Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Chronic Diseases Epidemiology, and Environmental/Occupational/Injury Epidemiology. The 2003-2004 Executive Committee members are:

Office	Name and State	Term Expiration
President	Dr. Matthew Cartter - CT	2004
Vice-President	Dr. Gianfranco Pezzino - KS	2004
President-Elect	Dr. Christine Hahn - ID	2004
Secretary-Treasurer	Dr. Steven Macdonald - WA	2005
Members-At-Large	Dr. Matthew L. Boulton - MI	2006
	Dr. Bela Matyas - MA	2005
	Dr. C. Mack Sewell - NM	2004
Infectious Disease Epidemiology	Dr. Ellen Mangione - CO	2005
Chronic Disease/Oral Health/MCH	Dr. Kenneth Powell - GA	2004
Environmental/Occupational/Injury	Dr. Robert Harrison - CA	2006



Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

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