From our TPHA president, Dr. Raouf Arafat:

Hello TPHA members,

I hope you all are staying safe during this pandemic crisis that is causing economic collapse to big, mid-size and small businesses all over the world.

As public health professionals, we look forward to controlling this pandemic and to gain valuable knowledge from some of the tough times experienced during the process of navigating this disease. According to news sources, researchers around the world are racing to develop a vaccine against Covid-19, with more than 170 candidate vaccines now tracked by the World Health Organization (WHO). Vaccines normally require years of testing and additional time to produce at scale, but scientists are hoping to develop a coronavirus vaccine within a shorter time frame. As we all know, vaccines mimic the virus – or part of the virus – they protect against, stimulating the immune system to develop antibodies. They must follow higher safety standards than other drugs because they are given to millions of healthy people.

Russia claimed it had approved the world’s first COVID-19 vaccine, as the nation’s Ministry of Health issued what’s called a registration certificate for a vaccine candidate that has been tested in just 76 people. Scientists around the world immediately denounced the certification as premature and inappropriate. Here in the United States, our Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Defense (DoD) announced an agreement with Moderna to manufacture and deliver 100 million doses of the company’s COVID-19 vaccine candidate. The federal government will own these vaccine doses. Moderna will manufacture the vaccine doses while clinical trials are underway. Manufacturing in parallel with clinical trials expedites the traditional vaccine development timeline but doesn’t assure its safety.

With testing underway on five experimental vaccines in China and four in the United States, the race to produce a vaccine for covid-19 has taken on political and economic dimensions. Both countries are also taking huge financial risks to scale up production of possible vaccines before they know any are safe and effective. I expect a big fight internationally on the vaccine when some of it will be ready to go on the international markets. This fight will be on the economic side of the vaccine and science will be used, correctly or not, to promote certain vaccines against other vaccines. The information will be confusing even for scientists and it may be difficult to make a choice of the most suitable vaccine for a population.

Meanwhile, prevention is the best and simplest way to protect the population against this serious illness. Mask up, keep a 6 foot distance and protect the elderly! Keep your safety and safety of others around you in your mind at all times. It is simple!

****
From our TPHA Executive Director, Terri Pali:

Below are instructions for those who were scheduled to present at the 2020 conference that was cancelled. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to share your work!

**Attention 2020 AEC Conference Presenters**

If you were scheduled to present a breakout or poster presentation at the 2020 TPHA Annual Education Conference and would like to submit your presentation in .pdf format for posting on the TPHA website please send an email with the pdf attached to Txpha@aol.com.

**Please follow these instructions:**

1. Save your pdf as last name, first name, Title of presentation. (Example: Smith, Jane, Patterns of Transmission.pdf)
2. Include the following in the email: I, (INSERT NAME), give permission for my presentation titled (INSERT TITLE OF PRESENTATION) to be posted on the TPHA website.

*You will be able to add this conference presentation to your resume or vitae. An added bonus is that your work will be available to the general public and may receive even more exposure!*  

The Executive Board appointed an ad hoc committee to research virtual meeting platforms for consideration of holding our annual education conference virtually. The committee is still in the discovery phase for future meeting possibilities but has recommended and the board approved providing a 3-4 hour conference in November. The Board referred the planning of this event to the programs committee. TPHA members interested in serving on the program committee to help plan this conference should email Terri at txpha@aol.com and include "PROGRAM PLANNING" in the subject line. Deadline is September 15th to allow time for planning and promotion.

Preliminary Agenda ideas:
- Current Public Health State of Affairs
- 1-2 Keynote Speakers
- Section breakouts-can share purpose, activities-to-date, 2020-2021 plans/goals, recruit officers (if needed)

The TPHA Executive Board recently approved contracting with ZOOM so that our section leadership is better able to communicate section business and training to their members. The association will contract for 2 shared admin accounts. Terri Pali will keep a calendar of events so that sections do not overlap dates. Dates will be reserved on a first come-first served basis. Information regarding this new TPHA benefit will be coming to section chairs soon.
In addition to the ZOOM benefit, TPHA leadership has voted to sign up for GSuite for Non-Profits. This will allow us to set up email addresses specifically for our section chairs for communication with their section members. GSuite offers users with 30 GB cloud storage so section meeting minutes, documents, etc. will always be available via the shared drives. GSuite also offers video conference for up to 100 people via Google meet. We are looking forward to rolling this program out and will have a training session for section chairs with instructions on how this program works.

Congratulations and welcome to our new TPHA Parliamentarian, William Garner, DrPH, FACHE, Assistant Professor, Public Health Program Coordinator, Undergraduate Public Health Department of Life and Health Sciences, University of North Texas at Dallas.

Welcome to our new Editorial Board Member, Rafia S. Rasu, PhD, University of North Texas Health Science Center, School of Public Health.

****

Welcome to our Newest TPHA Members!

We are so glad you chose TPHA as your professional association! Please take a couple of minutes to browse our website and see what we have to offer you. We offer this newsletter as a method of networking with your fellow TPHA members. We have a quarterly peer-reviewed, indexed journal for professional development, and many public health oriented groups we align with. Our strength is our membership and the diversity among our members. Member diversity spans race/ethnicity, levels of experience, and disciplines of expertise. Again, welcome and please contact Terri at txpha@aol.com with any questions or comments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Omoluyi</td>
<td>Adesanya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra</td>
<td>Castedo de Martell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrea</td>
<td>Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sohini</td>
<td>Dhar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin</td>
<td>Ellis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etetor</td>
<td>Roland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celeste</td>
<td>DeAnn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberly</td>
<td>Khoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aisha</td>
<td>Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ariel</td>
<td>Maureen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelechi</td>
<td>Ohaeto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucero</td>
<td>Penaloza Arteaga</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Environmental &amp; Consumer Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oral Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vision Care</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***

TPHA Member Record Spring Cleaning

We want to make sure you receive all of the TPHA announcements and updates. Please take a moment to log-in to your TPHA membership account and update any outdated information. Go HERE to log-in. You should see the following screen:
TPHA AWARDS

It’s never too early to begin the process of nominating someone for a TPHA Award. Awards include the James E. Peavy Memorial, TPHA Honorary Life Member, Legislative Excellence, Dr. Ron J. Anderson Thinking Progressively for Health; and Public Health Award for Media Excellence Award. To learn more go to: https://www.texaspha.org/page/Awards

News from TPHA Boards, Committees and Sections

TPHA Editorial Board News:
Summer is coming to a close and our Summer 2020 issue of the Texas Public Health Journal has been read. We hope you found the articles informative. Hopefully the content gave you some inspiration to write and submit some of the important work you are doing!

Have you presented your work and now want more exposure? Write it up as a manuscript, following our simple guidelines and submit it to our peer-reviewed, indexed journal for review! See below for the different formats we are looking for. The Texas public health community will benefit greatly from reading about best practices you have discovered, the findings from the research you have done, and the innovative programs and public health projects that have been implemented in your communities. Visit the journal pages of our website today to check out the possibilities for your personal advancement through publishing. New members, log on to the website and check out the past issues of the Texas Public Health Journal. We ask all of our members to help us to continue to provide timely, informative public health information to the Texas public health community by encouraging your colleagues to publish with us also!
Have questions or need some guidance to get started? Contact us and ask! Email Catherine Cooksley, DrPH, CPH at tphajournal@gmail.com. Please see the announcement below for more information. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

**From the TPHA Policy, Advocacy and Resolutions Committee (PARC)**

The Texas Public Health Association is one of 32 member organizations of the Texas Public Health Coalition (TPHC). The purpose of the coalition is to reduce preventable disease by advancing effective public policies that promote a safe and healthy environment and healthy behaviors for all Texans.

The TPHC, focused on disease prevention and health promotion, is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the Texas Department of State Health Services’ (DSHS’) legislative appropriations request (LAR) for the 2022-23 biennium. The comments contained herein are organized according to the coalition’s five public health priority areas: (1) infectious diseases and immunizations, (2) public health infrastructure and essential services, (3) chronic diseases, (4) maternal health, and (5) tobacco and e-cigarette use. Please click here for the full comments on the DSHS legislative appropriations request (LAR) for the 2022-23 biennium.

**TPHA Health Education Section**

Section Chair: Jason Rosenfeld, DrPH and Health Education Section Secretary: Emily Hayes, M.Ed., CHES

The Health Education Section would like to announce the 2020 Collaborative Project: **COVID-19 Education and Supportive Storytelling**! Section leaders request your assistance with our section’s latest project. One of the goals for this section this year is to highlight the great work that many of you are doing
with regards to health education throughout Texas. For the rest of this calendar year, we would like to highlight one member each month and the work you are doing in the health education field during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Project Goals**

The goal of this project is to highlight the work that you, the members of TPHA, have been engaged with to educate your communities about Covid-19 or other health issues.

1. We would like to share your stories with the wider TPHA community via an email campaign targeting and the TPHA newsletter.
2. We will also seek to create a compendium of all your stories, which we would like to share at next year’s annual conference.

**We want to hear from YOU!**

For the COVID-19 Education and Supportive Storytelling the information we would need from you is:

1. Name or type of health education project.
2. What area of Texas you are located in.
3. What population you are trying to reach.
4. A brief write up of how you modified your health education outreach during the COVID-19 pandemic or in what ways you were able to continue your health education project throughout COVID-19. Or how you were able to educate your community about COVID-19.

**Note:** We want to know what health education looks like in your community right now. Topics are not limited to what is listed above.

Please email your story to Emily.hayes@wilco.org by September 16th.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in your communities. We look forward to reading and sharing your stories.

****

**TPHA Vision Care Section**

The TPHA Vision Care Section wants to share the important information below. Please pass it along to your colleagues.

**COVID-19 AND THE EYE**

Studies have shown that COVID-19 may be transmitted through the eye. The primary presenting sign of eye involvement is an acute inflammatory reaction. These patients typically present with redness, watery eyes and light sensitivity.

Preventing transmission of COVID-19 involves diligent hygienic practices, this includes:

- Washing hands before and after insertion and removal of contact lenses (CLs). Disposable CLs should be considered to decrease the risk of contamination associated with reusable lenses.
- Avoid touching or manipulating the eyes.
- Avoid touching the tip of an eye drop bottle when instilling medication
- Wearing safety glasses to prevent viral particles from coming into contact with the eyes
- Discard eye make-up that is expired or possibly contaminated. Use disposable make-up applicators when possible and clean non-disposable applicators.
Ensuring face masks are properly fit to each individual can help prevent the fogging of spectacle lenses.

COVID-19 has certainly impacted the way eye exams are conducted due to the close contact involved between the patient and doctor during an eye exam. While limiting office visits to urgent and emergent medical cases, an uptick in telehealth consults have been noted. Time will only tell what the future of eye care will look like in the next couple of years. It is a good reminder to assume every person—regardless of signs and symptoms—could potentially be carrying the virus. In this way, everyone can do their part to help prevent the spread COVID-19.

Zainab A. Muhanna O.D., Primary Eye Care Resident, Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Submitted by Elizabeth Adesanya, Member of the Student and Epidemiology Sections

In partnership with UTSW and Texas Health Resources, alongside community partners, there is a new clinical research study in DFW area focused on the novel COVID-19 pandemic. This is a groundbreaking research to understand the spread of the novel coronavirus: **the DFW COVID-19 Prevalence Study**.

The goal of this study is to understand how many people actually are or have been infected in our local North Texas community and help develop effective and fair public health strategies to reduce any further deaths related to this disease. In addition to a study incentive for participating participants also have free access to COVID-19 testing and clinical care provided UTSW if positive.

As fellow public health professionals, please spread awareness about this study and encourage study enrollment to improve the spread of the pandemic in Texas.

Submitted by Jen Collins, Member of the TPHA Nursing Section
Jen Collins, PhD, RN, Erin Argue, BS, from the Texas Tech University School of Nursing, and Amy Ponder, BA with Partnerships for Children have developed a statewide coalition to address driver’s license acquisition among youth in foster care and young adults after leaving foster care. This statewide coalition is a partnership between an academic institution, state agencies, and child welfare advocacy organizations throughout urban and rural areas in Texas. Addressing the social determinants of health and transportation equity for under resourced youth has never been more important than now as COVID-19 is crippling transportation, economic, housing and employment systems and putting adolescents and young adults leaving foster care in a precarious position as they begin their adult lives. We also have relationships with a juvenile docket at a municipal court, street youth ministries and the Travis County Adolescent Health Collaborative to expand this work to other adolescents and young adults. We welcome any input and partnership to this endeavor. Please contact Dr, Collins at (512) 663-9181 or jen.collins@ttuhsc.edu.

Submitted by new member, Etetor Roland Eshiet of the TPHA Epidemiology Section
Publishing Opportunity, Call for Book Chapters! Exploring the Efficacy and Beneficence of Complementary and Alternative Medicinal Products in Disease Therapy
Recently, public health and healthcare professionals, scientists, and other stakeholders have proffered mitigative approaches to treat symptoms, contain and constrain the scourge of the COVID-19 pandemic. Drugs such as Remdesivir, Hydroxychloroquine, etc., have achieved instant notoriety. Given that the pharmaceutical industry has undertaken pre-clinical and clinical trials on certain known drugs, now seems an excellent opportunity to discuss complementary and alternative medicinal products as well.

Proposals for book chapters for the SEEED-IGI Global book entitled "Exploring the Efficacy and Beneficence of Complementary and Alternative Medicinal Products in Disease Therapy" are being actively sought. Accepted book chapter proposals include: 1) Medicinal Plants for Gout’s Treatment, 2) Medicinal Plants for the Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes, 3) Probiotics, Gut microbiota and Epigenomics: A review of pre-clinical and clinical investigations, 4) Demystifying Black Coffee: No Sugar, No Cream!
For more information please visit https://www.igi-global.com/publish/call-for-papers/call-details/4155 or contact the editor, Etetor Roland Eshiet, at etetoreshiet@yahoo.com, etetor.eshiet@see-ed.com or Tel: +1.713.714.7477.

Submitted by Fatima Frausto, MPH, Member of the TPHA Health Education Section
Fatima.Frausto@dshs.texas.gov
The Texas Department of State Health Services Blood Lead Surveillance Branch (BLSB) is asking for interested parties to join our effort in preventing lead poisoning. Through our Strategic Planning Committee, we work with health, housing, and environmental organizations to further our goal of eliminating lead exposure as a public health problem in Texas. The quarterly meetings provide an opportunity for networking, information sharing, and demonstration of program performance. With the support of Texas healthcare providers, communities, local and regional public health offices, and academia, BLSB is working diligently toward a safer, healthier Texas.

If you are interested in joining our Strategic Planning Committee, or are interested in learning more about what we are doing to eliminate lead poisoning, please write to us at TexasBloodLead@dshs.texas.gov.
Submitted by Gloria Brown McNeil, Member of TPHA Public Health Nursing Section

After forty-four years Gloria Brown McNeil, TPHA Fellow, retired her active nursing license. Her new Texas Board of Nursing designation is Volunteer Retired Registered Nurse (VR-RN). This designation allows her to work as a direct service volunteer of a charitable organization without compensation. She now serves as a Faith Community Nurse.

Faith Community nurses’ practice holistic health for self, individuals and the community using nursing knowledge and spiritual care. The focus of their work is on the care of the body, mind, and spirit. Her church, South Park Baptist Church (SPBC) has a Faith Community Nursing Team. Presently, they include information about COVID – 19 in church bulletins and conduct temperature screenings before services. Changing from PHN to FCN, active to volunteer, proves public health can continue when you retire. Just Keep It Going!!

Submitted by Dr. Melissa Oden, Member of the TPHA Health Education Section melissa@drmelissaoden.com, or you can fill out a contact form at http://drmelissaoden.com/

Oo´• la n. adj. 1a: a state of awesomeness, 1b: a life that is balanced and growing in the key areas of health, finances, career, relationships, and well-being c: a destination (i.e., getting to Oola) 2: describing actions, insights and goals that lead to a balanced life (ex: That’s so Oola.) 3: the ultimate plan for achieving balance in an unbalanced world.

Dr. Melissa Oden recently completed her certification program to become an Oola Life Coach, adding yet another powerful tool to her toolbox in her company, DMO Enterprises. The Oola Life Coaching program is unique to the marketplace in that when you register for an Oola Coaching Program, you’ll work weekly with a private Certified Oola Life Coach who will help you turn your dreams into achievable goals by focusing on 7 key areas of life – then support you in pursuing those goals with enthusiasm. Dr. Oden uses these 7 key areas to help people achieve greater balance in life to improve wellness and achieve more positive health outcomes. Although this coaching program is open to everyone, her specialty is working with women who are experiencing the Female Stress Syndrome (FSS), and with women who have been diagnosed with Endometriosis.

Submitted by Dr. Subi Gandhi, Member of the TPHA Epidemiology Section gandhi@tarleton.edu

As Texas became the nationwide hot spot of COVID 19, a team of public health researchers and COGNIAIM Inc (cogniaim.com) analysts worked together to forecast the spread of pandemic utilizing predictive analytics techniques. Using the machine learning tools, the team continues to generate and update forecast for the pandemic. The graph below shows both COVID19 confirmed cases as well as future predictions for Texas. If all the influential factors remain the same, the inflection point is expected to be around September 10th with 836,000 approximate predicted positive cases.

The data presented in the graph below has not yet been peer-reviewed and is included as an example of the work we have been doing. We intend to publish this work in a future issue of the Texas Public Health Journal. Look for our report which will detail our COVID19 predictions for Texas, including the techniques used for predictive analytics.
Thank you to all of our members who submitted their news! We are overwhelmed by your response! We hope you find this TPHA newsletter engaging and informative. We look forward to receiving more brief announcements about the work you, our members, are doing and the achievements you have made. TPHA congratulates all members who have received prestigious awards in recognition of the outstanding work they have done.

Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues and encourage them to join us so their important announcements can be shared as well! Check out the new newsletter information and tips for posting on our TPHA website at www.texaspha.org/page/journal. Our next newsletter is due out around early December, 2020. Start gathering the information you want to share with the Texas public health community now. We love hearing what y’all are up to!

Thank you for the public health work you do! Please stay safe and healthy during these challenging times! Contact TPHA and let us know how we can help you keep your communities safe and healthy.

Disclaimer: The Editorial Board of the Texas Public Health Association has the right to exclude any materials, including but not limited to those that may jeopardize our non-profit status.