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Introduction to the Real World of Public Health Mini-Elective Spring 2009

<u>Course Dates:</u>	April 6, 20, 27 (plus one additional self-scheduled session) Mondays, 3:00—5:00 PM
<u>Maximum Students:</u>	10
<u>Class Year:</u>	MS1
<u>Course Directors:</u>	Charles J. Vukotich, Jr., MS Senior Project Manager, Center for Public Health Practice Samuel Stebbins, MD, MPH Asst Professor of Epidemiology, GSPH Associate Director for Public Health and Medicine, Center for Public Health Practice
<u>Contact Information:</u>	Chuck Vukotich, Jr., MS 412-383-2400 vukotichc@edc.pitt.edu
<u>Registration:</u>	Betsy Nero, Office of Medical Education betsy@medschool.pitt.edu

Description:

This class will give students an opportunity to learn about the real world of public health from practitioners in the community and two instructors who have been there. Mr. Vukotich has 3 years experience as a former senior management at the Allegheny County Health Department (PA). Dr. Stebbins previously served 6 years as the Deputy Health Officer in San Mateo County (CA). The highly participatory course will provide:

- A field experience in public health.
- The challenge of solving real world public health problems through case studies.
- A better understanding of the important intersections of clinical medicine and public health.
- The opportunity to work with both field- and research-based public health practitioners.

Objectives:

- Experience how public health is carried out in the community.
- Develop practical problem solving skills in public health.
- Learn the basic concepts of public health that are useful to practitioners.

Requirements:

- Actively participate in all 4 course sessions – the field session will be a self-scheduled half day.
- Read brief assignments for each lecture requiring less than 1 hour of time.
- Summary of field experience plus course evaluation.

Course Outline:

Introduction to the Real World of Public Health

Course Directors:

Charles J. Vukotich, Jr., MS
Senior Project Manager, Center for Public Health Practice

Samuel Stebbins, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Graduate School of Public Health
Associate Director for Public Health and Medicine, Center for Public Health Practice

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Location:

All sessions
Center for Public Health Practice
Room A731, Crabtree Hall
130 DeSoto St – Graduate School of Public Health

Week One–April 6, 2009

Introduction to Public Health

- Review of major public health functions and organizations
- Role of the Institute of Medicine
- Public Health Practice for clinicians and practitioners

Week Two – Self-scheduled session

Case Study

Solve a detailed, complex, and real-life public health/medical challenge: Students will be placed in two groups to problem solve a hypothetical case. Discussion will be student driven with faculty facilitator for guidance.

Week Three– April 20, 2009

Field Placements

Students will be able to arrange a field visit with working public health professionals for an experience in the field, encompassing environmental or personal health, such as inspections (restaurant, sewage, land fill, housing, etc.), or clinical (TB, STD, HIV, Maternal and Child Health, etc.). Upon registration confirmation, students should contact the course director to arrange a field experience matching their personal interests.

Week Four–April 27, 2009

Report on field experience

- Students will prepare a 1 page type-written summary and prepare a 5-10 minute presentation to the group.
- Discuss lessons learned.
- Integrate field and clinical experiences.

Texts:

- Reading materials will be provided to students prior to each class requiring less than 1 hour of preparatory reading for each session.
- Review 3 public health web sites requiring less than 1 hour of time.