Introduction to the Real World of Public Health
Mini-Elective
Spring 2010

Course Dates: February 1, 15, 22
One session TBA: Contact Course Director
Mondays, 3:00-5:00 PM

Maximum Students: 10

Class Year: MS1 and MS2

Course Directors: 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

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Registration: 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 30 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:

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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 – February 1, 2010
Introduction to Public Health
• Review of major public health functions, organizations and concepts
• Institute of Medicine and public health
• Public Health Practice for clinicians and practitioners

Week Two – Self-scheduled session: contact instructor
Field Placements
Students will be placed in a half day field experience with working public health professionals, 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 Three – February 15, 2010
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.

Week Four – February 22, 2010
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.

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.