Public Health in Oregon: 2010 Speakers’ Series

“Practical Applications of Health Equity” - An Expert Panel Discussion

**Date:** Monday, April 5
**Time:** 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
**Location:** Multicultural Center, 228 Smith, Smith Memorial Union, Portland State University, Portland, OR

David Cardona, MD, MPH, Panel Moderator
David Cardona, MD, MPH serves at the State of Oregon, Department of Human Services, Office of Multicultural Health and Services. He is the Coordinator of the Health Care Interpreting Program in charge of implementing the Health Care interpreter’s law. Dr Cardona holds a medical degree from the Autonomous University of Santa Ana, El Salvador, a Master of Public Health from Portland State University, and has executive management education in health programs in developing countries from the Harvard University, School of Public Health and he has education in Training of Trainers for the Healthcare Interpreting Professionals from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California. He has served OHSU for 18 years. Currently he serves as an adjunct instructor at the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine where he teaches the Scholars in Medical Spanish classes. He is also part of OHSU Center for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs. He served as a faculty consultant for AT&T Language Line Services in creating an advanced healthcare interpreter training manual in English and Spanish which is used by the company for interpreter’s training around the world. He also worked as a subject matter expert in developing the first national healthcare interpreting certification examination in coordination with the International Medical Interpreters Association.

Corliss McKeever, MSW, African American Health Coalition, Inc.
The African American Health Coalition, Inc. President and Chief Executive Officer Corliss McKeever grew up in Gary, Indiana and obtained a Bachelors of Science in Management & Communications from Concordia University in Portland, Oregon, graduating Summa Cum Laude. She holds a Masters in Social Work from Portland State University. Ms. McKeever is the CEO and President of the African American Health Coalition, Inc. and is a life-long community activist who has lived and worked in the Portland community for more than 29 years. She is also Adjunct Professor at Portland State University and has a faculty appointment at OHSU in the school of nursing.

R. David Rebanal, MPH, CHES
David oversees NWHF’s strategic initiatives in public health. Currently his work involves partnering with public and private organizations to improve the state and local public health system, utilizing community-based participatory research to strengthen community advocacy and drive policy change in Oregon and leveraging the Foundation’s investments and research to improve public health policies and practice. David has worked as a HIV community outreach worker and a health educator in New York, as well as conducted epidemiologic community assessments at the New York City health department. After completing his Master’s Degree in Public Health at Hunter College in New York City, he completed a three-year-post graduate service fellowship with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, working on program planning and evaluation in community-based and health systems chronic disease prevention. He also chairs the Asian Pacific Islander Health Network coalition in Portland, and is passionate about issues of social justice and health equity. David lives in Portland with his wife, two daughters, and a newborn son.

Victoria “Vickie” R. LaFromboise, AS, BS, MS, Native American Rehabilitation Center, Native Youth Suicide Prevention Project
Victoria’s life and work experiences up to now have inspired her to become a zealous and devoted American Indian advocate, even though she has lived off the reservation for most of her life. For the past ten years, her educational and professional goals have been dedicated to diminishing health disparities among both urban and reservation-based American Indians. Victoria has recently finished her master's degree in Health Promotion and Education from Montana State University (MSU). Her first project involved educating Crow women about the importance of receiving an annual pap test, which resulted in extensive curriculum development along with her collection and creation of culturally appropriate educational materials. Her second project, her master’s thesis, focused on conducting a community health assessment on the Blackfeet Reservation. This was a community-based project with the purpose of identifying the top three health needs of the Blackfeet, as they perceive them.
Becky Wright, MPH
Becky Wright has been the Community Programs Liaison for the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention program of the Oregon Public Health Division since November 2008. Prior to that, she coordinated the statewide Urban American Indian Tobacco Prevention Program of the Native American Rehabilitation Association for two years. She received her Master’s in Public Health from Portland State University in 2006 with an emphasis on health education and health promotion and a specialty area of advocacy and social change. Becky and her partner live in SE Portland, and share their home with their five year old daughter, standard poodle and three cats. Outside of work, Becky likes to spend time with the family, renovate the house, garden, attend powwows, cook, read science fiction and bead.

Heather Heater, MPH
Heather Heater, MPH is currently a Health Educator with the Multnomah County Health Department. She works the Early Childhood Service Program evaluating and developing systematic approaches to health education. She also teaches human sexuality and women’s health at Clark College in Vancouver. Heather completed her Masters of Public Health Degree at Portland State University with an emphasis in Health Behavior and Health Promotion. Her academic and professional work have centered on the social determinants of health, particularly as they relate to sexual health and maternal and child health. Prior graduate school Heather worked for the HIV Alliance in Eugene, OR as an AmeriCorps member. Heather is passionate about all things related to health promotion, including issues of health literacy, subjectivity, and advocacy. In addition to busting out mad health education skills, Heather likes eating, farmer's markets, dancing, laughing, and deconstructing hegemonic power and privilege. She lives with her partner, son, and pooch in North East Portland.

Allen Andrews received his BA in 2002 from New York University majoring in Biochemistry and minoring in Molecular Biology and Philosophy. He was awarded the Cambridge Commonwealth Overseas Trust Scholarship to study for his MPhil and PhD in Biochemistry at the University if Cambridge in the United Kingdom. After 2 years in the UK, and an MPhil under his belt, he decided to forgo completion of his PhD and evolve his career path from one of science and medicine to medicine and public health focusing on social and health justice. He has had volunteer medical experience in Nigeria, Central and South America. Following work at UCSF in San Francisco he completed a Master of Public Health degree at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health specifically focusing on human rights, refugee and international health. At Hopkins he was able to work on a public health needs assessment in Jordan working with the UNHCR, IMC, the Jordanian Red Crescent, Catholic Caritas and other partners with the hope of understanding what health services were most needed for the 750,000 Iraqi refugees living in Jordan due to the Iraq War. From this experience he was able to co-found, along with his MPH colleagues, The Crisis Health Initiative a public health education organization tasked with educating physicians in public health skills to better alleviate the tragedy caused by war and natural disaster. Currently, he is a 1st year medical student at OHSU and is continuing his passion for justice by co-founding with fellow 1st year classmates an organization focusing on our current health care system called VACUUM (The Voices and Concerns for the Uninsured and Under-insured Millions) which, hopes to bring to light our countries unjust delivery system which denies health care access and coverage by sharing the stories of patients, health care students and providers through stories presented in video form.

Sponsored by:
Northwest Health Foundation (Logo)
Oregon Public Health Division (Logo)
Oregon Master of Public Health Program (Logo)
OHSU (Logo)
Oregon Medical Association
Community Health Partnership: Oregon’s Public Health Institute
PSU Educational Equity Programs & Services

For more information on this or any of the others speakers for this year’s speakers’ series, see:
http://healthoregon.org/phweek