



**SMDP News**, the newsletter for CDC's Sustainable Management Development Program (SMDP) aims to:

- Inform members of the international health community about SMDP activities.
- Support graduates of SMDP's annual Management for International Public Health (MIPH) course.
- Facilitate country-to-country exchanges of information and experience in public health management development.

**SMDP NEWS** is published quarterly, and distributed to all MIPH graduates. Graduates are encouraged send articles, photos and updates on their activities, as well as corrections to addresses, phone numbers, e-mail, etc. for the mailing list.

Current and past editions of the **SMDP NEWS** can be viewed at our website:

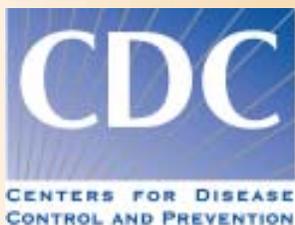
<http://www.cdc.gov/phppo/smdp/>

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# SMDP NEWS

Sustainable Management Development Program

Winter 2003

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

## In Croatia, MIPH Graduates Help Launch Program to Strengthen County Health Management Capacity



*Representatives of the Croatia Ministry of Health, Andrija Štampar School of Public Health, the National Institute for Public Health and county officials participate in a panel discussion.*

In 2002, a management capacity-building program entitled “Healthy Counties” was developed by MIPH graduates Dr. Selma Sogoric (MIPH '01) and Dr. Tea Vukusic Rukavina ('01) in collaboration with the Andrija Štampar School of Public Health and the Ministry of Health. The program was created in response to a 1999 study of the effects of decentralization on Croatia's health system.

The program draws on a number of training resources, including Healthy Plan-it™ and other concepts from SMDP's MIPH Course. The first six teams, representing a cross-section of county-level public officials, completed the training in the fall of 2002. Each team completed a county plan that prioritized health needs and made recommendations for addressing them. Representatives from the first three counties—Istarska, Varazdinska and Dubrovacko-Neretvanska—presented their plans at a November 2002 conference in Kaprinske-Toplice, Croatia.

The conference attracted local and national government officials, as well as the media, including the Croatian National News Agency HINA, Croatian regional television, and national daily newspapers *Vjesnik* and *Jutarnji*. Selma was featured in two live regional Croatian radio broadcasts of an hour-long program with a focus on health.

Professor Marija Strnad, M.D., Croatian Institute of Public Health and member of the Steering Committee for WHO Europe, said, “The county public health capac-

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ity-building program called ‘Healthy Counties’ is a rare example of a concrete activity that gives us a number of learning opportunities. This is especially important to the Croatian Institute of Public Health, because we can use this knowledge to suggest appropriate public health measures to the Ministry of Health.”

Dr. Siniša Varga, Deputy Minister of Health of the Republic of Croatia, said, “This program provides essential

knowledge of public health management, much needed in local county governments as we decentralize.”

Selma and Tea developed the program, working with Professor Stipe Oreškoviæ, Director, Andrija Štampar School of Public Health; and Dr. Andro Vlahušia, the Croatian Minister of Health. The program is sponsored by the Croatian Ministry of Health and the Open Society Institute (OSI) of the Soros Foundation, New York.

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## TQM Offered to Nurses, Doctors in Nicaragua

Harold Rugama (’01) organized and taught a Spanish-language Total Quality Management (TQM) course in Matagalpa, Nicaragua, November 17-21, 2002. The course was offered in collaboration with the Management Training Unit for Medical Sciences School, National Autonomous University of Nicaragua, and held under the “Management Training for Health Workers in Nicaragua” project. Course facilitators were Dr. Mario Jimenez (’00), Dr. Norma Galeano, and Dr. Armando Ulloa (’01). Fedor Espinosa (MIPH ’95) represented SMDP.

Participant Dr. Gladis Lovo said, “I think we all need to know something about Total Quality Management. Before this workshop, I thought it had no application to medicine and was not important to my work, but once I began to study TQM, the quality of the course and the excellence of the facilitators convinced me otherwise.”

Pediatric physician Dr. Reynaldo Blandón agreed, adding that the course should be required for all medical professionals—doctors, nurses, and technicians.

The course targeted specific problems in maternity care and pediatrics in a hospital setting and brought 19 medical



*Concentrating on a TQM problem-solving exercise at Cesar Amador Molina Hospital: standing, from left, Dr. Gladis Lovo and Dr. Erick Pantoja; seated, from left, Dr. Benjamin Chavarria, Dr. Maura Mairena, and Dr. Reyna Cruz.*

doctors and nurses from Cesar Amador Molina Hospital to attend the class. This group was divided into four teams to apply TQM principles to actual day-to-day challenges. As part of the TQM training, each team will develop a project, compile the results and present their findings at the end of six months, under the supervision of course instructors.

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## Healthy Plan-it™ Courses Offered in Indonesia

Drs. Hariadi Wibisono, Swandari Djojo, Lukman Tarigan, and Ms. Nelwina Tomi (MIPH ’01) conducted two Healthy Plan-it™ courses in Jakarta, November 2002. One was designed specifically for national-level managers, and a second one targeted the heads of provincial and district health offices in Indonesia.

Hariadi writes, “I’m happy to share that the most frequent comment we heard is that this is what they need for their daily jobs, especially the logical thinking, the ‘if-then’ exercises.”

Participants learned how to distinguish “health problems” from problems in program implementation (such as “low cure rate” for tuberculosis control, or

low community participation to improve water quality). The 60 participants from across the country were enthusiastic about the 2-day courses, and the instructors will expand the courses in the next round, based on participant evaluations.

Two additional Healthy Plan-it™ courses were offered in December 2002.

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**Dr. Mamadou Dravé ('98)** and **Dr. Madiha Ahmed ('98)** visit the MIPH 2002 class. Mamadou currently works for the Canadian Ministry of Health in Montréal as Coordinator for the First Nations and Inuit Health Information System in the Quebec Region, and Madiha is Assistant Director, Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit, with the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population, based in Cairo.

**Dr. Narumol Sawanpanyalert (Silarug) ('93)** has been promoted to Medical Officer 9, Clinical Research/Technology Assessment Branch, Bureau of Medical Technical Development, Thailand Ministry of Health. Her new responsibilities include training, and epidemiology—both theoretical and applied.

**Dr. Amin Abdel Jaber ('97)** has received a masters degree in public health from the Jordan University of Science and Technology, with a focus on epidemiology. His thesis topic was "Pregnancy-induced hypertension among pregnant women at UNRWA health centres in December 2000." He has also been promoted to Field Family Health Officer, Jordan—United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), based in Amman.

**Vincent Kang ('97)** has recently joined the Department of Medical Administration in Taoyuan county, Taiwan, as section chief to implement public

health programs. He is also in charge of hospital management, the emergency medical system, long-term and psychiatric patient care, and aboriginal health, including an integrated delivery system for the resource-constrained mountain area.

**Truong Thi Ngoc Dieu ('02)** reported on a Total Quality Management (TQM) project entitled "To increase conversion rate of new positive smear pulmonary Tuberculosis after initial phase from 55.3% in 2nd quarter 2001 to 75% in 2nd quarter 2002 at Phu Nhuan district in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam," at the TQM conference, December 5 -11, 2002, Hanoi, Vietnam.

**Ngan Nguyen Le ('99)** has completed a research project entitled "Model of community-based safe use of pesticide in order to protect farmer health in a commune from 2000-2001." She also organized and taught two month-long training courses to health workers in

Hanoi and Namdinh provinces, and developed the basic public health curriculum on occupational safety and health for the 2001-2002 academic year at the Hanoi School of Public Health. She notes that, "Although this effort is modest, I have tried to apply what I learnt in Atlanta, especially in terms of teamwork and team-building."

**Dr. Marcellin Aye ('02)** has published the results of his doctoral dissertation in *Social Science and Medicine* (Vol. 55, no. 11), December 2002, pp 1929-1946. The article is entitled "Economic role of solidarity and social capital in accessing modern health care services in the Ivory Coast."

**Ronny A. Shtarkshall ('98)** was in Tirana, Albania, from January 14-15, 2003, on a United Nations Development Program (UNDP) mission as consultant to the National HIV/AIDS program. His assignment was to write a strategic plan designed to keep Albania a low-HIV prevalence country. Ronny indicated that the migration of the labor force, IV drug use and forced prostitution are major problems that feed into HIV infection. As an outcome of the mission, the World Bank Liaison office appointed Ronny and a team from Hebrew University Braun School of Public Health as consultants to implement the program and to strengthen the capacity of the Albanian National Core Team and its partners. Another MIPH graduate, **Paula Feder-Bubis ('97)** is a key member of the Braun SPH team.

**Karen Cuevas Mendoza ('98)** has been promoted to Manager, Maternal and Child Health Clinic, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Before her promotion, she had coordinated the clinic's Community Outreach Program.

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## Janna Brooks, M.A., Joins SMDP



Janna Brooks has joined SMDP as a public health advisor, and is responsible for providing technical assistance to management training programs in developing countries as well as teaching in the annual Management for International Public Health course. She joins SMDP from CDC's sister agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, where she had

been a Community Involvement Specialist working closely with state and community public health partners to design environmental health promotion and communication projects.

Janna said, "After several years working on U.S. public health issues, I am excited about the opportunity to return to work in the international arena. SMDP is unique in the opportunities it offers to work with a diverse array of partners in international public health and I am looking forward to working with the SMDP team."

Before joining CDC/ATSDR, she worked for seven years in the Middle East developing and managing community-based health and development projects

for an international non-governmental organization (NGO). Her international public health program experience includes assisting an integrated village women's health project. She also managed a rehabilitation program for youth injured in political violence in the West Bank and Gaza and an emergency medical relief program in Lebanon. Ms. Brooks holds a masters degree in government from the University of Virginia, and a bachelor's degree in economics, *magna cum laude*, from Wake Forest University, North Carolina. She also completed two years of doctoral-level studies at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

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## SMDP 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Conference, Hanoi, Vietnam April 7-12, 2003

More than 70 MIPH alumni and public health professionals from around the world have registered to attend the second international SMDP conference, on "Strengthening Global Public Health Management Training Capacity."

Presentations during the five-day conference will feature the winners of the Management Training Excellence Award and the two Applied Learning Projects awards. In addition, more than 20 programs and projects will be presented, reflecting TQM and Healthy Plan-*it*<sup>TM</sup> efforts currently under way in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

Keynote speaker is Dr. Hiroshi Takahashi, MD, Senior Advisor (Public Health Medicine), Institute for International Cooperation, Japan International Cooperation Agency.

The conference brings together the best thinking in public health management training. Best practices from the conference will be published



*Hoan Kiem Lake, or Lake of the Returned Sword, surrounded by willow trees, is found right in the heart of Hanoi. A tiny pagoda, the Tortoise Pagoda, topped with a red star and situated in the middle of the lake, is often used as the emblem of Hanoi.*

at a later date. Watch for details in an upcoming issue of *SMDP News*.