Public Health Practice

Stories from the Field
The University of Texas School of Public Health
Student Practicum Experiences
Fall 2011 – Management, Policy & Community Health
The practicum experience is an integral part of the MPH curriculum. Public health students are provided with the opportunity to apply their classroom knowledge to real world settings through which they make a meaningful contribution to a public health organization.

Under the guidance of a community preceptor and faculty sponsor, students from all divisions gain a deeper understanding of public health practice, interact with professionals in the field, and expand their repertoire of professional skills.

This sixth-edition e-magazine showcases student practicum experiences throughout the Fall 2011 semester. (Prior semesters may be accessed through the e-book, a collection of student abstracts and e-magazines describing their experiences.)
## Practicum Topics

**Serving Size:** 1 Practicum per Student  
**Servings per e-Magazine:** 16

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### Management, Policy & Community Health

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Administration in Academic Medicine

My Projects

Center for Globalization - background research
• Export control issues
• Opportunities to be offered to students and faculty

Advanced Business Training Course for Principal Investigators – organization of a new training course to begin in January

Tech-Transfer policies and procedures

Identifying specific research projects within the College relevant to departmental directors

BCM Partnership Grand Rounds and Luncheon – informational session & fundraising tour of the Texas Medical Center

Meetings Attended

• School of Tropical Medicine planning
• Center for Globalization planning
• Administrator’s Council
• Strategic Planning Initiatives
• Office of the President

Administrative Internship in Academic Medicine

• Baylor College of Medicine is consistently ranked in the top 25 Medical Schools for research in the United States
• Annual research grant awards top $330 million
• BCM clinicians provide care at:
  • St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital
  • Texas Children’s Hospital
  • Memorial Hermann - The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research
  • The Menninger Clinic
  • The Methodist Hospital
  • Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center
  • M D Anderson Cancer Center
  • Ben Taub General Hospital

Public Health Significance

• Administration is a vital component to the continued success of such a large institution that affects the health of so many individuals in the community

• Research & clinical contribution combined is immeasurable
Youth Gardening Promotes Health

School instruction highlights:
- Assisted with after-school gardening instruction at three elementary schools
- Participated in garden build/expansion projects at three elementary schools
- Attended curriculum meetings and outreach events
- Harvested and tasted summer vegetables and planted fall crops with the kids
- Taught kids an appreciation for growing food and eating fruits and vegetables

"This is just like math!"
— one of the third graders on measuring the placement for a bed

Working with elementary school kids in an after-school gardening program exposes them to nutrition and outdoor play
By: Bethany Brimberry

While work at a community gardening organization is not all about digging in the dirt, I did have the chance to get my hands dirty during my practicum with Urban Harvest. I spent a fair amount of time in the office, helping update the community gardens database and sending emails out to members, but the most rewarding part of the experience was working with the children in the after-school gardening programs.

Public Health Significance

The work Urban Harvest does with children in the after-school gardening program is a great example of "(mobilizing) community partnerships to identify and solve health problems" while educating and empowering children about nutrition, which falls under two of the APHA’s Ten Essential Public Health Services (1).

The programs are a collaborative between the individual schools, 21st Century After School Programs, HISD Aramark, teachers and parents, and Urban Harvest.

They give kids the opportunity to spend about two hours outside in the garden once a week, learning about where food comes from and how to eat healthy, and having the opportunity for outdoor physical activity. This is especially important when 21.1% of children ages 6-11 are overweight or obese (2), only 42% achieve the recommended level of physical activity (2), and less than 10% of Texas youth are eating the recommended two servings of fruit and three servings of vegetables per day (3).

(1) http://www.apha.org/programs/standards/performancestandardsprogram/sexessentia...services.htm.
(2) http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/bibliography/key_statistics.aspx
(3) http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov/health_professionals/maps_youth.html
Delivering HIV Care

Special Events/Duties

- Specialized HIV care
- Triage patient scheduling system.
- The “in+care” patient retention campaign.

“When patients stay in care they get the services that they need, leading to healthier people and stronger communities.”

- “in+care” campaign

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) HIV/AIDS Bureau & the National Quality Center (NQC).

Delivery of care and administration at the Thomas Street Health Center, a specialized HIV treatment facility of the Harris County Hospital District.

The Harris County Hospital District's Thomas Street Health Center is a freestanding facility that provides a range of medical services to patients of HIV/AIDS.

The unique challenge in delivering care to patients with HIV is to ensure regular patient visits and patient retention. Further, as a freestanding facility, the clinic has to ensure that even unscheduled patients are cared for.

I worked with the Medical Director of the clinic. Apart from observing routine clinical care, I was part of the development of programs that would help improve its scheduling system and allow for care of patients presenting in triage with non-urgent conditions under situations of reduced or strained staffing.

Further, to improve retention of care, the clinic has implemented the “in+care” campaign to ensure that patients get all the services they need.

Public Health Significance

I believe that an essential service performed by the Thomas Street Health Center that most closely relates to my practicum experience is linking people to needed personal health services and assuring the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.

The goal of this facility is to provide patients diagnosed with HIV/AIDS a comprehensive range of services so that they have the ability to improve their health. Towards this goal, the facility provides medical care in a number of medical specialties, along with pharmacy services, psychiatric counseling, physical rehabilitation, and HIV education and counseling. Further, the clinic offers free HIV testing.

By ensuring retention of care, patients are able to maintain their health, care for those that are dependent on them, motivate others to get tested and to adhere to treatment if diagnosed. This lowers viral loads in the community and prevents further transmission of this disease.
Global Health at UTHealth

Implementation and further development of the Global Health Concentration and student global health efforts at UTHealth.

By: Eric Crowell

My work at the Office of Global Health Initiatives (OGHI) was to help coordinate the student activities in global health that are taking place around the medical center. Each school has multiple activities students participate in, but there was not a lot of cross collaboration between the two. The OGHI is hoping to fix over this issue. Through the OGHI, I helped implement and further develop the Global Health Concentration at the Med School to expand educational opportunities for students and support their efforts of working with underserved populations.

A report of global health efforts at the medical school is currently being created to highlight the significance of student work.

Public Health Significance

This practicum was designed to help develop policies and plans to support individual and community health efforts.

By implementing and further developing the Global Health Concentration at the UTHouston Medical School students are empowered to continue work with underserved populations. This program also helps to expand on students’ education on public health topics affecting the health of people globally. The improvements in collaboration between the UTHealth students at different schools will also allow the little money that is available for global health pursuits to be stretched further.

The OGHI directly aids in this effort by coordinating with outside sites students can visit to fulfill their requirements for the concentration. The agreements made with these sites could not be done by the Global Health Concentration staff alone.

*Increased the School of Public Health Student Participation in Frontera de Salud Brownsville, TX border trips hosted by students at the Medical School*

*Began a Journal Club to coordinate with the Global Health in the 21st Century Lecture Series for the Global Health Concentration*
I worked at the Texas Children’s Health Plan (TCHP)-Keep Fit Program. TCHP is the nation’s first HMO created just for children. TCHP, which is affiliated with Texas Children’s Hospital, established a primary-care network, specialists and a hospital network for plan members. In addition, TCHP provides excellent services for pregnant women and adults.

I worked on the Obesity & Nutrition initiatives, primarily in the weight management department. I provided health education to Medicaid/CHIP families located in and around the Houston area.

**Keep Fit Program**

**Duties included:**
- Revise program materials/curriculum
- Measure BMI, Endurance & nutritional measures
- Teach nutrition classes
- Call participating families and discuss engagement in the program
- Analyze Keep Fit Program outcomes from 2009-present

**Final Product:**
- Summary spreadsheet of session’s data & program evaluation from 2009 to present

**Outcome—**
- Showed a positive trend in data capture and performance outcomes as the sessions have progressed from 2009.

**Public Health Significance**

The Keep Fit program performs many of the essential public health services. For example:

1. **Members are monitored** by disease case managers to make sure their children are attending annual health exams.
2. **Physicians & specialists diagnose** members and their families, and **investigate** factors affecting their population through the patient network.
3. **Educated** members every Saturday about health issues that can occur if they don’t modify their eating behaviors.
4. **Developed** new curriculum relevant to the concerns of families (i.e. “cost-conscious” class)
5. **Evaluated** the outcomes of nutrition & physical activity for the Keep Fit Program from 2009 to present

Keep Fit allows families to ask questions and interact with healthcare specialists and nutritionist in the Houston area. Members were able to receive health education in order to provide their families with a healthier lifestyle. In addition, it would allow families to end the cycle of obesity in their families with small behavior changes over time.
**Corporate Reimbursement at CHRISTUS Health**

**Special Privileges Include:**

- Attending HFMA’s Leadership Summit in Galveston, TX
- Participating in Deloitte consulting meetings concerning ICD-10 Awareness Training
- Meeting several regional and corporate CEOs and CFOs at monthly CHRISTUS Health reimbursement conferences.

I will never look at a hospital in the same way again. Every dollar must be coded, registered, and tracked, for thousands of patients with hundreds of different insurers. There is so much of the system that works, and yet so much that still needs improvement!

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**Corporate Reimbursement: Tracking Claims to the Last Dime!**

**By: JESSICA FOSTER**

My practicum took place at Christus St. John in Nassau Bay, TX, which is a part of the greater CHRISTUS Health System. I worked in the corporate reimbursement department, which reported directly to the CFO. I was specifically educated on the revenue cycle and accounting processes used to prepare and record monthly financial statement journal entries. These journal entries and supporting documents literally tracked every dollar from every hospital claim to make certain that the correct adjustments were made as far as insurance payments and charity write-offs so that the hospital would stay on budget.

I was also heavily involved with Medicare and Medicaid Cost Report preparation. This task required that I reviewed numerous claims to ensure that they were all up-to-date, accurate, and complete so that the hospital could be properly reimbursed for its charity and indigent claims.

My final learning objective was to design a PowerPoint presentation which would “connect the dots” of the revenue cycle to the resulting financial statements and governmental reporting requirements.

**Public Health Significance**

I feel that many aspects of my practicum addressed the Public Health Essential Service of “Evaluation.” Monthly journal entries and all of the data that goes into recording such numbers really help to evaluate the effectiveness, quality, and affordability of several hospital services.

Reimbursement reports bring attention to when a certain department is being under-utilized, or when too many of the same claims are being denied, or if the hospital is not providing the proper amount of charity care. These factors all help the hospital leaders ensure that the best possible care is being delivered to the entire community.

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Photo Sources:
http://www.christushealth.org/body.cfm?id=35&action=interactiveMap
The T.R.U.T.H. at AIDS Foundation

AIDS Foundation Houston ... providing resources for HIV/AIDS services and information to the Houston area community since 1982:

- Client Services
- Education
- Pediatric/Teen Programs
- Prison Initiatives

Innovative HIV Prevention Programs:

The T.R.U.T.H. Project

Focus on Youth

"...you always have to come up with new ways of trying to get to the community to affect them enough to start making some changes" – Kevin Anderson, Prevention Services at AIDS Foundation Houston (The T.R.U.T.H. Project)


By: Ugochi Irikannu

The Prevention Services team at AIDS Foundation Houston has done it again. They have come up with an innovative approach to address HIV prevention. The T.R.U.T.H. Project is a performance arts community based intervention that addresses abuse, bullying and stigma, and HIV in the GLBT community.

The intervention promotes healing and education through the use of the arts such as song, dance, and spoken word.

Public Health Significance

AIDS Foundation Houston is a comprehensive community agency that link PLWHA with essential services such as housing and food. The Prevention Services department of the agency aims through its programs to:

- Research for innovative solutions in HIV prevention
- Mobilize community partnerships
- Inform, educate, and empower the entire Houston area community

The team led by Nike Lukan and Kevin Anderson were assisted by a UTSPH the intern who assisted in the planning and implementation activities of the third installment. The team developed a community assessment survey and post-intervention evaluation tool.

The 3rd installment of The T.R.U.T.H. Project will be held at the Arena Theatre on December 4th. Over 800 people are expected to attend the event.

The Prevention services department has accomplished three essential public health services through The T.R.U.T.H. Project:

- Innovative approach to HIV prevention using the arts while delivering key mental and physical health messages
- Partner with other community agencies to disseminate health information
- Focus on issues that play a role in HIV transmission
By: Jane Lee

As the Region 6/5 Family Health Intern for the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS), I was in charge of coordinating children insurance training sessions intended to increase knowledge of government programs and their application processes.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide children insurance training session to community leaders and members. The goal with the workshops was to increase awareness and education as well as bridge the gap between insured children and those without access to care.

Public Health Significance

Through research on Medicaid and CHIP, my practicum and the TDSHS has been able to inform and educate the populations of Region 6/5 on the lack of children’s insurance in their counties. Through such awareness, the training workshops has linked those in need of children’s insurance with the essential tools such as the application process and general knowledge of such public insurance programs.

By providing the workshops as well as research in children’s insurance, Texas will prepare itself for future changes in the world of access to care, especially with the dawning of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
Practicum Duties

- Daily monitoring of pre- and post-operative forms uploaded to patient's electronic medical records.
- Working with the surgical staff to improve pre- and post-operative compliance.
- Reporting unresolved errors to the Division of Surgery.

“The secret of health for both mind and body is not to mourn for the past, worry about the future, or anticipate troubles, but to live in the present moment wisely and earnestly.” ~ Buddha

MD Anderson Cancer Center
Division of Surgery Internal Compliance Audit
By: Kara Leonard

In an effort to improve pre- and post-surgical compliance for an upcoming visit from the Joint Commission, the Division of Surgery conducted an internal audit of all pre- and post-surgical forms uploaded to patient electronic medical records.

In working on this project, I was responsible for monitoring all pre- and post-operative forms to be sure that they were filled out completely, correctly, and in a timely manner.

I worked closely with the surgical staff to resolve any problems with the pre- and post-operative forms. Physicians failing to resolve an error after it was brought to their attention were reported to the Division of Surgery through the use of a daily error report.

We found that with repeated exposure to the guidelines established by the Division, physician compliance improved.

Public Health Significance

Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.

In my work on this project, I was responsible for educating the surgical staff on the guidelines established by the Division. I worked closely with the surgical staff to ensure comprehension and adoption.

Assure a competent public health and personal healthcare workforce.

In my work on this project, I was responsible for working with the surgical staff and the administrative team to ensure compliance. Physicians failing to adhere to the established guidelines were reported to the Division.
Colic and Child Abuse Prevention

Duties at My Practicum Site:
- Install monitoring equipment in patients' homes; retrieve at end of observation period
- Perform exit survey to assess maternal stress level
- Design and create Access database for patient information
- Develop 'Methods' section for scientific paper

“...If this new soothing technique is proven effective, it will precipitate sweeping changes in medical education and training, public health detection and prevention programs, and law enforcement.”

Photo Courtesy of Christopher Greeley.

The Colic Clinic
By: CHRISTINE LOBO

Child abuse related to excessive infant crying (EIC) affects millions of families worldwide. To address this issue, faculty members at the University of Texas School of Medicine in Houston (UTMS-H) have sponsored a program called The Colic Clinic – a research intervention that tests the effectiveness of a combinatorial soothing technique to help calm infants and reduce maternal stress. The future implications of this work will be to reduce incidence of excessive infant crying and the child abuse cases that arise from it.

The deliverables for my practicum are a working Access database to store and process all patient data as well as the 'Methods' section of a paper to be published in the coming months.

Public Health Significance

This project has enabled the UTMS-H to diagnose and monitor a population that is at risk for child abuse due to excessive infant crying. The program’s main goals are to

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of a new combinatorial soothing technique for infants with colic and
2. Inform, educate, and empower caregivers of children with colic in order to fully implement a new solution as standard practice.

The Colic Clinic’s goals directly address the UTMS-H’s mission “to provide exemplary clinical services in relation to our educational and discovery activities”, and it is one of a multitude of research and community education programs hosted by the university’s pediatrics department.

Fall 2011. Christine Lobo. University of Texas School of Medicine. Colic and Child Abuse
I had the pleasure to assist with designing the curriculum for Dreams for Youth Afterschool Program. 300 children from eight elementary schools of Harlandale and San Antonio ISD are participating in this program. The goal of Dreams for Youth Afterschool Program is to mentor, enrich, and educate these children to conduct a healthy lifestyle and to make the right behavioral and nutritional choices. I also assisted in Fit Family Challenge Finale and ING Kids Rock Program. My primary focus remained the nutrition/healthy habits part of the afterschool curriculum and its implementation and evaluation. San Antonio Sports- Youth Division has already identified the need for these programs in the elementary schools, especially those in underserved communities. This will be the first year that the Afterschool Program is implemented in 8 schools. The organizers are hoping to expand the program to the rest of the Harlandale and SA ISD elementary schools. My final product was the healthy habits-healthy eating curriculum for the Dreams for Youth Afterschool Program along with a pre / post evaluation. This program is currently ongoing and will end by April 2012. Either though it is too early to analyze the findings, we are hoping to see significant results based on the enthusiasms of students and teachers.

**Public Health Significance**

This practicum experience within the context of the programs executed relates closely to these Public Health Essential Services:

- **Diagnosed and investigated** the needs of children in underserved communities

- **Informed, educated, and empowered** these children through these programs

- **Mobilized** families and schools to support the program

- **Evaluated** the efficiency and quality of the deliverables

- **Researched** for new ways to deliver the information and alleviate the need

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**Special events & highlights during your practicum**

- Fit Family Challenge Finale
- Dreams for Youth Afterschool Program
- Kids Rock’n’Roll Marathon
- Rock’ N Roll SA Marathon & Half-Marathon

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*Running children at Kids Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon, November 2011
Source: Personal Camera*
PRACTICUM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Met Dr. Peter Kennedy from the Clinical Excellence Commission, a major player in healthcare quality improvement in New South Wales, Australia.
- Met one-on-one with key quality improvement personnel at Texas Children’s, including their patient safety expert and the Chief Nursing Officer.

Quality Improvement at Texas Children’s Hospital
By: Paul Newhouse

At Texas Children’s Hospital (TCH), I had the privilege of contributing to the quality improvement efforts of the hospital. My primary involvement was with the Advanced Quality Improvement program, an internal education program for both clinical and non-clinical staff that helps enable them to initiate their own quality improvement projects in their respective departments throughout the hospital.

FINAL PROJECT:
I developed a leadership presentation for AQI’s project coaches. The presentation attempted to integrate course readings on leadership to identify the key traits and styles of leadership that project coaches can then, in turn, communicate to individual project leaders for them to use as they initiate and implement their QI projects.

Public Health Significance

My practicum at Texas Children’s Hospital was most readily associated with the APHA Essential Service to “Assure a competent public health and personal healthcare workforce.” Quality improvement is heavily rooted in ensuring system-wide competence. I saw this not only through the Advanced Quality Improvement course, but also through other data processing and analysis activities that the department in which I worked was responsible for.

Hospitals such as Texas Children’s clearly play a crucial role in public health. Families rely on TCH to treat, heal, and cure their loved ones. The work that I performed contributed to the effort to ensure that the care provided at TCH is of the very highest quality. Furthermore, I hope my leadership presentation will assist in cultivating and empowering leaders throughout the ranks to continually seek to improve their own work.

Paul Newhouse Fall 2017 Texas Children’s Hospital Quality Improvement
Global Business Development and Physician Relation

By Malachy Nkem MSPH

Brief Overview
Methodist International is the international subsidiary of The Methodist Hospital system located in the Texas Medical Center. Its services include hospital advisory and consulting services, international hospital management and global affiliations, and international education and training.

The decision to do my practicum at Methodist International was due to an interest in international health care consulting. I wanted an expose to international healthcare management advisory and business development. Methodist International practicum offered me a great opportunity to do that. Working in several projects, exposed me to healthcare administration, operation, and management advisory on a global level.

Projects:
Business Development
Methodist International offered me an opportunity to work on very interest projects in Global business development. I worked on a strategic partnership project with colleagues at Middle East branch. I play a critical role in the preliminary phase of the project. I was responsible for identify global institutions that can potentially form strategic partnership with Methodist International. My second project in business development was to identify multi-national networking opportunities occurring around the country featuring Multi-national organizations that does business in Latin America, Middle East and Africa. My third Project involves identifying professional development programs for consultants.

I worked on a marketing project that exposed me to website development. My task was to streamline the e-marketing efforts, allowing inquires and contact information submitted on Methodist International websites to be forwarded to Salesforce customer relationship management tool where it can be systematically managed by an account representative.

Physician Relation
My role in facilitating seamless relation between doctors and physician liaison involves compiling physicians’ professional and educational preference information from physicians and updating records of interaction in customer relationship Management tool.

Public Health Significance
Working with healthcare organizations in developing countries through management advisory, Methodist International help strengthen healthcare infrastructure in those countries. My projects play a role in enhancing the capability of Methodist International to develop linkages with healthcare organizations in developing countries.
Food Insecurity in Texas

The Houston Regional Food System Study

By: Gabrielle Novello

Summary

For my practicum, I worked with Houston Tomorrow, a local non-profit organization dedicated to pushing the smart growth agenda in the Greater Houston metro area. One of Houston Tomorrow’s newest projects has been to study the food system in the 13-county Houston region.

I came into the project at the very beginning and had a large role in deciding how the organization would go about studying the food system. In the end, I developed a research plan for conducting Community Food Security Assessments to be implemented in 25 neighborhoods throughout the region. Next semester, I hope to continue working on the project by implementing the assessment in 2 communities as a pilot for the rest of the study.

Public Health Significance

My practicum mainly focused on research and monitoring, two of the ten essential public health services described by the American Public Health Association.

Food insecurity is a significant problem in the state of Texas. Recent data shows that from 2008-2010, about 18% of Texans experienced food insecurity, compared to the national average of 14.6% during the same time period. Food insecurity has been associated with a variety of negative health outcomes, including developmental problems, anemia, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, anxiety and depression.

The purpose of the Community Food Security Assessments will be to study food systems and indicators of food security in communities. Ultimately, the information compiled in the assessment can be used to make policy recommendations and/or create or improve programs.
Public Health Significance

Baylor College of Medicine plays an instrumental role in all of the essential services of Public Health, due to the nature of this organization. However, the Public Health essential service that is most closely related to my practicum is that of evaluation and assurance. Evaluation included strategic planning, how could BCM improve its current position, increasing class sizes and types of services offered to students. Also development of the McNair campus displays BCM’s commitment to top quality health care.

Assurance involved proper infrastructure and personnel to benefit public health, such as finding a surgery chair or creation of the National School of Tropical Medicine, along with grants for improving global health.

In sum, BCM plays a role in all the essential services of Public Health, and I played a role in the functioning of these services. These are just the two more pertinent to my practicum experience.

Project Manager Intern in the Office of the President

By: Amrit Singh

Throughout this practicum experience, being allowed to be a project manager intern allowed me to witness and participate in institutional initiatives throughout BCM. I participated in the process of strategic planning. We analyzed financial, operational and organizational issues such as fostering innovation, space utilization and striving to become a top medical school. I was also fortunate to be involved early development in the only National School of Tropical Medicine in the nation. I also gained more experience in data analysis, PowerPoint creation, and process mapping. Finally, I was able to observe some major institutional practices such as Surgery Chair Search, and played a part in preparing and participated in visits from many prominent healthcare companies, individuals and delegations.

Highlights from this practicum:

• Gain insight on the internal working of Healthcare Administration
• Ability to apply classroom knowledge in a practical setting

“Healthcare Administration at Work!”

Courtesy of BCM Public Affairs

Fall 2011 • Amritpaul Singh • Baylor College of Medicine • Project Manager Intern
Advocating for elderly safety!!

- Inappropriate use of medications for elderly is a critical but preventable issue.
- Elderly patients are very vulnerable as they have longer hospital stay and frequent readmission.
- Cholinesterase-inhibitors are group of medicines used for dementia and are not recommended to initiate in patients while they are in hospital.

Appropriate use of medicines for dementia in hospital setting

By: Kamal Wagle

- My practicum was based on Houston VA Health Services Research and Development department of Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, Houston, TX
- Faculty Mentor: Paul Rowan PhD; Community Mentor: Ursula Braun MD, MPH; Senior Community Mentor: Mark Kunik MD, MPH
- Topic of interest: appropriate use of medication in elderly patients during their hospital stay
- Specific interest: Retrospective study of use of Cholinesterase Inhibitors in hospital setting
- I looked into initiation of medication for dementia when patient is in hospital.
- There is no evidence to initiate such medicine in hospital setting; rather it should be done with proper work up in an outpatient setting.
- My study was a retrospective chart review.
- Our finding has implications to safety of the patient and unnecessary hospital costs.

Keeping elderly safe in the hospital by appropriate use of medications

Keep elderly safe in the hospital by appropriate use of medications

Public Health Significance

- Research is one of the ten essential services of public health
- Appropriateness of medications prescribed and their use by elderly has been an important topic for policymakers, regulators, health care researchers, and the public. This correlates strongly with the safety as well as quality of care issue.

So what test?

- Our study findings will help in appropriate usage practice of medicine for dementia in hospital.
- For elderly sick patient who are vulnerable to frequent hospitalizations and longer hospitalization, quality of care, safety and cost saving are very critical and are of public health importance.

* Fall 2011* Kamal Wagle* HSRD, VA*To study the initiation of cholinesterase-inhibitors in an inpatient setting*
For more information regarding The University of Texas School of Public Health, Office of Public Health Practice and the practicum program, please visit: https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/practicum/