Activities of the Student Epidemic Intelligence Society
2010-2011

Trainings:

August 27, 2010. **Rapid Assessment Methods.** Instructors: Dr. Bebe Selwyn and Rebecca Bryson. SEIS Participants: ____. Dr. Bebe Selwyn instructed participants on how to sample study participants using the WHO Expanded Program on Immunizations (EPI) cluster sampling method during a 1-hour lecture. Students constructed the sampling frame, applied the Probability Proportionate to Size (PPS) sampling selection method, assigned clusters to the study, designed random walks through study locations, and discussed selection of study subjects during a 3-hour computer exercise. A field activity followed where attendees went into the field to study sites, followed the predetermined random walks, screened for eligible study units, and conducted assessments with selected individuals for inclusion in the Motherland & Hour Clinic Community Health Needs Assessment. The study instruments were returned to school for analysis.

September 15, 2010: **Outbreak Response.** Instructor: Dr. Kristy O. Murray and Rebecca Bryson. SEIS Participants: 64. Students learned the important steps in conducting an outbreak investigation by attending a 1.5-hr lecture. Following the lecture, attendees worked in teams to conduct a tabletop exercise of a CDC investigation of meningitis at a Texas university and then debriefed as a group.

October 7, 2010. **Interview Techniques.** Instructors: Dr. Kristy Murray, Dimpy Shah, Sofia de Acheval, and Jane Montealegre

October 14, 2010. **Risk and Media Communication.** Instructor: Dr. Robert Emery. SEIS Participants: 18. Dr. Robert Emery presented information to the students regarding strategies of communicating accurate public health information through the media to the public during this 1.5-hour lecture. The lecture opened with a video of a recent interview that Dr. Emery conducted regarding business continuity after a disaster. He showed us the backgrounder that was constructed for that particular interview and described how the public health professional has the ability to control the entire interview. Dr. Emery emphasized that there is no correlation between the objective morbidity and mortality of a public health risk and the degree to which the public is upset by the risk.

Lectures:

October 21, 2010: **Special Lecture: Public Health Response.** Speaker: Dr Herminia Palacio, HCPHES. Following a welcome and introduction by Dr Roberta Ness, UTSPH Dean, Dr Palacio, the Executive Director of Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services presented on public health response from the perspective of the large metropolitan health department, including a discussion of the 2009 H1N1 local response, and shared how Harris County was impacted.

September 9, 2010: **SEIS Informational Member Meeting.** Speaker: Rebecca Bryson, SEIS President. A welcome and informational session was held to orient new participants and recruit new SEIS members.
Members from San Antonio and Austin participated via ITV. Recruitment at this activity totaled 6 new members.

Other Activities:

July 16, 2010. UT School of Public Health Student Leadership Retreat. Lead: UTSPH Student Affairs. SEIS Executive Board members joined the student officers from other UTSPH student organizations for a day of leadership training and team-building activities. Groups then calendared upcoming events to avoid scheduling conflicts between organizations.

August 24, 2010: UT School of Public Health new student orientation. Lead: UTSPH Student Affairs. SEIS president delivered a 5-minute orientation presentation to orient new students to the mission and activities of the SEIS. Recruitment at this activity totaled 13 new members.

September 2, 2010: UTSPH Student Association Welcome Reception. Lead: SPHSA. SEIS officers operated an SEIS information booth, recruiting new members, providing information about the organization, and recruiting volunteers for the Motherland & Hour Clinic Community Health Needs Assessment. SEIS officers assisted the SPHSA officers in set-up of the school-wide activity. Recruitment at this activity totaled 41 new members.

September 8, 2010: UT School of Public Health Student Organization Expo. Lead: UTSPH Student Affairs. SEIS officers operated an SEIS information booth, recruiting new members, providing information about the organization, selling Response Team t-shirts, and recruiting volunteers for the Motherland & Hour Clinic Community Health Needs Assessment. Recruitment at this activity totaled 27 new members.

October 21, 2010: SEIS Welcome Reception. Participants: __. SEIS Members, interested students and faculty from the Texas Medical Center, and representatives from local health departments mingled during this networking event.

October 14, 2010: West Nile Patient Meeting. Lead: Dr. Kristy Murray, Laboratory for Zoonotics & Vectorborne Diseases, UTSPH). SEIS volunteers assisted in a follow-up meeting of a cohort of patients previously infected with West Nile Virus. Volunteers conducted patient interviews and collected blood samples. This is an ongoing activity in which SEIS members regularly participate.

December 11, 2010: Berry Elementary Environmental Fair. Lead: Berry Elementary, Houston ISD. SEIS participants: 5 (18 hours). SEIS members set up educational booths at the elementary school “Plug Into the Outdoors” event to raise public awareness of germs and other public health issues. SEIS handed out CDC information sheets about flu prevention in English and Spanish and provided activity sheets for kids on handwashing and preventing the spread of germs. An activity allowed kids to “Make your Sneeze Face” to teach using a Kleenex when coughing or sneezing.

Executive Officer Meetings:

May 11, 2010
June 17, 2010
October 1, 2010
October 20, 2010
October 29, 2010