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##### Alabama Public Health Association

(251) 479-8379

fax (251) 450-1070

##### ALPHA Web Site:

[www.alphassoc.org](http://www.alphassoc.org)

## President's Message

### Preparing for Battle

We hear a lot about war and fighting every day considering our nation's current involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq. For those involved in public health, we are quite familiar with the strategies and wages of war. We prepare and fight battles every day that affect the entire life span of our population and every environment in which they live. We have won many battles, some daily victories, while others may last lifetimes.

In the business of public health, the war is always on and as soldiers fighting the war, we must always be prepared for the fight by knowing what we are up against and improving our skills to meet the challenge. The upcoming 49th Annual ALPHA Educational Conference is one way to prepare our public health troops.

The ALPHA Program Committee and the Institute for Rural Health Research are excited about the faculty and educational content planned for the meeting. ALPHA members should use the ALPHA registration form to register for the conference. Copies of the registration form can be made and shared with others if needed. The newsletter contains more detailed information about the conference agenda. For those of you employed by the State Health Department, attendance of this meeting has been approved by the State Health Officer pending approval by appropriate superiors.

To our public health forces, keep up the good work, keep fighting a good fight and I look forward to seeing you in Tuscaloosa, April 21-22.

Viki Brant, M.P.A.  
President

### Public health employees encouraged to attend conference

Public health employees have been authorized and encouraged to attend the 49th Alabama Public Health Association/Sixth Annual Rural Health Conference and the pre-conference workshops if funding permits. Both registration fees and appropriate per diem will be supported by the agency for this continuing education opportunity.

Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer, said, "The Alabama Department of Public Health encourages employees to improve their skills and supports continuing professional education such as that provided at the annual health education conference of the Alabama Public Health Association."

With the assistance of Continuing Education Chairperson Cheryl Ann Hall, 19.5 hours of continuing education units have been applied for the following disciplines: nurses, social workers, dental hygienists, pharmacists, social workers and nutritionists.

### How to Register

Use the "Alabama Public Health Association Inc. Conference & Pre-Conference Registration Form."

Check the boxes for any pre-conference workshops you plan to attend and for the conference. Public health employees must indicate their Budget element number.

The form may be printed from our Web site, copied and faxed to ALPHA at (251) 450-1070 or mailed to the Alabama Public Health Association, Inc. P.O. Box 6632, Mobile, AL 36660.



## Message from UAB School of Public Health

### *We are challenged to create solutions for public health's future*

Cutbacks in federal and state spending painfully remind us how vulnerable many public health programs are. The public health community increasingly faces seemingly impossible choices between many critical programs that improve health. Hypertension treatment programs now compete with vaccination programs that then must compete with inspection services in a disturbing spiral away from a stable public health system.

Public health, however, is a distinctive discipline because the people who work, teach, and train in public health share the ability to see solutions in complex problems. More than most professions those in public health are less prone to bemoan the loss of the "good ole' days" and far more willing to use the prickly thorns of the dilemma as the tools for creating the future.

The Father of Public Health, Dr. John Snow, saw the solution to a cholera epidemic in London well before the cause was understood. Despite prevailing public opinion he convinced the local officials to let him remove the handle from the Broad Street pump so people could no longer drink contaminated water. Within days the epidemic began to subside, ushering in the modern era of public health.

The severe financial problems we all face appear likely to be with us for a very long time. In a way this is our epidemic. Our challenge is to do what we do best - create the next generation of solutions to advance the public's health, to use our legacy of taking the handle off the pump because we see what others don't.

The public health of the past, academic and practice, must animate the public health of the future. We know where the pump is; can we see the handle?

By MAX MICHAEL

Dean

School of Public Health

University of Alabama at Birmingham

## Officers for 2005-06 to be elected

Ballots soon will be sent to the membership to elect candidates for the following offices:

- ❖ Vice-President
- ❖ Recording Secretary
- ❖ Treasurer
- ❖ American Public Health Association Alternate Delegate
- ❖ Southern Health Association Alternate Delegate

The Nominating Committee is chaired by Jamie Manning and consists of the following members: Sara Bradley, Paula Clark, Ricky Elliott and Denise Pope.

In addition to the nominees advanced, write-ins will be welcomed.

## Please help ALPHA by updating your profile

The ALPHA Web site at [www.alphassoc.org](http://www.alphassoc.org) is the place to visit! All ALPHA members are asked to indicate their new section affiliations and to update their address information on the site. A description of the four new sections approved by the membership is as follows:

### ALPHA Sections

- Community Health Advocacy—includes individuals from a cross-section of disciplines and interests who are driven to make changes through public policy
- Community Health Leadership—supports the education of its members on public health issues
- Preventive Health—enhances the ability of its members to promote and protect personal, environmental and community health
- Community Health Partnerships—links individuals and organizations in addressing public issues.

# Sixth Annual Rural Health Conference and Alabama Public Health Association 49th Annual Education Conference



## ALPHA PRE-CONFERENCE SEMINARS Wednesday, April 20, 2005

### I. Professional Services Leadership Day

Location: Bryant Conference Center, Tuscaloosa  
Presented by the Office of Professional and Support Services,  
Alabama Dept. of Public Health

10:00 am -- 12:00 pm	Plenary Session	12:00 pm - 1:15 pm
	<b>Breakout Session A</b>	
12:00 pm -- 1:30 pm	Public Health Social Work Awards Luncheon	1:30 pm - 2:45 pm
1:30 pm -- 4:00 pm	Public Health Social Work Seminar	
	<b>Breakout Session B</b>	
12:00 pm -- 1:30 pm	Public Health Nursing Appreciation Luncheon and Celebration	
1:30 pm -- 4:00 pm	Public Health Nursing Seminar (Anne Smith Seminar)	
	<b>Breakout Session C</b>	
12:00 pm -- 1:30 pm	Luncheon	2:45 pm - 3:00 pm
1:30 pm -- 4:00 pm	Seminar	3:00 pm - 4:15 pm

### II. Removing the Barriers to Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening

10 am – 4 pm (Lunch included)

Location: Bryant Conference Center, Tuscaloosa

### III. Design, Installation and Inspection of Alternative Onsite Sewage Systems

Location: University of West Alabama Onsite Training Center, Livingston

8:00 am -- 8:30 am	Board Bus at Bryant Conference Center, Tuscaloosa	
9:30 am	Arrival at Training Center	4:15 pm - 5:15 pm
10:00 am	Training Center's Role in Alabama's Onsite Industry	4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
10:30 am	Introduction to Alternative Onsite Treatment Systems	
1:30 am	Introduction to Decentralized Wastewater Treatment	7:00 am - 8:30 am
12:30 pm	LUNCH	
1:30 pm	Tour of AOWATC Facilities	8:30 am - 8:45 am
3:30 pm	Adjourn	8:45 am - 9:45 am

(Bus transportation provided back to Bryant Center, Tuscaloosa)

### “Community Partnerships: Navigating the Course for a Healthy Alabama”

April 21 – 22, 2005

Bryant Conference Center  
Tuscaloosa, AL

### Thursday, April 21, 2005

8:00 am - 9:00	AM Registration & Continental Breakfast	9:45 am - 10:00 am
9:00 am - 9:20 am	Convene, Welcome & Introductions	10:00 am - 11:15 am
9:20 am - 10:30 am	Keynote Address Dr. John Ruffin, Director, National Center on Minority Health & Health Disparities	
10:30 am - 10:45 am	Refreshment Break and Exhibitors	11:15 am - 12:15 pm
10:45 am - 12:00 am	Breakout Session # 1 1. Project EXPORT 2. State Diseases Coalition	12:15 pm - 12:30 pm

3. Basic Epidemiology of an Outbreak Investigation
4. Rural Health as Partners in Emergency Preparedness
5. HIV/AIDS: Trends and What We Can Do

Luncheon and Keynote Address  
Dr. Camara Jones, Project EXPORT,  
Centers for Disease Control &  
Prevention

### Breakout Session # 2

1. Emergency Response to the Health Care Crisis in Alabama
2. Agri-Medicine
3. Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratories, Part I
4. Mental Health as Partners in Emergency Preparedness
5. Managing Difficult Partnerships: Prevention and Management, Part I

Refreshment Break and Exhibitors

### Breakout Session # 3

1. Black Belt Action Commission
2. Mental Health Aspects of a Healthy Alabama
3. Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratories, Part II
4. Lessons Learned from Hurricane Ivan
5. Managing Difficult Partnerships: Prevention and Management, Part II

ALPHA Minority Health Meeting

ALPHA Awards Announcements and Reception

### Friday, April 22

Aycock Breakfast and Speaker,  
“Building Partnerships,”

James W. Kellen, Spring Hill College

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Keynote Address

Dr. Ed Thompson, Deputy Director of Public Health

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Refreshment Break

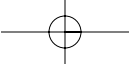
### Breakout Session # 4

1. Communities in Action
2. Alabama Suicide Prevention Task Force Plan
3. Whats New in Communicable Diseases
4. PACE-EH and Rural Communities
5. Dis-Stressing Your Job

ALPHA Business Meeting

Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

The total registration fee for those attending both the conference and a pre-conference seminar is \$120. If registering for a pre-conference seminar, please indicate the seminar name on the registration form in the space at the bottom of the form.



### Alabama Public Health Association, Inc. New/Renewal Application Form

Social Security Number ( \_ \_ - \_ - - ) New       Renewal

Name (as it appears on your payroll check) \_\_\_\_\_

ALPHA Name (if different) \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/ Organization _____	Area/County Office/Bureau _____	Branch Subunit _____
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Organization address \_\_\_\_\_

Street/P.O. Box	City	State	Zip Code
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Section Affiliation, (1 by primary section, 2 by secondary section)

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 01 Community Health Advocacy _____   | 03 Preventive Health _____             |
| 02 Community Health Leadership _____ | 04 Community Health Partnerships _____ |

I would like Payroll deduction \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Recruited by \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks Payable to Alabama Public Health Association**  
Individual Dues \$24.00    Corporate Membership \$350.00    Student Membership \$5.00



**Alabama Public Health Association, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 6632, Mobile, Alabama 36660**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**  
April 20-22, 2005  
Bryant Conference Center  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

