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The PHFI-IIPHS Alumni Newsletter

From the Desk of Director - Public Health Education, PHFI

Dear PHFI-IIPHS Alumni,

Greetings to All!

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural issue of the official PHFI-IIPHS alumni newsletter! The 2014-15 academic year has gotten off to a very good start with the students getting ushered into a professional world full of opportunities and possibilities that awaits them.

At PHFI, our mission is to develop a competent public health workforce and setting standards, advancing public health research and technology & strengthening knowledge application and evidence-informed public health practice and policy. We are immensely proud that our alumni are joining the league of motivated and vibrant public health workforce and are striving to meet our vision and mission through their contribution and active involvement through dynamic profiles in diverse work settings. Through the rarely travelled hard areas of Jharkhand and the land of the 'seven sisters' in north eastern India to the state of Hyderabad, which is known for its constant endeavours to improve its health-care system, our IIPH graduates are seeing more clearly, caring more deeply and engaging more directly with the community to address our most pressing public health problems.

In addition to planning stimulating sessions for our students, we have also been making some changes to our curriculum in response to the student and alumni feedback to make our curriculum competency driven, health systems connected and more robust and engaging. We are also hopeful of offering a Master of Public Health, our flagship master's program from next academic year.

While we have accomplished a lot in the last few years since the inception of PHFI and IIPHS, we have also much more work ahead of us. With our four Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPHS) at Delhi NCR, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar, we hope this newsletter will serve as one of the ways to help you remain connected with us and also with your friends and colleagues. An alumni association lays a strong foundation for networking and linkages for productive engagement in projects and thus we are creating a platform for our alumni to remain connected in a better way. The PHFI-IIPH Alumni Association aims at advancing the important agenda of public health education by promoting the values of PHFI and enhancing the educational experience of its alumni and students for a long term mutually beneficial relationship.

This newsletter is a platform to not only share articles of interest on technical topics, case studies and latest updates about the alumni but also to help keep you informed of recent developments in public health. I invite you all to join us to make this initiative a success.

I also encourage you to get involved and remain engaged through the many alumni-related activities—serving as an Ambassador at your work institutions, on the Alumni Association and we also look forward to you as a guest speaker for our on-campus and distance learning programs. Together, we can become forces in contributing to a healthier India.

So please continue to be in touch! Let us know where you are, what you're doing and we promise to keep you connected to the PHFI-IIPH Alumni Association.

Best Regards,

Prof. Sanjay Zodpey

Vice President- North and Director- Public Health Education, Public Health Foundation of India

Director- IIPH Delhi

Message from Director- IIPH Gandhinagar

Indian Institute of Public Health-Gandhinagar (IIPH-G) was launched under the aegis of Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), created through an MOU with the Government of Gujarat (GOG) in 2007, with the aim of providing high quality education, research and policy advocacy in the area of public health. The institute has 14 fulltime faculty members involved in teaching and research. The institute has been running in rented premises of Sardar Patel Institute of Economics & Social Research, Ahmedabad for the last 6 years and will be soon moving to its new campus being constructed on a 50 acre land allotted by GOG in Palaj Village in Gandhinagar.

The institute plans to start a Master of Public Health program. IIPH-G provides One-Year Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health Management (PGDPHM) for medical and non-medical participants. It has started 4 Distance Learning Courses and a 3 month full time course on occupational & industrial health. So far more than 100 participants representing governments of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Chattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh as well some self-sponsored candidates have finished this course. Most of these participants have gone back to their parent organization or joined as a fresh public health professionals in various organizations. IIPH-G is proud of wonderful performances of its alumni in their respective agencies. I wish all of you best of Public Health Careers. I am sure you will lead the way to improved Public Health System in India. With best wishes & Warm personal regards,

Prof. Dileep Mavlankar
Vice President- West, Public Health Foundation of India
Director-IIPH Gandhinagar

Message from Director- IIPH Hyderabad

I am proud that Indian Institute of Public Health- Hyderabad (IIPH-H) is functioning as a regional hub that is instrumental in shaping a more responsive and holistic health system in Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Karnataka and supporting efforts in Tamilnadu and Kerala, for over six years, we are studying, interpreting and transforming the landscape of public health. Alumni are critically important to the continued growth of our academic capacity building programmes and research efforts. We hope to draw on your expertise and networks to further our position as a world-class centre for multi-disciplinary learning, providing the knowledge and skills for impact. The committed support of our alumni and partners will make it possible for us to remain a unique, exciting and inspirational institution. I take this opportunity to encourage you to connect with us, share your journey and continue to be part of ours.

Dr. GVS Murthy
Vice President- South, Public Health Foundation of India
Director-IIPH Hyderabad and Bengaluru Campus and the South Asia Centre for Disability Inclusive Development and Research

Message from Officiating Director- IIPH Bhubaneswar

I congratulate Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) for publishing its first Alumni Newsletter. Indian Institute of Public Health-Bhubaneswar (IIPH-B), serving as the Eastern India hub to implement the vision of PHFI is closely working with the Government of Odisha in providing technical inputs and support to strengthen the public health delivery system and development of public health cadre in Odisha.

I am proud that our alumni are actively involved in various profiles and projects of national importance in public health. Many of the institute's research work including alumni dissertation work have been published in reputed national and international peer reviewed journals.

I welcome the initiative in publishing this Newsletter for the first time for PHFI. I wish all the success and good wishes. I am sure this trend will be continued every year from now.

Dr. Lipika Nanda
Officiating Director- IIPH Bhubaneswar

Alumni Update

Dr. Mahak Varma, PGDPHM (2012-13), IIPH Delhi

At Roko Cancer Charitable Trust, I work as a Project Manager and Medical Officer for Breast & Cervical Cancer Program. We have Awareness and Cancer Screening Programs Pan India. Also, we conduct Train- a- Trainee program for Community Health Care workers. Roko's new initiative, wherein I have been actively involved since inception till date is, Le' Flamingo, a Cancer Winner Club.

Dr. Mahak Varma
Project Manager & Medical Officer- Breast & Cervical Cancer
Roko Cancer Charitable Trust



Corporate Awareness Session by Roko Cancer Charitable Trust



"Ever since Dr. Mahak Varma has joined our organization, she has revitalized it and given fresh impetus and synergy to its functioning. Besides being an illustrious doctor (Medical Officer), she is an able organizer, administrator and health promotion officer with oodles of initiative and innovative ideas. She is an out an out asset to the organization. We thank PHFI to have given us such a remarkable Public Health Officer."

Dr. Sakshi Sharma
Medical Officer and Project Manager
Roko Cancer Charitable Trust

Dr Nihar Ranjan Ray, PGDPHM (2008-09), IIPH Gandhinagar

Surveillance Medical Officer, WHO Country Office-India

Professional Achievements:

1. Part of WHO Nigeria mission in 2012 to support Polio Eradication Initiative in the country. Implemented the new house based Microplan which was a paradigm shift of the PEI program in the country.
2. Part of the International Surveillance Review of AFP surveillance in the country and did the surveillance review of Kaduna state. The Mission work has been appreciated by WHO country representative of Nigeria.
3. Provided Technical Expertise and Training to the Cluster Consultants of WHO Nigeria regarding Management of Polio Program. Conducted Workshop for Religious Leaders of Kaduna State, Nigeria on their role of in Polio Eradication (This is published in print media and telecasted in Radio also)
4. Supported District Health Society in Planning and implementing Measles Catch Up campaign in 2011 in which the district performance was considered to be best in the state and appreciated by Health secretary cum Executive Director, State Health Society, Bihar
5. Supported in Planning and implementing the successful JE catch up campaign in Nalanda district in 2012-13. This is appreciated by State Immunization Officer-Bihar



Open Air debriefing meeting at the district Head Quarter, Birnin Gwari, the terrorist affected LGA of Nigeria



Health Workers given training by Dr Nihar Ranjan Ray, WHO consultant in Kaduna state of Nigeria during the WHO Nigeria Mission of Polio Eradication



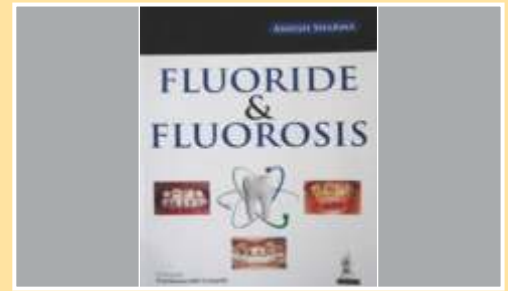
Congratulations to Dr. Paresh Surati, Alumni from IIPH-Gandhinagar for presenting the poster titled "Community based Research on Malnutrition in Children of urban slum of Surat (Gujarat)" At the 23rd IAPS Conference, Timisoara Romania.



IIPH Gandhinagar organised its Alumni meet on 15 October 2014



Convocation Ceremony for the batch of 2013-14 at IIPH-Delhi on 31st July 2014



Dr. Ashish Sharma alumni from IIPH Gandhinagar, published book on Fluoride & Fluorosis

When knowledge speaks in actions

Dr Nihar Ranjan Ray is one of our alumni from the first batch of Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health and Management from IIPH Gandhinagar. His very first assignment in Public Health after completion of the course was with FRHS. At FRHS he was Project Coordinator for "Capacity Building of Village Health & Sanitation Committee of Gujarat State", the study design and monitoring tool developed by the team under his lead was later adopted by the entire state. Later he was offered post under National Polio Surveillance Project- WHO Country office where he is presently working as an SMO. His preferred choice of working was Bihar to accept the challenge.

His work and innovations were appreciated by his seniors and government counterpart. He worked in politically active districts like Vaishali and Nalanda. He was key person in preparing the micro-plan for Measles Catch up campaign and taking care of monitoring of preparatory phase and the activity. Also, Nalanda district resulted in the best quality activity in the state with 97% coverage.

In one of the "Immunization Week" in the district as a part of Intensification of Routine Immunization activity by GOI, a national team had visited to see the quality of the program and appreciated the team efforts and documentation and planning of IW. Keeping in view of his contribution in Vaishali, DM had invited him to train the Block Health Managers on Program management and design a special drive for RI and monitoring by medical officers. On successful completion of the task his efforts were highly appreciated by DM Nalanda and he shared this to the Executive Director State Health Society-Bihar.

"I want to thank the course designers of PGDPHM and all faculties and guide to enable us from every dimension of public health that given us enough ability to lead the colossal programs like Polio, Measles & RI with an positive impact. With my best effort the full immunization coverage of Nalanda went from 61% to 78% within a year for which I was appreciated by the District Magistrate cum Chairman District Health Society, Nalanda Society, Nalanda."

-Dr. Nihar Ranjan Ray

Our Alumni at Work



Dr Abhiyant Tiwari in a meeting on Ahmedabad Heat Action Plan



Dr Parag Soni
At Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Vikas Pariyojna



Mr Vikas Kumar Thakur
at Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Vikas Pariyojna

PHFI Upcoming Events

PHFI's Fifth Annual Research Symposium
11th-13th March 2015

The research symposium is our annual gathering to discuss progress on research across all PHFI institutions and centers, and is an opportunity to discuss our work, showcase a (non-research) talent, learning something new, and meet someone new

Please send your articles or any contributions for the newsletter to shanti.dahal@phfi.org



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IPHs have been established by the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), a public private initiative and a registered society. www.phfi.org

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