

International Networking Forum Pre-Conference

SPR 18th Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Background: Prior to the 2009 SPR Annual Meeting, a group of colleagues who are actively engaged in international collaborations, gathered to exchange ideas about the challenges and rewards of working together on international studies. This gathering included researchers and policy makers who were concentrated in the areas of preventing various health related problems. There was a general consensus that establishing an International Network within SPR would be of value. This network would support researchers and policy makers who are engaged in research on prevention strategies/interventions focused on important global health concerns. Attendees from the 2009 forum represented various countries and the discussion was dynamic and thoughtful. One of the advantages of the pre-conference forum was that it gave us a chance to meet each other prior to the conference and then re-connect throughout the conference.

During this past year, SPR Board of Directors approved the formation of an International Task Force to help guide SPR's efforts to involve a wider group of international colleagues. In addition, the 2011 conference will focus on international collaborations for prevention research.

Goal: Our goal is to establish a network of interested colleagues who are involved or who are planning involvement in research on health prevention strategies/interventions in the international community. We envision this network group as a supportive environment that is dedicated to sharing knowledge and information, thus promoting collaborations important to promoting global health research.

Forum at SPR for 2010: Based upon the recommendation of last year's attendees, we are planning an all day networking forum. The purpose is to create an interactive forum for researchers, policy makers, and community representatives who are engaged in prevention strategies and interventions involving international collaborations or who are planning such activities. This is **not** intended to be a didactic, lecture-based forum. Topics and ideas will organize the session and the majority of time will be reserved for interactive discussions. A major topic of this year's forum will be to solicit ideas and suggestions about creating a successful conference for 2011. Moderators of the discussion will ensure that the forum encourages participation by different attendees, formulates strategies or promotes ideas for moving the field forward, and establishes framework for developing an international network that facilitates collegial and collaborative relationships. The NIDA international poster session immediately follows the international forum and will provide an opportunity for attendees to continue their discussions in an informal manner throughout the evening.

Who Should Attend: We welcome all interested colleagues attending the SPR 2010 Annual Meeting to register for this forum. We especially want to encourage our colleagues who are engaged in international collaborations that involve conducting research studies on prevention strategies/interventions.

For more information on the forum contact: Jennifer Lewis, SPR, jenniferlewis@preventionresearch.org