INVITED SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, May 31, 2012, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

(3-034) STRATEGIES FOR LINKING THE SCIENCE OF PREVENTION TO WORLDWIDE EFFORTS TO CONTROL OBESITY, Regency B

Chair: Brenda Miller, PhD, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation

Presenters: James Hospedales, MD, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization, Benn McGrady, PhD, O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health, Steve Allender, PhD, Deakin University

This symposium examines strategic efforts currently being made to organize and promote prevention science to achieve public health advances related to obesity. The symposium was developed by the Society for Prevention Research International Task Force with the aim to continue the theme from last year’s conference of introducing participants to international efforts to promote healthy living and to feature the range of efforts emerging to control both childhood and adult obesity worldwide and to provide the SPR scientific community with worldwide programmatic efforts with the intent of linking our scientific efforts in a more substantive way.

Prevention and Control of Obesity and other Non-communicable Diseases in Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional Policy and Program Perspective.
Presenter: James Hospedales, MD

Dr. Hospedales is Senior Advisor and Coordinator, Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization. From 1998–2006, Dr. Hospedales was Director of the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre, serving 21 countries. He played a key role in developing donor partnerships for HIV/AIDS prevention, and a partnership with the Caribbean tourism industry to improve health, safety and environment conditions. Dr. Hospedales was a member of the Caribbean Commission on Health and Development, which made policy recommendations to the Heads of Government and named chronic diseases as a super-priority for the Region. This work contributed significantly to the build-up to the recent agreement to have a UN Summit on Chronic Disease in Sept 2011. Dr. Hospedales’ career has included service as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the US Centers for Disease Control, as an epidemiologist at CAREC, and several years working in public health for the UK National Health Service. Dr. Hospedales graduated with honors in medicine from UWI in 1980. He has a M.Sc. in Community medicine from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and is a Fellow of UK Faculty of Public Health. He is also a member of the board of global health of the US Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Hospedales is a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago.

The role of empirical research in the design of international regimes to address obesity
Presenter: Benn D. McGrady, PhD
Benn D. McGrady, PhD, directs the O’Neill Institute Initiative on Trade, Investment and Health. Dr. McGrady is also an Adjunct Professor at the Georgetown University Law Center, where he teaches International Trade and Health and co-teaches Public Health and International Investment Law.

Dr. McGrady’s research is focused on the intersection of public health and international trade law and on the potential functions of international law in a public health context. He is a member of the editorial committee of the European Journal of Risk Regulation and acts regularly as a reviewer for international peer-reviewed journals and publishers. He has also been active in providing advice to public health bodies, foreign governments and inter-governmental organizations on various aspects of public international law, including the law of treaties, international trade law and international investment law. Dr. McGrady has particular experience advising on the implications of international trade and investment agreements for domestic public health measures and on legal issues concerning the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Originally from Australia, Dr. McGrady holds a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Laws and a doctorate from Monash University in Melbourne, as well as a Master of Laws (Global Health Law) from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Moving from successful community based obesity interventions to systems based population prevention: Lessons from Australia and the Asia Pacific
Presenter: Steven Allender, PhD

Dr. Steven Allender currently holds a joint appointment as Associate Professor and Deputy Director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Obesity Prevention at Deakin University and as a Senior Researcher in the Department of Public Health at the University of Oxford. The WHO CC is the only one of the more than 900 WHO Collaborating Centres to focus on obesity prevention. Within the WHO CC Steve is the Director of the CO-OPS Collaboration, which was funded in 2007 under the Federal Government’s Learning for Successful Community Initiatives, and since that time has built a strong and significant national network of practitioners and researchers in community-based obesity prevention. This active and dynamic network of over 1000 practitioners promotes best practice in community based obesity prevention and enables dissemination and sharing of lessons learnt in practice. The CO-OPS Collaboration is conducted in partnership between the three leading Australian universities in this area – Deakin University, University of Sydney, and University of Melbourne. Associate Professor Allender has held the post of Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Public Health at the University of Oxford since 2002. In this post Steve was the lead researcher for the Coronary heart disease statistics project at the University of Oxford. Steve also led the www.heartstats.org project, holds an Honorary Member of the Faculty of Public Health, UK Royal College of Physicians and was a founding fellow of the Unit for Bio Cultural Variation and Obesity at the University of Oxford. In this post he taught research methods, health promotion, epidemiology and qualitative research methods.