

**THE CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP
IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE AT THE
NORTHEASTERN OHIO UNIVERSITIES COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

A Brief Description

In the fall of 2003, the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine (NEOUCOM) received funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and a cooperative agreement between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Association of American Medical Colleges (CDC/AAMC), to establish the Center for Leadership in Public Health and Community Medicine.

Building Upon Strengths

NEOUCOM has, from the outset, been oriented to the practice of primary care medicine at the community level. Its students train in community hospitals, and are among the first in the nation to be educated in affiliated academic health departments. From its outset it has sponsored, and benefited from, active participation in the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) system. The College's vertically-integrated curriculum in population medicine received national recognition in 1998 as the first recipient of the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine's Outstanding Program Award. An endowed Chair, the Andrews Chair in Community Medicine, was recently created at the College to further link the medical school with community health departments. In addition, NEOUCOM is the hub of the recently-created Northeastern Ohio Universities Master of Public Health Program, which combines the resources of the College and four public universities to improve the academic base of public health practice across the region.

Vision

The vision of the Center is to improve the health of individuals and communities. We will accomplish this by providing physicians and others concerned with the public's health the opportunity to develop the leadership competencies necessary to work to enhance each other's skills and expertise.

Mission and Initial Activities

The Center is an academic – community partnership whose mission is to provide the knowledge, skills and attitudes that medical and public health practitioners will need to lead change in bringing their professions together to improve health and health status. It will do so through activities in teaching, research and service. At the outset, these activities will include the following:

Developing the Community Medicine Leadership Infrastructure of Physicians

- establishing a Preventive Medicine residency training program within the NEOUCOM consortium to allow physicians who wish to be certified as specialists in leading practice-oriented prevention to do so;

- establishing a combined MD/MPH program to integrate the academic training of selected medical students with that of public health to prepare them for leadership in community medicine practice; and
- enhancing the integration of community medicine topics into the NEOUCOM curriculum through its curricular transformation process, enhancing the community medicine leadership education of all of NEOUCOM's graduates.

Developing the Community Medicine Leadership Infrastructure of Others Involved in Protecting the Public's Health

- establishing a Community Health Leadership Institute for medical and public health professionals to learn how to develop partnerships between the practice world and the world of academics to lead communities in their ability to deal with public health problems; and
- expanding the College's distance learning capacity and connections to include affiliated health departments and clinics throughout northeastern Ohio to develop advanced technical and leadership skills across the region; and

Other teaching, research and/or service activities consistent with the mission of the Center may be pursued as the Center evolves.

Organization of the Center

The Center is located within the Division of Community Health Sciences at the College of Medicine. It is directed by C. William Keck, MD, MPH. James R. Boex, PhD, MBA, serves as its Associate Director. The Center is organized into work groups around the five major tasks it will initially undertake. The chairs of each of these working groups, meeting together with Drs. Keck and Boex, constitute the leadership group for the Center.

Membership in the Center is open to interested faculty members from all Divisions of the College, consortium university faculty, and all community members involved in promoting and protecting the public's health. Currently the Center includes approximately forty such individuals from across the region.

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