USF family physician awarded $1 million to study skin cancer prevention of local 4th graders

Richard Roetzheim, MD, USF professor of family physician, was recently awarded $1 million from the National Cancer Institute to study skin cancer prevention among fourth-grade students in Hillsborough County Schools. He will be working in conjunction with More Health (a community-based health education organization) and several other USF faculty members. The four-year project will potentially be open to all public schools in the county with fourth-grade classes.

The goal of the project is to educate students about the sun, skin cancer and how to safely participate in outdoor activities. Those selected for the project will receive a wide-brim, sun safe hat (like that pictured here) to wear while they are outside at school and when they are playing outside at home.

Children receive more than 80 percent of their total lifetime sun exposure before they reach age 18. Those selected for the project will receive a wide-brim, sun safe hat to wear while they are outside at school and when they are playing outside at home.

For more information please call Seft Hunter at (813) 974-2140.

USF and Byrd Institute named Florida’s first Alzheimer’s research center

USF, in collaboration with the Johnnie B. Byrd Sr. Alzheimer’s Research Center and Research Institute, has been awarded a $7.5-million, five-year federal grant to establish Florida’s first Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (ADRC).

The grant from the National Institute on Aging, part of the National Institutes of Health, will support comprehensive Alzheimer’s research projects focusing on understanding the disease’s destructive progression through the human mind and on core facilities to assess Alzheimer’s disease in patients.

The ADRC designation validates the national prominence of USF and its (Continued on page 7)
(((In the News))))

Wendy Nembhard, PhD, assistant professor of epidemiology, spoke April 10 on WQYK Radio's Health Journal on the possible link between stress and premature deliveries.

Frank Vasey, MD, professor of medicine and director of rheumatology, commented April 11 on Fox 13 News on recent FDA hearings revisiting the issue of silicone breast implants.

Neuroscientist Paula Bickford, PhD, commented on a collaborative study of USF, the VA and the National Institute on Drug Abuse April 13 in Scientific American.com.

Mark Glaum, MD, assistant professor of allergy and immunology, commented in the April 13 St. Petersburg Times on a New England Journal of Medicine study indicating that people with mild asthma may not need daily steroids to prevent attacks.

Theresa Zesiewicz, MD, a neurologist at the USF Parkinson’s and Movement Disorders Center, was quoted in an April 17 Lakeland Ledger feature on how Parkinson’s disease can rob patients of facial and vocal expressions.

Hector Vila, MD, USF and Moffitt Cancer Center anesthesiologist, was featured April 22 on Fox-13 News discussing his paravertebral block procedure. Instead of injecting medicines into the spine, Dr. Vila numbs specific nerve routes to the spinal cord, thereby blocking a pain message from being sent to the brain. Patients who use the block during their surgeries require less pain medication and report shorter recovery times.

Eric Pfeiffer, MD, director of the Suncoast Alzheimer’s and Gerontology Center, commented for the April 14 St. Petersburg Times and May 8 ABC Action News Ch. 28 about a national study showing that the drug Aricept helps delay onset of Alzheimer’s disease for a limited time.

Medical News Today and Life Extension Update, April 15 in Heart Center Online, and April 25 on The Deborah Ray Radio Show. The study showed that antioxidants in vegetables and fruit may help protect the brain against damage from stroke or other neurological disorders.

Deanna Wathington, MD, family practitioner, discussed five symptoms patients cannot ignore on the May 3 Fox-13 News.

Lewis Flint, MD, a USF surgeon who directs the Tampa General Regional Trauma Center, was featured May 5 in a WUSF-FM 89.7 segment on trauma funding legislation awaiting the governor’s signature. The bill was based on a USF study assessing the state’s overburdened trauma system.

Giving again

The USF Division of Geriatrics recently received a gift of $25,000 from Carol and Paul Martin (third and second from right) of Tarpon Springs to enhance the already established fund named in honor of Frederick Roever, MD, (far right), a geriatrician in Tarpon Springs. Called “The Frederick Roever Scholars in Geriatric Medicine” the fund is used to assist geriatric residents in training. With the Martins and Dr. Roever are, from left, Vince Perron, MD, USF geriatrician, and Monima Mabuti, MD, and Anna Goncalves, MD, both residents in the Division of Geriatrics.

Tampa General Hospital has donated a quarter of a million dollars to USF’s College of Nursing.

TGH has donated $250,000 for learning communities within the college’s new state-of-the-art building.

The six specially designed gathering places, called learning communities, offer a more at-home feel, with sitting areas and kitchens. They’re meant to foster a greater sense of creativity; provide a place where innovative approaches to nursing can be born, and provide a place for students completing rotations at various hospitals to share their experiences.

Each gift made to the College of Nursing by one of the school’s clinical collaboratives is eligible for a 50-percent match by the State of Florida. The collaboratives benefit from the learning communities with their choice of additional faculty or research funding. So far, $500,000 has been donated by area hospitals.

In addition to the learning communities, the architectural plan for the new building will double the size of the college and include an expansive galleria.

A proposed building for the USF Health Sciences Center on the campus of Tampa General Hospital was covered April 22 in the Tampa Bay Business Journal and April 24 on MSNBC.

Center, was quoted in an April 17 Lakeland Ledger feature on how Parkinson’s disease can rob patients of facial and vocal expressions.

Paul Sanberg, DSc, PhD, director of the USF Center for Aging and Brain Repair, discussed the possibility of self-repair by the brain’s own stem cells May 5 in HealthDay and Forbes. Dr. Sanberg commented on a fireman’s recovery a decade after a brain injury left the nursing home patient mostly unresponsive.

Compiled by Lissette Campos | lcampos@hsc.usf.edu and Anne DeLotto Baier | abaier@hsc.usf.edu
State’s trauma system needs life support, USF study finds

Funding bill sent to Governor for approval

By Anne DeLotto Baier

Florida needs more trauma centers strategically linked within the state, according to a USF assessment of the Florida Trauma System. Florida lawmakers, considering alternative ways to support the overburdened system, have used the USF study as a basis for change.

In the last week of the Legislative session, both the House and Senate passed identical bills to double fines for running red lights, which would raise between $15 and $20 million yearly. The trauma center funding bill has been sent to Gov. Jeb Bush for approval.

“This is a good first step and departs from the historical approach taken by the government in that it offers a persisting revenue stream for the state’s trauma centers,” said lead investigator Lewis Flint, MD, USF professor of surgery and chief of Tampa General Hospital’s Regional Trauma Center, which served patients from 23 counties and had a net loss of nearly $10 million in 2003.

“We simply don’t have enough trauma centers to take care of Florida’s growing population. Without durable funding, our trauma system cannot continue to do what it does best — save lives and return recovered trauma victims to productive life.”

Trauma centers must meet specific state requirements for prompt treatment of life-threatening injuries, like severe fractures and multiple internal injuries, and are also required to retain trauma-trained teams of medical specialists around the clock.

Despite establishing an organized trauma system more than 20 years ago, Florida has not provided a stable, recurring source of funding for trauma care. In the last two years, hospitals in Florida have threatened to close three trauma centers. Shortfalls in yearly appropriations have meant hospitals pay a steep price to keep their trauma centers open and transport helicopters flying — often at the expense of other specialty services.

“This is not a long-term solution,” Dr. Flint said. “It ties up the assets of the trauma center hospital and robs its ability to attract staff and compete in the marketplace.”

Researchers from the USF College of Public Health and the Departments of Surgery at USF and the University of Florida analyzed outcomes of the state’s trauma system as well as costs and financial support of trauma centers. The USF study found that accident victims quickly rushed to a trauma center were more likely to survive than victims coming from locations distant to the trauma center, especially after motor vehicle crashes.

The Florida Department of Health funded the study, which included the following findings:

· A county’s overall death rate is higher if a trauma center is not present in that county.
· Additional trauma centers are needed to serve Florida, particularly in the state’s rural panhandle.
· The state’s 21 trauma centers treated 23,000 patients in 2003. The volume of severely injured patients managed at trauma centers is three times higher than similar trauma cases at non-trauma center hospitals.
· Overall, the triage rate of severely injured patients sent to trauma centers in Florida is slightly more than 40 percent, up from 38 percent since the study was completed — but still lower than the national average of 60 percent. The study authors recommend adding trauma centers in Tallahassee and Bay County, which would raise the triage rate to 50 percent.
· Trauma centers lose money and need outside funding; the average net loss for a trauma center in Florida is $5 million. Financial pressures are due to the high level of 24-hour specialty staffing required and to the severity of injuries treated. In addition, uncompensated care and increased malpractice insurance costs have exacerbated the problem.
· Alternatives to fund trauma care include increasing penalties for motor vehicle violations, driver’s license surcharges or alcohol taxes.
· USF co-investigators for the trauma study were Barbara Orban, chair and associate professor of the health policy and management; Rodney Durham, MD, professor of surgery; Jay Wolfson, JD, PhD, professor of health policy and law; Etienne Pracht, assistant professor of health policy and management; and Celeste Kallenborn, RN, MBA, trauma program manager at TGH.

Medicine and engineering awarded $1 million

The USF Colleges of Medicine and Engineering will jointly share a $1 million award from U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration to enhance education and research of prosthetics and orthotics.

Sandy Quillen, PT, PhD, associate dean of medicine and director of the School of Physical Therapy, and Rajiv Dubey, PhD, chairman of the USF’s Department of Mechanical Engineering, are co-principal investigators on the three-year project.

The aim of the project is to build educational and research capacity in prosthetics and orthotics at USF, provide educational opportunities for prosthetic and orthotic professionals throughout Florida, and to produce educational materials to support practicing health care professionals. The project has been designed to collaborate with and complement the planned undergraduate educational program in prosthetics and orthotics currently in development at St. Petersburg College.

The National Center for Health Statistics estimates that there are more than 300,000 people with lower extremity amputations currently living in the United States. An estimated 150,000 amputations are performed yearly in the U.S. due to chronic vascular disease or as a complication of diabetes. Due to its large population of military veterans and civilian retirees, Florida exceeds the national average for the percent of its population considered disabled, including those with amputations requiring prosthetic services.

Rapid advances in the development of biomaterials, new sensor and microprocessor control technology, and computer aided design and manufacturing have placed prosthetic and orthotic devices at the forefront of medical technology, challenging physicians and other health care providers to understand and appropriately prescribe for their patients and clients.
By Lissette Campos

It’s the ordinary things in life that can inspire the most extraordinary people.

Donna Petersen, ScD, is a shining example. The new dean of USF’s College of Public Health is an award-winning educator, author, and lecturer. Her career in public health spans federal and state institutions. Some might say, though, the beauty of her career is in the simplicity of her inspiration — daycare.

It was the 1960s and the city was Buffalo, NY. The future dean was then just 9 years old. During summer break, Dr. Petersen and her younger sister Lori would help their mother at a neighborhood nursery school. Their job: tending to 3 year olds.

“The community church where mom was teaching decided they wanted to start a full-time daycare for working moms. They asked if she would start it and it became a family production!” Dr. Petersen said. “Keep in mind, the daycare movement was just beginning. The majority of moms in America were housewives then. The dean’s mother was navigating un-charted waters, and her young girls watched in awe.

“Over the summers, she employed almost all of us in the neighborhood. It was our part-time job, and summer jobs. Essentially, we were another set of eyes and ears at the daycare center. We learned a lot about children and families; what it takes to raise a fully developed child; and how hard it is for women who work to put their children in daycare.”

Little did she know that time with tots would have such a lasting impression, motivating her to work in the area of healthcare for children with special needs. In the years ahead, it would fuel her interest in healthcare disparities and her desire to change them.

As a masters and PhD graduate from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, she recalls her early days in college.

“I ended up majoring in Behavioral Science because I’m interested in people, cultures, the evolution of society, society’s relationship to language and culture; belief systems and how that influences behavior. All those things are of enormous interest to me,” Dr. Petersen said.

“But then I graduated and there was nothing in the want-ads that said Behavioral Scientists Wanted? My neighbor was running the crisis counseling shelter for youth in downtown Buffalo and asked if I would volunteer and I said sure. Life is a series of fortuitous encounters,” she said with a smile.

Decades later, those volunteer hours, nightshifts, and experiences with the kids at the shelter are still the “best training” she ever received, she said. Looking back, Dr. Petersen noted the experience came with no shortage of frustrating encounters with social services and police agencies.

“I had this desire to do something that would be of benefit to people and communities.”

Her goal was to help influence positive change in people’s individual lives through their communities – the mantra for public health, years before Dr. Petersen would even know there was a degree in public health.

“How does the system function to the benefit of families and communities, not as barriers to what they need?” she said.

“That’s really what ultimately led me to an interest in children with special health care needs for whom the system fails miserably! People know public health through whatever encounter they have with it and it’s usually not a positive encounter. Folks say “They shut down my restaurant. They wouldn’t let me put in the sewage line. They told me I couldn’t drink my well water. They took away my dog!’ It’s that kind of thing.

“Public health is what we do collectively, as a society, to create those conditions in which we can be healthy. Said another way, public health is what we do to promote our own self interest in living the highest quality of life possible. It’s not something we do as public health officials to communities. We do this together.”
Pediatrics offers comprehensive clinic on USF campus

The USF General Pediatrics is now offering comprehensive care to children from infancy through adolescence at the USF Medical Clinic on the Tampa campus.

Two board-certified pediatric faculty will see patients in a family-centered approach to general pediatric care. They are Lori Bowers, MD, and Antoinette Spoto-Cannons, MD.

Dr. Bowers, who is a USF COM graduate, has been on faculty since 2001 and Dr. Spoto-Cannons has been on faculty since 1999. Both are deeply involved in teaching. Dr. Bowers has a special clinical interest in genetic syndromes and adoption issues and Dr. Spoto-Cannons has a special clinical interest in asthma.

They provide well-child visits, physicals for sports, and treatment of acute illnesses. To schedule an appointment, please call 813-974-2583.

USF Pediatrics lands grant to go mobile with medical care

Medically underserved children in the Tampa Bay area may now have easier access to health and dental care with a mobile health van that will be driven right to their neighborhoods and schools by USF pediatricians.

The USF Department of Pediatrics and its residency program were selected by the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay to receive one of their mobile health care vans, which is equipped with two medical exam areas, one of which will double as a dental exam area.

The department sought the van after receiving a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for $360,000 over three years, said Sharon Dabrow, MD, associate director of the USF Pediatric Residency Program and director of the HRSA grant.

The van, called the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, is being assembled in Ohio by LifeLine Mobile, Inc., and is scheduled to arrive in late fall.

USF pediatricians and nurses will staff the van and conduct basic laboratory tests and provide medical screenings for HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, as well as provide educational material.

Dental care will be provided through a collaboration of the Hillsborough Community College and the Hillsborough County Dental Society.

Patients will range in age from pre-school through high school and most will be underserved children with special health care needs and high-risk teens.

Lynn Ringenberg, MD, director of the USF Pediatric Residency Program and medical advisor for the van, said the main objectives of the mobile effort are to increase residents’ knowledge of and improve attitudes toward children with special health care needs, issues of domestic violence and hospice education; to provide training for caring for underserved populations and other high-risk groups, like teens and youth; and to develop a genetics curriculum for residents through specially designed computer modules.

“We eventually plan to have telemedicine capability as we expand van services to rural sites and to counties surrounding Tampa Bay,” Dr. Ringenberg said.

“This is a training grant, so teaching medical students and residents is a large component of what we’ll do. We’d like to add nursing students and others who are interested. We believe mobile medical and dental services and the education that will accompany this effort is a win-win, not only for USF students and residents, but for our community as well.”

For more information, call 813-259-8754 or email jzucker@hsc.usf.edu.
HSC appoints chief operating officer to build entrepreneurial model

USF has appointed Mohamad (Mo) Kasti as Chief Operating Officer of its Health Sciences Center, which includes the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health and School of Physical Therapy.

A leader in business systems for health care, Kasti was manager in General Electric’s Healthcare Consulting Performance Solutions—a major consulting business focused on helping healthcare executive improve their operations, leadership and customer service.

“We have launched a change process to build creative models for our interactions with the community, with patients and with students,” said Stephen Klasko, MD, MBA, USF’s Vice President for Health Sciences and dean of the College of Medicine. “That’s why we went outside the traditional academic environment and attracted Mo from GE, a company well known for its management innovations.

Mo’s expertise in cultural transformation, quality and process improvement will expand what we can accomplish.”

Kasti has extensive experience in culture change using GE’s best practices models for leadership systems and performance improvement.

“My goal is to enable excellence in our mission by creating excellence in operations and leadership,” Kasti said.

“Dr. Klasko is creating an entrepreneurial model, and we have to change the way we do business to support that model in our missions of education, research and patient care.”

Before joining GE, Mo Kasti worked with Steris and Amsco Corporation, and Summa Health System in Akron Ohio. He has a master’s in biomedical/clinical engineering from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, and has earned numerous awards as a coach, trainer and speaker on leadership development. He’s past vice president of the American College of Clinical Engineering and fluent in three languages.

Snapshots

Photos by John Lofreddo

Dr. David Leach, of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, received an honorary degree from USF President Judy Genshaft.

K. Sharma and family.

Dr. Stephen Evans (left), Distinguished Alumnus (’79), is thanked by Dr. Stephen Klasko (right), dean of the College of Medicine and Vice President for Health Sciences, and Michael Hoad (center), Associate Vice President for HSC Advancement.

Randolph Brown and son.

The USF College of Medicine Class of 2005.

HSC graduates

There were 276 students graduated from HSC colleges this spring. Physical Therapy students will graduate in the summer.

- 103 medical students (MD)
- 106 nursing students (bachelor's and master's)
- 57 public health students (master's and PhD)
- 10 medical sciences students (PhD and master's)
nation’s TV news directors tap into USF biodefense expertise

By Lissette Campos

For a second year in a row, members of the National Broadcasters Association turned their attention to the USF College of Public Health and its Center for Biological Defense. The Center’s director, Jacqueline Cattani, PhD, was tapped for the association’s annual convention in Las Vegas last month and was invited to be a panelist for a workshop titled “News & Terrorism: Communicating in a Crisis.”

With the scientific expertise of Dr. Cattani and Miguel Ascarrunz, director of the Office of Emergency Management in Portland, OR, the room full of journalists heard about the real life dangers their own news crews will face, along with the general public and first responders in a bioterrorist attack.

“A gas mask can be potentially dangerous if you’re not trained to use it and it’s not fitted to your face,” said Ascarrunz.

His statement broke a firmly held belief in newsrooms across the country that dispatching news crews to a scene with gas masks will protect them. Dr. Cattani discussed the need for more earnest reporting, noting that members of the national press are more likely to focus their efforts on “fitting” information in to a predetermined story angle, rather than disseminate as much credible information as possible for the public good.

Amid eye popping faux scenarios, the push for access, and the pull for safety, Dr. Cattani inadvertently provided a rare moment of comic relief. It began when she suggested news crews being rushed out to a scene have basic information on which biological agents produce which symptoms.

“There are two-sided, laminated cards,” she explained. The card can list agents and corresponding symptoms, and some cards are small enough to fit in someone’s pocket.

Hearing that, ABC News correspondent and moderator John McWethy turned to the room full of journalists and said “Well, what’s in YOUR wallet?”

Deafening silence.

Then, nervous laughter.

In a world post 9-11, such a suggestion is neither exaggerated nor whimsical. In that Las Vegas room filled with news managers from around the country, they got the message.

3 projects

The ADRC at USF and Byrd Institute will support 3 comprehensive research projects:

- Better understand the transition from mild memory loss to Alzheimer’s disease and find ways to identify those at high risk of developing Alzheimer’s.
- Use mouse models to study how stimulating environments might slow or reverse cognitive impairment.
- Investigate early cognitive rehabilitation approaches to slow disease progression in patients.

Alzheimer’s center

(Continued on page 1)

affiliates in the field of Alzheimer’s education, research and patient care, said Huntington Potter, PhD, the grant’s principal investigator. Dr. Potter, a professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, holds the Eric Pfeiffer Endowed Chair in Alzheimer’s Disease Research at USF and is CEO of the Byrd Institute.

“This is the highest award that the NIA gives – more significant than any single research award,” said Eric Pfeiffer, MD, professor of psychiatry and director of the Suncoast Alzheimer’s and Gerontological Center. “Only the very best institutions in the country are designated Alzheimer’s Disease Research Centers.” Dr. Pfeiffer will oversee the grant’s education core.

In the current round of NIA funding, USF was one of only 13 institutions across the country receiving the ADRC grant. USF will work with the Byrd Institute and other partners, including Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach and the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, to create the first ADRC based in Florida. The center will build upon Florida’s 14 existing memory disorder clinics and provide core services, including data management, clinical, education and neuropathology, to Alzheimer’s researchers at key medical and educational research centers across the state.

“We are excited that the USF Health Science Center’s strategy of collaboration and integration has yielded this statewide grant to defeat Alzheimer’s disease,” said Stephen Klasko, MD, MBA, USF’s vice president for health sciences and dean of the College of Medicine. “We need new approaches to prevention and cure, and at USF this grant will allow us to do more than dream about eradicating this debilitating illness.”

Submitted by USF, the application for ADRC advanced through a two-tier peer-review process and scored very well, ensuring Florida of a center that will integrate, coordinate, and support Alzheimer’s researchers.

The Byrd Institute will coordinate the multi-site ADRC, including computerized databases, videoconferencing facilities and MRI procedures for all subjects in the Clinical Core, and will underwrite much of the administrative structure and personnel costs.

“The extensive effort and cooperation required to establish an ADRC in Florida demonstrates USF’s and the Byrd Institute’s commitment to rallying talent, interest and energy to eliminate this deadly disease,” said USF President Judy Genshaft.

The center is especially important to Floridians, Dr. Potter said, because the state has the nation’s second-highest number of people with Alzheimer’s disease. An estimated 430,000 Floridians suffer from Alzheimer’s.

In addition to Dr. Potter and Dr. Pfeiffer, other USF researchers participating in the ADRC grant include Gary Arendash, PhD; William Haley, PhD; David Morgan, PhD; James Mortimer, PhD; and Yougui Wu, PhD.
COM resident and alum earn AMA awards

Esther Layton, MD, a resident in the Department of Anesthesiology, and T.J. Slavin, MD, who just graduated from the USF College of Medicine, each received the 2005 Leadership Award from the American Medical Association Foundation. The two were presented with their awards at the AMA’s annual Excellence in Medicine Awards ceremony in March in Washington, DC.

They were among 66 individuals who received the award for demonstrating outstanding non-clinical leadership skills in advocacy, community service and/or education.

CON, COPH students honored

Two students earned awards for their extra efforts.

College of Nursing doctoral student Irma Ancheta was selected a member of the 2005 Class of Northeast Florida’s Great 100 Nurses. She will be presented with the award May 14 at a ceremony in Jacksonville.

And Joy Gamble, a student in COPH Department of Health Policy and Management, was named the USF Female Student Leader of the Year. She was presented with the award May 14 at a ceremony in Jacksonville.

Trauma care from a military perspective is the topic of the upcoming presentation in the Dean’s Lecture Series, to be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., June 14 at the Wyndham Harbour Island Hotel in Tampa.

HSC faculty, staff and students are invited to attend.

“Current and Future Trauma Care in the US: Lessons Learned from Military Experiences” will be presented by Lt. Col. Donald Howard Jenkins, MD, FACS, DMLL, chief of trauma services at the Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, TX.

Sign up for this presentation at www.cme.hsc.usf.edu.

USF at first consortium for global health

Ann C. DeBaldo, PhD, associate dean for international programs at the College of Public Health, represented USF and its Health Sciences Center at the inaugural meeting of the University Consortium for Global Health, April 26 and 27, at Boston University.

Representatives of the University of Toronto and 14 major U.S. universities shared plans for international education, research and service/policy activities. They were joined by representatives from the American Schools of Public Health (ASPH), Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Association of American Universities (AAU) and the Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC) as well as the Global Health Council.

The USF College of Public Health established a Global Health Department in February 2004 at the initiative of faculty and students, and its enrollment has grown steadily over the last year. This global health concentration is associated with the Masters International Peace Corps Program. This global health concentration is associated with the Masters International Peace Corps Program.

The Consortium participants agreed that publicizing the critical role of universities in global health will serve as a manifesto challenging institutions of higher education to take up and promote global literacy and citizenship. “Health is, after all, something everyone wants and can agree upon…health could be the point of commonality, a peacemaker in the world today,” Dr. DeBaldo said. “That means that global initiatives at universities must receive attention, endorsement and funding at the highest level to ensure that strong programs are in place.”

The Consortium participants agreed that publicizing the critical role of universities in global health will serve as a manifesto challenging institutions of higher education to take up and promote global literacy and citizenship. “Health is, after all, something everyone wants and can agree upon…health could be the point of commonality, a peacemaker in the world today,” Dr. DeBaldo said.

Dr. DeBaldo recently returned from a Fulbright stay in India where she lectured on topics in global public health and helped with recovery efforts in South India following the tsunami disaster.