



GAPA
GLOBAL ALLIANCE
FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

GAPA Welcome

Welcome to this second newsletter from the Global Alliance for Physical Activity (GAPA) providing you with another look at what is happening around the world in the field of physical activity and health and a celebration of achievements.

GAPA was established to support the professionals and networks working in the health sector, as well as those in transport, local government, education and urban design who share an interest in increasing participation in physical activity, walking and cycling, sport and active leisure.

This year GAPA will commence the next stage of its development by moving towards a more formal status and incorporation. This is a step-wise development where GAPA will progressively expand its coordination and

communication activities over the next year or two. As a registered NGO GAPA will be able to have more formal interactions with WHO and other international agencies. GAPA will remain focussed on advocacy and communication and responding to the global agenda on physical activity.

Read more about GAPA by visiting our website www.globalpa.org.uk. If you have any suggestions or wish to contribute to the work of GAPA please e-mail F.C.L.Bull@lboro.ac.uk

Development of a guidance document on physical activity recommendations

As part of the implementation of the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, WHO convened a meeting in Mexico City (January 2008) to begin the process of drafting global physical activity recommendations. The main objectives of the meeting were to provide a forum for physical activity and public health academics and policy experts to:

- 1) Review recent national physical activity recommendations being developed and implemented in high, middle and low income countries;
- 2) Define and discuss issues specific to low and middle income countries that affect the development of global physical activity recommendations;
- 3) Prepare a draft of the 'Global Guidance: Physical Activity for Health' which includes young people, adults and older adults; and
- 4) Identify gaps and deficiencies in the evidence base for the development of physical activity recommendations in low and middle income countries.

Development of the draft guidance will continue through 2008 and consultations with WHO Regional Offices and stakeholders will take place during 2009.



Journal of Physical Activity and Health increases its publication to 6 times a year



Editors-in-Chief:
Jennifer Hootman
Bill Kohl (photo above)

The Journal of Physical Activity and Health, the only scholarly peer-reviewed journal singularly dedicated to physical activity and health outcomes is pleased to announce its transition from publication of four issues per year to six issues per year. This change took effect in January 2008 and is a direct result of the burgeoning demand for a scientific publication outlet that is focused on broad issues of physical activity and health.

For more information, subscription information, the current table of contents and to submit a manuscript for consideration, please visit the website www.humankinetics.com/JPAH

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Learning and Sharing: The Valuable Role of Networks

Over the past few years regional physical activity networks have been set up around the world to support efforts to promote population levels of physical activity. With increasing focus on the need to act to increase participation there is strong interest in sharing programmes and experiences, especially in developing countries. These networks are undertaking some excellent work and here is some news from those involved...

Asia Pacific Physical Activity Network

The Asia Pacific Physical Activity Network (AP-PAN) was launched in 2006 to act as an informal communication network around physical activity and health in the Asia Pacific region and is coordinated by the Centre for Physical Activity and Health at the University of Sydney, Australia. The network has grown to over 120 members from 30 different countries in the region. Steering committee members come from Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, and in the Pacific, Fiji and New Caledonia. Objectives of the network are to:

- Develop communications and share information across network members.
- Disseminate updated information on population level physical activity policies, programmes, guidelines and measurement/surveillance.
- Provide evidence-based reviews and technical support; act as a clearinghouse for physical activity and public health in the Asia Pacific region.
- To contribute to policy development, advocacy and international training in physical activity and public health.

The AP-PAN network publishes a monthly or bi-monthly electronic newsletter which can be accessed on the website www.ap-pan.org

In 2008 AP-PAN will hold a regional physical activity and public health training course in Sydney on 26–28 July 2008 to develop expertise in physical activity and public health and will cover topics such as the benefits of being active, monitoring/surveillance, policy and implementing effective programmes. Contact Rona Macniven at appan@ap-pan.org or on +61 2 90363192 for more details and AP-PAN welcomes new members who can join for free at www.ap-pan.org/register.php



African Physical Activity Network (AFPAN)

In 2006 the first CDC/IUHPE Physical Activity and Public Health Course was held in the African region with over 60 delegates from 7 countries and provided the basis for starting AFPAN.

Over the past year we have conducted talks and presentations to publicise the network and the importance of physical activity in disease prevention and management. The National Department of Health requested a 2 day workshop to disseminate the lessons learnt through the course and this was held with 18 provincial health promoters. Session covered 'making the case for physical activity', 'barriers, challenges and solutions' and 'the importance of evaluation'. Nine provinces developed logic models during the workshop which will form the basis of programme monitoring and evaluation.

In 2007 members of AFPAN network joined forces with other scientists in a recent scientific and advocacy initiative, known as the **Healthy Active Kids South Africa Report Card**. The panel investigated factors which place young South Africans at risk for chronic diseases including physical inactivity, and published a report card, modelled on Active Healthy Kids Canada. This report now serves as a benchmark of available evidence concerning health behaviours, determinants, and health promotion initiatives. The plan for 2008 is to broaden the consultation and focus on solutions through promising interventions and demonstration projects.

New **VULA AFPAN website** has been launched and all members will be invited by email to join the network. Plans include uploading references, useful resources and providing communicate between network members. For more information contact Tracy Kolbe-Alexander [Tracy.Kolbe-Alexander@uct.ac.za]

News from Eastern Mediterranean Region

Since attending the WHO/CDC workshop on Advocacy, National Policy and Action plans on Physical Activity in December 2006, a national committee has been formed in Kuwait which includes prominent figures and representatives from various sectors such as former Ministers, advisors to the Emir of Kuwait and the Prime Minister, Assistant Undersecretary of Ministry of Health, nutritionist, academics, media and press sectors, and cardiologists. The national committee has met five times and representatives from the committee have met with his Highness the Crown Prince who has encouraged and supported the National committee. The committee has also met with the Ministers of Health and Social Affairs and both were highly supportive of the committee and expressed high advocacy for the national physical activity initiative. The committee will soon meet the Minister of Education and Higher Education.

Other developments include a meeting in Dubai (March 2008) to discuss physical activity surveillance for monitoring and evaluation in the Gulf region. Kuwait has been selected to host the centre in Gulf Cooperation Council as part of the WHO regional meeting for the Global Strategy for Diet, Physical Activity and Health in March 2007. The first CDC/IUHPE Physical Activity and Public Health Course for the Eastern Mediterranean Region is planned for November/December 2008 and will be hosted by Kuwait. This is likely to coincide with a national conference attracting delegates from across the region.

The Physical Activity Network of the Americas (RAFA-PANA)

The Physical Activity Network of the Americas (RAFA-PANA) was created with the objective of building a network of national networks to promote health and quality of life through physical activity, among all people in the Americas. Current membership includes 84 organisations from over 19 countries. RAFA is fulfilling the goal of becoming a network of national networks with newly formed national networks in Mexico and Guatemala joining established networks in Argentina, Brazil Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Peru and a subregional network forming with 6 countries in Central America.

RAFA will be holding its Annual Meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica 8-10 May 2008 hosted by Costa Rican Ministry of Health and the National PA Network, and participation from around 17 countries.

RAFA continues to have strong engagement with ACSM, WHO-PAHO, IAHF at a regional level and within countries with the sport, education and health sectors and a growing effort to engage with the transport and urban planning sectors. A joint project is underway between RAFA, CARMEN (the PAHO NCD Network), PAHO, CDC and Ciclovía Network to define and characterize the movement in the Americas.

With over 26 members from more than 10 countries throughout the Americas region, the **Ciclovías Unidas de las Americas** (Bicycle Network of the Americas) aims to disseminate experiences, generate increased interest and foster collaboration between non-traditional partners. For more information visit the new website <http://cicloviasunidas.org/>.



Ciclovía in Medellín, Columbia (Feb 2008) where there is 21 km route open on public holidays and every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

European network for the promotion of health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA Europe)

In 2005 HEPA Europe was founded to respond to the noticeable lack of a platform for sharing the development and implementation of evidence-based policies and strategies in the field of physical activity and health. Activities of the network support cooperation, partnerships and collaboration with other related sectors, activities and approaches; updates can be found in the regular newsletter. The next annual conference and meeting will have a particular focus on walking. It will take place on 8-10 September 2008 in Glasgow, United Kingdom, hosted by the Scottish Physical Activity Research Collaboration (SPARColl) with the Strathclyde University. The call for abstract and symposia is open from 1 April to 15 May 2008. For more information see <http://www.sparcoll.org.uk/> and www.euro.who.int/hepa.

NEW tool for **Economic Valuation of Cycling and Walking** – the WHO Regional Office for Europe recently presented guidance to quantify the health effects of cycling and walking, and an illustrative tool. The project has been carried out in close collaboration with HEPA Europe and the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP). It aims at facilitating the harmonization of methodological approaches by providing guidance for practitioners. The project included a critical review of existing approaches to quantify the health effects related to cycling and walking, focusing in particular on approaches to the economic valuation of potential health effects.



The illustrative tool for cycling, named "Health economic assessment tool for cycling" (HEAT for cycling) is based on best available evidence that can be adapted to specific situations. This tool estimates the economic savings resulting from reduced mortality due to cycling, i.e.: if x people cycle y distance on most days, what is the economic value of the improvements in their mortality rate? A similar tool on walking is planned to be developed in the next phase of the project, and the HEAT for cycling will be further refined based on user feedback. Download the guidance and access the tool from: http://www.euro.who.int/transport/policy/20070503_1

News from Agita Mundo Network



The Agita Mundo Network was created in 2002 to promote physical activity as a healthy behavior for people all around the world with a central focus on translating theory to practices. As of 2008 Agita Mundo Network comprises over 260 Institutions, representing government, non-government and private sector, from 60 countries across five continents. The main priorities of the Agita Network are to stimulate research on physical activity, encourage and support the dissemination of information on the health benefits and effective strategies to increase participation, advocacy and support the development of national and local programmes and networks for physical activity promotion. Agita is supported centrally by the Center of Studies of the Physical Fitness Research Laboratory (CELAFISCS) and has four committees: Advocacy, Capacity Building, Research, and Self-Sustainability.

The Network holds an Annual Meeting in October coinciding with the CELAFISCS International Symposium in Sao Paulo, Brasil. In 2007, the focus was on **How to Build a Global Agenda to Promote PA in the World**. A summary report will be available based on presentations that included the obesity epidemic, economic costs of inactivity, the epidemiological evidence, interventions and translating theory to practice, and input on the application in different regions of the world.



The World Day for Physical Activity is a major initiative of the Network and is held to celebrate the importance of physical activity on or around April 6th (1-10th) with an official theme. In 2008 the theme is **Breaking Down Barriers to Movement**. Over 500 events have been registered and up to 2000 event are expected. Information on World Day and all Agita Mundo Network activities is available at www.agitamundo.org.

World News

Update from WHO on the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health (DPAS)

Progress with the DPAS implementation has been across a number of areas over the last 12 months. Following the 2006 World Health Assembly Resolution WHA60.23, WHO will progress the development of a set of recommendations to provide Member States policy options on marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children. This work will involve dialogue with all the relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, while at the same time avoiding any potential conflict of interest. Draft recommendations are expected by 2010.

Other areas of focus include the workplace setting. WHO and the World Economic Forum organized a Joint Event on the prevention of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in the workplace through healthy diets and physical activity. The Joint Event was held in Dalian, China, on 5-6 September 2007. A report summarizing the discussions of the Joint Event and two background papers prepared for the Joint Event can be downloaded from WHO website http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/WHOWEF_report_JAN2008_FINAL.pdf

The WHO DPAS website has been updated to include more useful resources as well as the opportunity for Member States to share information. Visit the site to see news on what has happened since the endorsement of DPAS; reports and experiences of other Member states in implementing DPAS and new material on childhood obesity – www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity

In 2008 plans for the implementation of DPAS will focus on the following:

- Accelerate country implementation in a limited number of high burden low and middle income countries
- Develop a guidance document on physical activity recommendations
- Develop recommendations on marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children.

Forthcoming publications include:

- Guidance document on considerations for Member States when engaging with the commercial sector.
- DPAS School Policy Framework that provides policy options and recommendations regarding suitable policy interventions to improve diets and physical activity levels through schools.
- Interventions on diet and physical activity: What Works that provides policy makers and other stakeholders a summary of effective diet and physical activity interventions aimed at reducing the risk of chronic NCDs.

See for more information on these publications:
www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/implementation/projects



Alliances are essential for effective health promotion – perspectives from IUHPE

A key characteristic of health promotion is that it seeks to orchestrate a wide range of complementary actions at the individual, group, community and macro levels. Its core activities are health education, and advocacy for policies in all sectors of society which help to improve health, and, conversely, to prevent it being threatened and undermined. The effectiveness of these activities is enhanced and underpinned by collaboration and alliance building among different sectors of society, applied research to improve the quality and effectiveness of health promotion, and training people to help them acquire skills to engage effectively in health promotion work.

Physical activity enhancement in that respect is a key entry point for the work of IUHPE enabling the mobilization of its professional network to contribute to strategic initiatives, in particular under the umbrella of the Global Alliance for Physical Activity (GAPA), through networking and capacity building collaborations with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and through the establishment of a Joint Special Interest Group established with EuroHealthNet. Recent activities include a policy seminar on "Implementing the new EU Health Strategy – what we can do" which took place in Brussels (March, 2008) (see www.eurohealthnet.eu).

Other activities at IUHPE that support physical activity include dissemination of knowledge through its Conferences and family of Journals and in particular Promotion & Education; mobilizing evidence through its Global Programme on Health Promotion Effectiveness; facilitating the formulation, dissemination and implementation of policy, frameworks and guidelines; building capacity and infrastructure; and facilitating the establishment of an agreed Global Physical Activity agenda.

International Physical Activity and Public Health Training Courses

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center for Physical Activity and Health Promotion has developed a four day training course for physical activity and public health. Courses are supported through a combination of partnerships with the International Union of Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international, national and local host institutions.

More than 700 health professionals from 50 countries have been trained in the first 10 courses held across 9 countries with a multi-national faculty. In 2007 3 new courses were run in Colombia, Thailand, and Guatemala and in 2008 courses are planned to take place in the Australia-Pacific region Sydney (July), Mexico (October), Kuwait (November) and Argentina (early 2009). New developments underway include the adaptation of course for distance-based learning and delivery and the integration of a physical activity module in the 5th Annual Seminar on Cardiovascular Health Promotion and Disease Epidemiology (July 19-30, 2008) in Bagamoyo, Tanzania. These developments will increase the focus on physical activity and integrate physical activity within specific and more general non-communicable disease prevention and control strategies and action plans.

The course has three major goals: 1) providing critical technical training for developing population-based programmes for PA and public health; 2) stimulating national and regional networks for PA and NCD prevention; and 3) focusing attention on PA as an important public health issue in low and middle income countries. For more information contact Andrea Torres at CDC [ftu1@cdc.gov].

National policy developments

Brazil

The National Health Promotion Policy and the Physical Activity agenda in the Brazilian Health System SUS Context

In 2006, Brazil approved their National Health Promotion Policy, and physical activity is one of the highlighted priority areas. To initiate action on this priority area, the Health Surveillance Secretariat of the Ministry of Health (MoH) included health promotion in the Federal Government budget with specific financial support for municipalities to develop physical activity projects. During 2005-08, a network of more than 340 municipalities was developed with Ministry of Health support to implement physical activity initiatives.

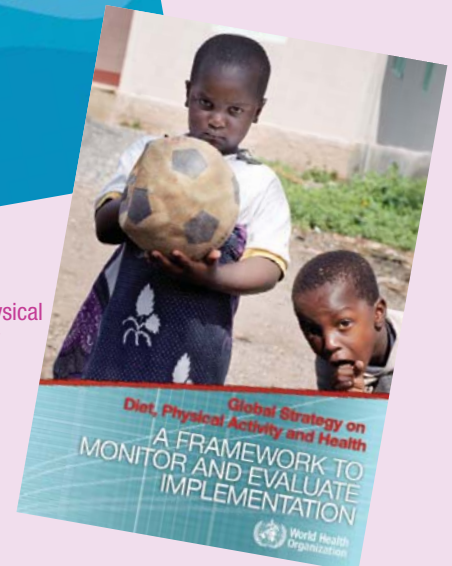
Additional elements of the National Health Promotion Policy include NCD surveillance which now includes annual monitoring of population levels of physical activity and sedentary behavior. Another development is the expansion of evaluation of community interventions. In partnership with CDC, Saint Louis University, PAHO, MoH and several Brazilian Universities, the **GUIA Project** – (Guide for Useful Interventions for Activity in Brazil and Latin America) explored the application of US based evidence-based physical activity recommendations in Brazil. This project represents one of the first applications of an evidence-based review process for physical activity in low and middle income countries. Further details are available on line in English, Spanish and Portuguese (see <http://prc.slu.edu/ebph-brazil.htm>). The MoH and GUIA are also conducting intervention evaluations in several cities including Recife (Academia da Cidade) and Curitiba (CuritibaAtiva) and preliminary results of the evaluations are encouraging. There is still much to be accomplished, but these areas of progress illustrate the value of including a focus on physical activity and health promotion in Brazil's National Health Promotion Policy.

Resources to help develop and monitor National Policy



Available at
<http://www.euro.who.int/Document/E90191.pdf>

Available at
<http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/DPASindicators/en/>



Nauru



The island nation of Nauru ranks high in Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) risk factors both in the Pacific region and at the global level. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) NCD STEPS survey, the median total time in physical activity was 1380 metmin/wk and 17% of people were classified as sedentary, reporting no physical activity in work, travel or recreation time. The **'Our Steps Our Health'** national strategy is a comprehensive programme on promotion of diet and physical activity amongst the Nauru adult population. The programme targets are to:

- Improve physical activity profile of Nauru adults, which is around 4,000 people, by 5% by 2008;
- Improve physical activity profile of the 250 Government Office workers by 5% by 2008;
- Increase the number of workers participating in regular physical activity;
- Increase number of established home gardens.

Creating a supportive environment for physical activity in communities and a social marketing and mobilization campaign promoting a healthy diet and physical activity are key elements of the programme. Specific components of **'Our Steps Our Health'** are to carry out a healthy lifestyle competition in groups of ten adults **'Bring it Best ten'** (BIB 10) and a physical activity programme targeting the government workers with leadership by health as role models **'Workers Walk on Wednesday'** (WWW). There is also a weekly aerobic dancing programme taking place every Thursday, with leadership from the Health Department. For further details of **'Our Steps Our Health'** please contact Dr Si sithu@cenpac.net.nr

Sharing programme examples

School based initiative in South Africa

The Heroes programme is offered by 'Sportstec' and aims to empower educators (teachers), learners (students) and the community through physical activity and sport. The objective is to develop a passion for regular exercise amongst children and to create opportunities for physical activity, particularly at schools. A facilitator, based in schools for 8 weeks, provides physical activity lessons as part of the "Life Orientation" curriculum and provides training workshops for educators on the benefits of physical activity and how to teach physical education classes. After 8-weeks the school takes ownership of all the equipment and the trained teachers continue the programme, thereby ensuring sustainability. Heroes has reached more than 21,000 learners and over 600 teachers were trained in the past 3 years, with more than a 35% increase in REACH in 2007.



National Workplace Policy in Vanuatu: 'Wokabaot Blong Laef' (Walk for Life)

In March 2006, the Office of the Prime Minister with endorsement from the Council of Ministers launched the 'Wokabaot Blong Laef' (Walk for Life) Policy, a 7 point plan for civil servants to promote and practice healthy lifestyle beginning with physical activity through a structured programme in the workplace. One policy decision was that every Wednesday (at 3pm) government workplaces should promote physical activity via a structured physical activity programme (mainly walking) for staff to participate in. As part of the implementation a 'Public Servants Walk for Life' programme has been developed with the objectives of encouraging inter-business competitions; sports competitions between government departments and NGOs; physical activity initiatives in the work place and Walk for Life, a programme with a rural focus. Data collected via a mini-STEPs survey provided baseline information on staff health profiles and will be used for monitoring and evaluation. Although it is early days for measuring impact, there are signs of improved physical activity behaviour compared with other workplaces.

Physical Activity and the Built Environment

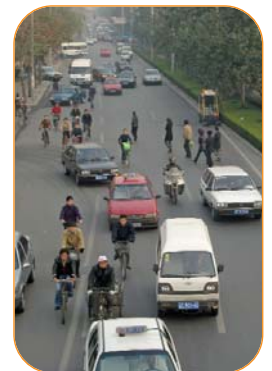
This area continues to be a major focus of current research, advocacy and interventions. Major documents have been released around the world drawing attention to the importance of urban design, regional planning and public open space. Here are a few recent examples:

- **NICE Public Health Guidance 8 Promoting and creating built or natural environments that encourage and support physical activity.** March 2008 London. www.nice.org.uk



- **Position statement: The built environment physical activity, heart disease and stroke.** October 2007. www.heartandstroke.ca

- **Building Health creating and enhancing places for healthy active lives. What needs to be done?** Downloaded from www.heartforum.org.uk, or www.livingstreets.org.uk or www.cabe.org.uk.



- **State of the Evidence Review on Urban Health and Healthy Weights** K. Raine, J.C. Spence, J. Church, et al. Ottawa: CIHI, 2008. www.cihi.ca

- **FORESIGHT Tackling Obesity: Future Choices.** October 2007. This report was commissioned by the Foresight Programme of the Office of Science and Technology, UK. www.foresight.gov.uk/Obesity

The International Physical Activity and the Environment Network (IPEN) provides support for work on physical activity and the environment and a website full of useful resources and formation on joint projects. To find out more visit

www.ipenproject.org



News from ACSM

Exercise Is Medicine™: A Whole New Prescription

Exercise is Medicine™, a programme of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) with support from the American Medical Association was launched in 2008 and has gained international interest. At its core, Exercise is Medicine™ is a call to physicians to monitor exercise as a vital sign during every patient visit, and a move to routinely “prescribe” exercise to every patient. The programme is also focused on the value of physician referrals to certified health and fitness professionals, as well as worksite and community health and wellness.

One of its most appealing features is that Exercise is Medicine™ is not country or culture-specific. The programme recognises inactivity as a fast-growing global public health problem, which contributes to a variety of chronic diseases and health complications. A variety of resources have been created so that public and professional communities can learn how exercise is medicine. More is available online: www.exerciseismedicine.org.

In May 2008, a special programme called May-Kit Happen celebrates Exercise is Medicine™. May-Kit Happen features new resources and ideas so that each audience can recognise the importance of Exercise is Medicine™ month and participate in professional and community settings. Supporting materials include a new Web site with ideas and opportunities, including special events, city-wide proclamations and toolkits, which can easily be promoted in physician offices, schools, worksite programmes and communities.



Professor Vicki Lambert: Biography

Vicki Lambert is Professor of Exercise Physiology at the UCT/MRC Exercise Science and Sports Medicine Research Unit (ESSM) housed at the University of Cape Town. She is also the lead convenor of the newly formed African Physical Activity Network (APAN), along with Dr Tracy Kolbe-Alexander also based at ESSM. Her areas of research include fat metabolism during exercise, ante-natal nutrition, energy balance and obesity as well as physical activity epidemiology and chronic diseases of lifestyle.

In recent years Vicki has developed a global commitment to physical activity promotion and is an active member of many research collaborations including work on the obesity transition, the development of measurement tools for physical activity (IPAQ and GPAQ), and is a member of the International Physical Activity Task force of the International Association of Obesity. Vicki also has a passion for building research capacity and developing the health promotion workforce in the African region. In 2007 the ESSM together with the Sports Science Institute of South Africa, under the leadership of Vicki hosted the first physical activity and public health course in Cape Town. Vicki is dedicated to the development of physical activity programmes and the importance of physical activity in South Africa and the African Region which presents a complex environment with the double burden of disease, rapid urbanisation and significant social disadvantage.



Vicki's commitment and expertise is evident in all her work and she is frequently called upon by the WHO to advise on the development and implementation of the Global Strategy for Diet, Physical Activity and Health. Vicki has authored or co-authored over 80 international peer reviewed manuscripts along with various book chapters and monographs across the fields of energy balance, sports nutrition, obesity and physical activity.

Upcoming Conferences and Events

HEPA Europe conference and annual meeting 2008. Glasgow, Scotland

8-10 September 2008

The 1st conference and the 4th annual meeting of HEPA Europe will be hosted by the Scottish Physical Activity Research Collaboration (SPARColl). This 2-day conference will have a particular emphasis on walking and includes keynote speakers from leading experts. For more information visit <http://www.sparcoll.org.uk/>. Abstracts open until 15 May 2008.



9th Walk21 Conference 2008. Barcelona, Spain

8-10 October 2008

'Walk with Barcelona – a moving city' will bring leaders from government, academia, the private, non-profit & community sectors and advocates from transportation, planning, design and health together around the themes 'Political Vision, Civic Pride and Technical Expertise' to focus on the relationships that enable people to develop sustainable and vibrant healthy communities, where people can and do choose to walk. Read more www.barcelonawalk21.com

8th International Union of Health Promotion and Evaluation European Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education. Turin, Italy

10-13 September 2008

"New frontiers: future political, cultural and scientific challenges for health promotion" will focus on the need for cross-cultural dialogue in different geographical areas of the European Region and provide a forum to identify, analyze and tackle the barriers which may hinder cooperation between the various sectors. For more information see <http://www.hp08torino.org/>

International Public Health Symposium on environment and health research. Madrid, Spain

20-22 October 2008

'Science for policy, policy for science: bridging the gap' will bring together scientists, policy-makers and other stakeholders to collaborate in public health research with an emphasis on environment and health. Specific objectives include identifying public health priorities requiring further research for consideration by the Seventh Framework Programme of the EC DG Research and present scientific evidence to policy-makers in preparation for the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in 2009. For further information see www.euro.who.int/symposium2008

Childhood Physical Activity and Body Composition: Applying Global Knowledge to the South Asian Scenario. Calicut, Kerala, India

6-7 November 2008

A two-day workshop organised by Sneha-India and the International Society for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease. For more information contact: [India] Dr GV Krishnaveni kittyveni@hotmail.com or [UK] Sarah Kehoe sk@mrc.soton.ac.uk

Workshop on Research Methods hosted by the Universidad de los Andes, Bogota Colombia

27-29 October 2008

The CDC / WHO Collaborating Center for Physical Activity and Health Promotion will conduct a workshop to share research and design methods for studies assessing the association between physical activity and the built environment in Latin American cities. For more information contact Dr Mike Pratt at CDC: mxp4@CDC.GOV27

Colombian symposium on Environment and Public Health 2008. Bogota, Colombia

30-31 October 2008

Hosted by Fundación FES Social, Corporación de Universidades del Centro de Bogotá and Universidad del Valle with the support of CDC this event aims to bridge the gap between evidence and action and provide advocacy tools to take actions on public health problems that involve urban environments. For further information contact Luis Fernando Gómez at lfgomez@fundacionfes.org.

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Third High-level meeting on Transport, Environment and Health 2009

Scheduled for January 2009 (no specific date available) this meeting will continue the work towards achieving transport sustainable for health and the environment at the Pan-European level work. Visit this website for more details <http://www.thepep.org/en/hlm/hlmeeting.htm>

First Asia-Pacific Conference on Health Promotion and Education. Chiba-city, Japan.

18-20 July 2009

"Asia-Pacific Perspectives: Sharing Experiences, Efforts and Evidence". Organized to discuss the importance of primary prevention activities, the newest research results and innovative strategies for future health promotion and education in the Asia-Pacific region. For more information <http://www.dokkyomed.ac.jp/dep-m/pub/apac.html>