

West Virginia University  
Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center

**National Center of Excellence  
In Women's Health**

Quarterly Progress Report  
October 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006

National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Contract  
Contract Period 10/1/2004-9/30/2008  
DHHS Contract # #HHSP23320042207TC

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## Executive Summary

West Virginia University Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center has just completed the first quarter of year three as a National Center of Excellence in Women's Health. Institutional commitment to our National Center of Excellence program is strong as demonstrated through financial support and the contributed efforts of a large cohort of faculty and staff members from the Health Sciences and the University at large. Institutional and State support has been further demonstrated by the following examples:

The Health Sciences Center took the lead role in the Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians exhibit scheduled at the West Virginia University Health Sciences' October 18- December 8, 2006.<sup>1</sup> The Executive team of the CoEWH participated as a part of the leadership of the exhibit planning group. The exhibit event featured upwards of ten lecture/seminars during its tenure at WVU. While the traveling exhibit focuses on women physicians, WVU celebrated the larger community of woman professionals who have contributed to every healthcare field. Our program celebrated women's leadership roles in healthcare across the health sciences.

Planning for the exhibit and all the accompanying events involved the contributions of people from many parts of the WVU Campus, including the Health Sciences Center, WVU Libraries, and the Elberly College of Arts and Sciences. It is truly an example of the impact the CoEWH has had leading WVU toward a multidisciplinary, integrated model.

West Virginia's First Lady, Gayle Manchin attended a meeting chaired by the Vice President of the Health Sciences Center, Dr. Bob D'Alessandri. The goal of the meeting was for the First Lady to accept the role of Honorary Chair of the CoEWH Brain Trust Advisory Board. The meeting was attended by: Dr. Barbara Ducatman, Dr. Ann Chester, Susan Hardesty, and Betty Critch Parsons. The meeting was followed by a dinner meeting with Gayle Manchin, Barbara Ducatman, Ann Chester, Susan Hardesty, Elaine D'Alessandri, Charlotte Dillis and Julie Smith.

First Lady Gayle Manchin accepted the role of Honorary Chair of the CoEWH Brain Trust Advisory Group. The goal of the Brain Trust is "Measurably improve women's health in West Virginia, Perinatal through geriatric and to establish WV's Center of Excellence in Women's Health as a premiere research center on behavior change for healthy lifestyles. The Brain Trust Advisory Board will guide us with: Legislative Action, Fund Raising, Program Guidance and Visibility.

Dixie Horning, Executive Director UCSF, CoEWH visited West Virginia in December. Dixie met with the board of directors of the CoEWH, the Families First Community Partnership and with Ann Dacey, special projects coordinator, CoEWH. The leadership of the WVU HSC demonstrated their support and commitment to Women's Health by meeting with the executive team of the CoEWH and Dixie. Dixie met with Dr. Bob D'Alessandri, VP HSC, Bruce McClymonds, President WVUH/UHA Hospital Administration, and Dean Prescott and his team, and Julia Phalunas, VP HSC Development.

Ann Dacey, Special Projects Coordinator, CoEWH and Co-Director, WV Perinatal Wellness Study presented the Findings and Recommendations of the Perinatal Health Study Group at the Annual Growing Healthy Children Conference in November. Children's Health – West Virginia's Wealth a series of Community Forums were delivered across the state to discuss the outcomes of the Perinatal Summit findings, present information on the Perinatal summit, present information on child health from national and state perspectives, discuss current child health initiative of the "Healthy Kids Foundation Coalition, discuss community participants ideas for priorities for child health in WV and to build a statewide network of professionals and families interested improving the health and well-being of WV children.

Ann Dacey has completed the second phase of this study during this quarter, "A Blueprint to Improve West Virginia Perinatal Wellness" To review results: [http://wvhealthykids.org/p\\_wellness/pw\\_home.htm](http://wvhealthykids.org/p_wellness/pw_home.htm)<sup>4</sup>

The accomplishments of the Center of Excellence during this quarter as a National CoEWH have been significant. Our clinic, under the direction of Drs. Vicki Baker, Laura Davisson, MaryAnn Long and Claudette Brooks, continues to work toward improving the patient-centered environment, and a provision of care to women with an outcome of an improved process of care. During this the last quarter of the year we welcomed Dr. Geetha Kamath to our provider team. Our clinic leadership participated in our Women on Wellness lectures series.

Dr. Davisson, Co-Director of the CCC completed the development and implementation of an OnLine Women's Health Curriculum during this quarter. The curriculum is currently offered to residents. Dr. Davisson presented the curriculum to the CoEWH Board at the November meeting.

Our patients are provided with a comfortable, friendly environment, state-of-the-art equipment, conveniently located subspecialty clinics as well as a wide variety of reference material and support services. The number of patients we see continues to increase as our clinic becomes known in the community and across the state. Our CoEWH Stroke Clinic continues to increase its patient base. We expect our third subspecialty clinic to open in the future. It will be a CoEWH Urology Clinic. This clinic will serve for the diagnosis and treatment of various urogynecologic conditions that affect many women, such as stress incontinence, etc. We are in the process of discussing another subspecialty in women's sports health with the department of orthopedics. We have put our plan to complete a strategic plan for satellite clinics in the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Charleston and Eastern Divisions on hold until we find out the goals/direction of the National CoEWH paradigm to continue as to support the CoEWH concept.

The Outreach Component, under the direction of Dr. Barbara Howe and Dr. Elaine Bowen, continues to expand its reach across the state by expanding our outreach and Community Advisory teams in each of the 55 counties in West Virginia. These representatives then participate and/or provide material with a focus on Women's Health in the rural communities across West Virginia.

The Leadership Component, under the direction of Dr. Maria Kolar, has been active in many of the activities of the CoEWH such as the WOW and Changing Faces of Medicine and the Women on Wellness Lecture Series. Dr. Kolar and her team has arranged for all faculty development lectures to be filmed and available on line.

The Education Component, under the Direction of Dr. Nan Leslie, Dr. Anne Cather and Dr. Susan McCrone, contributed to new educational programs/classes in health care with an emphasis on women's health. The Women on Wellness Lecture series<sub>5</sub> was launched during this quarter.

The education committee has made significant progress as women's health is being identified, strengthened, and developed across the health professions. As evidenced by:

- Certificate in Women's Health
- Curriculum in Women's Health Rotation
- The Heart Truth curriculum
- HMS Women's Health Education
- Assessment in Medical School / CurrMIT
- Pharmacy track
- Women on Wellness Lecture Series

The research component, under the direction of Dr. Linda Vona Davis and Dr. Michael Vernon has worked to expand its base, and identify new and current research across the West Virginia University Campus with an emphasis on Women's Health. Dr. Vona Davis developed a seminar "Creating a Networking of WV Women in Science and Health delivered in early October 28, 2006.

The Executive Team, Dr. Barbara Ducatman, Director WVU CoEWH, Dr. Ann Chester, Deputy Director and Betty Critch Parsons, MBA, Project Director continue to meet weekly. The Executive Team continues to meet and build the infrastructure of the Brain Trust Advisory Group. This group meets quarterly. The CoEWH Directors meet monthly and the CoEWH hosts a University-wide informational session bi-monthly. The working groups of the Outreach Component meet regularly through the year as did the Research, Education and Leadership Component committees.

All the component directors of the CoEWH have worked together to deliver screening opportunities, participated in exhibit opportunities and delivered CoEWH-sponsored lectures.

We continue to expand media use for women's health messages such as

- Doctors on Call
- MD-TV
- Weekly radio show on WAJR-FM
- WGTV Channel 12 – Women's Health Program
- Public presentations
- CoEWH web site
- HSC marketing office
- 1-800-4CANCER hotline
- Drug Information Center

We are pleased to submit the following detailed quarterly report on the activities on West Virginia University Robert C Byrd Health Sciences National Center of Excellence in Women's Health. We believe of our first quarter 2006-07 demonstrates progress toward our mission to improve the health of West Virginia women across their life span. We are working hard to identify, participate and deliver activities for Women's Health across the State of West Virginia. We look forward to your comments.

### **Clinical Care Services Component**

#### **Clinic Highlights**

West Virginia University National Center of Excellence in Women's Health is conveniently located in on the fourth floor of the Physician's Office Center. It is a patient friendly place where women of all ages receive clinical care and up-to-date, easy to understand educational materials. The Clinic integrates multi-disciplinary research and training activities with clinical services in women's health, spanning both academic and clinical department.

The clinic operates Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 5:00 pm. Physicians are available on-call 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. Urgent patient issues are addressed within the same day by one of the physicians or by the licensed nurse practitioner after a registered nurse triages patient symptoms via The WVU Health Line. Clinical practice standards are frequently reviewed to ensure adherence to internal guidelines or accepted national guidelines. Quality monitoring and patient satisfaction are foremost concerns of the practice. A computerized medical record provides documentation of patient encounters and information to assist in collecting practice data.

The Internal Medicine and Family Medicine practices provide comprehensive primary care to patients. The physicians stress preventive medicine and risk assessment in the care of all their patients. The stroke clinic works with women who are high risk for stroke and with those who have recently had a stroke to aid in the prevention of future problems. It will address risk factors for stroke such as hypertension.

The gynecology practice provides general and specialty care, and minor, routine, ambulatory procedures for patients. The scope of care is appropriate to ambulatory practice standards. The board certified gynecologists have expertise in benign gynecologic surgery, management of abnormal Pap smears, the evaluation and treatment of abnormal uterine bleeding, treatment of uterine fibroids and ovarian cysts, contraceptive techniques, and menopause management. In addition, subspecialty expertise is provided for evaluation and management of urinary incontinence and pelvic floor support defects (uterine/vaginal prolapse, cystocele, and rectocele). Urodynamic testing is available.

The services defined as "one-stop shopping" includes primary care, gynecology, mental health, nutrition, and imaging including mammography, bone density, and ultrasound, and are available within the practice or in close geographic proximity in the same building.

During the first quarter, the Health Sciences Center institutional commitment has provided public relations and marketing support. This group has provided press and media coverage. We Know our Women Ad, production of a television commercial that is shown six times daily on TNT, Lifetime, and Bravo, as well as during the evening news on two local television stations. Women's Health was the subject of the Dr. Bob television show featuring CoEWH Dr. Davisson and Dr. Cather. All components of the CoEWH worked together to deliver this innovative health awareness program.

During the following years, financial analysis of the progress made in marketing initiatives on behalf of the CoEWH and CCC will be conducted. This will be reflected in increases in new patient visits and billable encounters. We are currently discussing with the hospital system, the expansion of clinical care sites to the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, where the Health Sciences Center has a clinical campus (City Hospital in Martinsburg, WV), and Charleston, WV, at the Charleston Area Medical Center, and possibly at Cheat Lake Physicians office in Morgantown and in Clarksburg, WV.

Dr. Davisson, Co-Director of the CCC, completed the development and implementation of an OnLine Women's Health Curriculum during this quarter. The curriculum is currently offered to residents. Dr. Davisson presented the curriculum to the CoEWH Board at the November meeting.

For the first quarter of fiscal year 2006-07 the CoEWH had approximately 3440 billable hours excluding well OB visits.

a. Physically Identifiable Clinical Care Center

The CCC utilizes clinic space on the fourth floor of the Physicians Office Center, consisting of multiple (13) consultation rooms and a waiting area, and a resource area.

The CoEWH Clinical Care space is wheelchair accessible and has Americans with Disabilities Act compliant examination rooms and exam tables.

Executive Leadership engaged a local WV artist to chair a committee to develop an area in the CoEWH clinic waiting area to celebrate The National Center of Excellence in Women's Health, "Body, Mind and Soul" of WV Female Artists. This committee was charged with identifying and exhibiting the work of a Female WV artist every quarter.

The Marketing Department, as a part of a strategic marketing plan, designed and a billboard that advertises the existence of a "Center of Excellence in Women's Health," as well as airing a TV advertisement. The billboard won a national award. Though the billboard has been replaced, it now boasts our nurses, with the same format as our CoEWH. Thus our billboard created a branding for our HSC billboards of excellence.

b. Patient Centeredness - Integration of Care

Dr. Vicki Baker, Clinic Director and Clinic Co Directors, Dr. Davisson (Internal Medicine), and Dr. Long (Family Practice) work closely with Dr. Claudette Brooks, Director, CoEWH Stroke Clinic, our first dedicated specialty clinic.

The Clinic Component Working Team has changed its meeting time to the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The team has continued to include the manager of the Physician Office Center Phone Center, as well as Health Care Providers from all the schools, including specialty areas. See Committee member list attached.

The inclusion of the Call Center will help us identify areas of improvement that are required at the inception of the CoEWH visit (initial impression by the patient). By including the Call Center in the clinic care working team, we have expressed the value the call center adds to the CoEWH. As a result the Call Center has changed the way the phone is answered, thus improving a point of origin. By attending these meetings the Call Center is able to hear firsthand from a health care provider problems identified with patients initial impression of the CoEWH that may be call center oriented. The issue is then addressed and we become more patient centered from the point of origin. Dr. Michael Vernon works with this group directly to improve the customer service at our point of contact via phone.

Working towards providing a seamless one-stop shop concept of clinical care, the clinic provides the following:

On-site social worker, whose office is located off the waiting area,  
Faculty, residents, and staff can refer patients to her in person, through the nursing staff, or referral.

Services that are available include intervention for patients in the clinic for the following:

- Crisis management for difficult news, re: pregnancy/grief/shock
- Referrals and information for pregnancy terminations
- Referrals for substance abuse treatment
- Referrals of spousal abuse and domestic violence
- Referrals and information for adoption planning – relinquishment and adoptions
- Coordination for psych evaluations
- Referrals to Chestnut Ridge for medications, evaluations or hospitalizations
- Referrals and information on paternity testing/custody questions
- Referrals of home health
- Referral for Ronald McDonald/Family House
- Ongoing counseling can be scheduled for the following:
  - Depression and Anxiety disorders, including postpartum depression
  - Stress Management
  - Adjustment to pregnancy/parenthood
  - Relationship changes: marriage/divorce/family dynamics
  - Life changes: relocation/job changes/child birth
  - Loss/grief work: missed AB's /terminations/IUFD/stillborns/BUFAs/infertility
  - Women's Health Issues
  - Domestic violence/rape/abuse issues
  - On-site financial counselor
  - Managed care specialty for authorization/referrals
  - Patient information literature available and on display
  - Patient resources center, see catalog of materials (see appendix)
  - Outpatient laboratory, EKG and ultrasound conveniently located (same floor three doors down the hall)
  - Outpatient pharmacy in the same building (located on the first floor)
  - Ultrasound clinic conveniently located on same floor
  - Pre-admission testing unit conveniently located on the same floor
  - Outpatient radiology (x-ray) located in the building
  - Direct referral to the WV Breast and Cervical Cancer Program
  - Direct referral to the Betty Puskar Breast Care Center
  - CoEWH Stroke Clinic

We are working with the Cancer Center and the Betty Puskar Breast Care Center to identify/develop continue a seamless relationship

The clinical care-working group is in the process of identifying a referral network/system/policy, update the clinic intake form, develop and staff a dedicated triage position.

#### c. Evidence Based and Innovative Care

The interdisciplinary Clinical Care Working Group meets monthly to review clinical practices as well as patient care processes to ensure high quality, innovative and evidence-based practices.

#### d. Effective Information Management

A new Women's Health History/Clinical Intake Form has been completed and submitted. Next steps require direction for ROS billing compatibility.

West Virginia University Hospitals and University Health Associates have purchased the top of the line electronic medical record keeping system, EPIC. This \$90 million investment is tied to an initiative to "change the way we do business", improving quality and patient satisfaction. As an example, patients will have the ability to access their own medical records via an internet portal.

We have developed a complete listing of all reference materials in the CoEWH. This list will be a work in progress in regard to improving upon the multi-disciplinary concept of materials. We continue to work on a new process that was developed to accommodate the HC providers from Family Medicine and Internal Medicine in regard to referrals, location of patient charts, patient lab results and process when HC provider is not in the clinic.

e. Timely and accessible clinical services

See Clinical service a. regarding easy access to patients. The CoE clinic provides classes during the week and on weekends that cover, child birthing, breastfeeding, sibling classes and new parenting.

f. Effective management of CCC Human Resources

Drs Davisson, Long and Brooks continue to work with the Clinical Care Working group to develop effective management strategies. Dr. Davisson left on maternity leave this quarter. We welcome Dr. Geetha Kamath, from General Internal Medicine & Geriatrics who will see Dr. Davisson's patients as well joining the team as a permanent provider.

g. Number of new patients and minority and underserved patients

We are working on establishing best identification procedures for our patients. Our current registration does not allow us to segregate patients by race or disability; however, we estimate that approximately 5 % of the patients served are minority patients, as we have a larger minority population in Morgantown and in our clinic population than West Virginia at large. Approximately 44% of our total patient population is economically disadvantaged (i.e. Medicaid or uninsured). These visit counts exclude repeat OB visits.

h. Participation in CoE Clinical Care Center Directors' Working Group.

Our CoE will participate in all future CCC Directors' Working Group activities.

i. Institutional Commitment:

In addition to the commitments from the Departments of Internal Medicine and Family Medicine for faculty time and by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology for space and staff support. Robert D'Alessandri shared the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center's commitment; Vice President for Health Sciences at the beginning of our site visits presentation. We are currently negotiating with the hospital and hospital system (Ruby Memorial Hospital) for additional financial support for the CoE.

j. Integration:

Medical students and residents see patients at the CCC as part of their professional training. With the addition of Dr. Baker as CCC director, we anticipate adding clinical trials to the population of the CCC. Overview:

Understand the multi-disciplinary approach in patient care  
Understand the new concepts in the field of genetics, perinatology and neonatology as applied to obstetrics  
Be informed in the ultrasound evaluation of patients with our without pregnancy complications

Evaluation

The evaluation material developed in 2005 and updated in 2006 is continuously monitored and used as guidance

### **CoEWH Stroke Prevention Clinic**

#### Highlights

The West Virginia University Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences National Center of Excellence in Women's Health Stroke Prevention, under the direction of Dr. Claudette Brooks is a subspecialty clinic located on the 3rd floor of the

West Virginia Eye Institute in the Neurology-Neurosurgery suite. The clinic is physically located one floor below the CoEWH clinic. The patient never needs to leave the building as all buildings are connected by walkways.

Dr. Claudette Brooks, Director of West Virginia University Health Sciences National Center of Excellence in Women's Health presented abstract on Pharmacist intervention in Antithrombotic Use at the Joint World Stroke Congress in Cape Town, So. Africa, October 2006. Dr. Brooks presented a paper on Women and Cardiovascular Health education at Women of Appalachia Conference, October 2006.

#### **Purpose of the CoEWH Stroke Prevention clinic:**

To evaluate patients and educate them in primary and secondary prevention. Assist and diagnose RF for stroke, aid in treatment Coordinate treatment and serviced with neurosurgery, neuroradiology, nutrition, rehab and social services, pharmacy (anticoagulant), monitoring and treating risk factors.

#### **c. Evidence Based and Innovative Care**

The interdisciplinary Clinical Care Working Group meets monthly to review clinical practices as well as patient care processes to ensure high quality, innovative and evidence-based practices.

#### **d. Effective Information Management**

The Women's Health History/Clinical Intake Form is under review, as a part of a continual improvement effort. The committee is reviewing direction for ROS billing compatibility and to established placement location in each chart.

We have developed a complete listing of all reference materials in the CoEWH. This list will be a work in progress in regard to improving upon the multi-disciplinary concept of materials.

We continue to work on a new process that was developed to accommodate the HC providers from Family Medicine and Internal Medicine in regard to referrals, location of patient charts, patient lab results and process when HC provider is not in the clinic.

The institution is in the process of integrating an EPIC software program through out the HSC.

#### **e. Timely and accessible clinical services**

See Clinical service regarding easy access to patients. The CoE clinic provides classes during the week and on weekends that cover child birthing, breastfeeding, sibling classes and new parenting.

#### **f. Effective management of CCC Human Resources**

Dr. Brooks continues to work with the Clinical Care Working group to develop effective management strategies.

#### **g. Number of new patients and minority and underserved patients**

We are working on establishing best identification procedures for our patients. Our current registration does not allow us to segregate patients by race or disability; however, we estimate that approximately 5% of the patients served are minority patients, as we have a larger minority population in Morgantown and in our clinic population than West Virginia at large. Approximately 44% of our total patient population is economically disadvantaged (i.e., Medicaid or uninsured). These visit counts exclude repeat OB visits.

#### **h. Participation in CoE Clinical Care Center Directors' Working Group**

Our CoE will participate in all future CCC Directors' Working Group activities.

## I. Institutional commitment

The Departments of Internal Medicine and Family Medicine contributed faculty time and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology space and staff support. Dr. Robert D'Alessandri championed our Senate resolution and participated in the presentations of the OWH Site visit along with the Deans of the Schools of Nursing, Dentistry and Pharmacy. We are currently negotiating with the hospital and hospital system (Ruby Memorial Hospital) for additional financial support for the CoE. The department of Neurology has dedicated space to the Center of Excellence in Women's Stoke specialty clinic.

### j. Integration

Medical students and residents see patients at the CCC as part of their professional training as does the School of Pharmacy. Dr Claudette Brooks, Director of the CCC Stroke Clinic, is working towards adding clinical trials and studies to the population of the CCC.

### Evaluation

The evaluation material developed in 2005 and updated in 2006 is continuously monitored and used as guidance.

## **Research Component**

### Research Priorities

- Promote and advance research in women's health through public seminars.
- Communicate state-of-the-art advances in women's health and gender biology through active research and publishing.
- Apply for funding to support a Women's Health research program.
- Expand participation in the Women's Health Research Community.

The mission of the Research Committee of the West Virginia University Health Sciences Center CoEWH is in the promotion of both investigations in the field of women's health and gender-specific research as well as the promotion of faculty investigators who will provide expertise and leadership to carry out this mission. To this end we will begin to work with new residents to encourage that they select gender-specific research for the focus of projects. We will encourage collaboration among researchers and disseminate new research findings across the West Virginia University campus (es). West Virginia University's involvement in basic, clinical and applied research applicable to women's health is growing. Research in Women's Health fits nicely into our strategic research plan which targets research into cancer, including breast, cervical, and lung cancer (which is major cancer in WV women), neurosciences including dementia and stroke, cardiovascular disease and metabolism, obesity, and diabetes, all major areas of concern to WV women. The Clinical Director, Dr. Vicki Baker, has extensive experience in clinical trials and will be instrumental in starting clinical trials in our CCC. In addition, a new Biomedical Research Building will soon start construction. This will attract more research, including research into women's health.

### **Research Priority (October, 2006)**

Promote and advance research in women's health. The Research Committee will develop and deliver women's health research seminars and conferences to educate members of the WVU community regarding new advances in the field of women's health in multiple disciplines, as well as to promote networking between senior and young investigators.

### **Action (as of January, 2007)**

On **October 28, 2006**, a health research seminar and networking conference was held on Oct 28, 2006 entitled "Creating a Network of West Virginia Women in Science and Healthcare." The speaker was **Emily R. Morey-Holton**, a three-time graduate of WVU. In 1958, she received her bachelor's degree in liberal arts in 1958. She received a master's degree and Ph.D. in pharmacology in 1961 and 1974, respectively. Dr. Morey-Holton belongs to the WVU Academy of Distinguished Alumni. After graduation, she embarked on a lifelong career in research. As chief of the NASA research laboratory at Ames Research Center, Morey-Holton has been considered a world expert and contributor to the understanding of the adaptations of the skeleton to space flight. She worked with NASA and

other scientific communities to help them understand many of biological responses astronauts face when exposed to prolonged weightlessness. Prior to her career with NASA, she spent several years teaching and conducting research at the University of Pittsburgh and Indiana University. She has received numerous awards, including AIAA Jeffries Medical Research Award, Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, president of the American Society of Gravitational and Space Biology, NASA Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal, NASA Special Achievement Award, and NASA-Ames Associate Fellowship.

On **November 15, 2006**, the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center Seminar Series sponsored a talk entitled “Leptin and Cancer” by **Eva Surmacz, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Biology, Director, Obesity and Cancer Program, Sbarro Institute for Cancer Research and Molecular Medicine Center for Biotechnology, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Surmacz’s research focused on obesity and postmenopausal breast cancer and the influence of the adipocyte hormone leptin. The seminar audience was primarily junior and senior researchers and their graduate students. Dr Surmacz met individually with members of the CoEWH Research Committee who are interested in breast cancer research.

#### **Research Priority (October, 2006)**

The Center of Excellence will communicate state-of-the-art advances in women's health and gender biology.

Action (as of January, 2007)

Circulated a newsletter from the Society for Women's Health Research's Online Community. As a member of the SWHR online community, we receive our biweekly e-newsletter that has action alerts and the most up-to-date information on sex differences research and news.

#### **Research Priority (October, 2006)**

The Center of Excellence will communicate state-of-the-art advances in women's health and gender biology by WVU investigators.

Action (as of January, 2007)

#### **New research published on gender-specific biology by members of the CoEWH Research Committee:**

##### **Efficacy of an emergency department-based motivational teenage smoking intervention.** [Prev Chronic Dis.](#)

2007 Jan;4(1):A08. Epub 2006 Dec 15

[Horn K](#), [Dino G](#), [Hamilton C](#), [Noerachmanto N](#).

West Virginia University, Department of Community Medicine, Prevention Research Center, Office of Drug Abuse Intervention Studies, P.O. Box 9190, Morgantown, WV

##### **Effectiveness of a Nutrition Intervention With Rural Low-income Women.** [Am J Health Behav.](#) 2007

January/February;31(1):35-43

[Tessaro I](#), [Rye S](#), [Parker L](#), [Mangone C](#), [McCrone S](#).

Community Health Initiatives, Department of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction, School of Nursing, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

##### **Changes of maternal transcripts in oocytes from persistent follicles in cattle.**

[Lingenfelter BM](#), [Dailey RA](#), [Inskoop EK](#), [Vernon MW](#), [Poole DH](#), [Rhinehart JD](#), [Yao J](#). [Mol Reprod Dev.](#) 2007 Mar;74(3):265-72.

Division of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.

#### **Research Priority (October, 2006)**

A priority of the Research Committee is securing robust and increased financial support to fund the Women’s Health research program.

Action (as of January, 2007)

Circulated an announcement regarding a gender-specific grant opportunities as follows:

#### **FANNIE E. RIPPEL FOUNDATION FOR AGED WOMEN**

The Fannie E. Rippel Foundation provides funds to corporations, organizations, associations, institutions, or

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societies that are maintained for the relief and care of aged women. Expenditures include funds for hospital construction or assistance with such construction and provision for hospital equipment and maintenance. A special concern of the foundation is to provide for institutions that perform research and provide treatment for heart disease and cancer. Recently, emphasis has also been given to the equipment and programmatic needs of both major teaching medical centers and local rural hospitals and to proposals where benefits can be leveraged. DEADLINE: Continuous

MORE INFO: [Fannie E. Rippel](#) or [rippel@gti.net](mailto:rippel@gti.net)

### **HEALTH PROMOTION RESEARCH DIRECTED TO IMPROVING THE ORAL HEALTH OF WOMEN AND THEIR INFANTS**

This initiative would support research that applies or adapts existing behavioral theories, and planning research models to known risk factors and lifestyle aspects related to the general and oral health of women before, during and after pregnancy and that of the child. The focus of the health promotion research could encompass any of the following areas listed below but this list is by no means inclusive 1) development of methods or strategies for testing behavioral theories and/or health promotion models that encourage preventive activities on oral health, 2) conduct of feasibility studies which relate to developing, implementing and evaluating oral health promotion research specific to the target population, and 3) conduct of research that explores innovative approaches to integrate oral health promotion into existing health promotion programs for pregnant women and/or for infants.

DEADLINE: January 19, 2007 Non-required letters of intent are due by December 19, 2006. MORE INFO: Email [Mary Daley](#) or visit [Health Promotion](#)

### **WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH IN PREGNANCY AND THE POSTPARTUM PERIOD**

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) encourage research on women's mental health in relation to pregnancy and the postpartum period. Current national epidemiology studies have paid surprisingly little attention to the postpartum period and even less attention to pregnancy in terms of risk for different kinds of perinatal mental disorders and distinguishing risk factors. This critical gap must be addressed, as clinical and epidemiology studies form the basis of intervention research. The prevalence of perinatal depression in different racial/ethnic groups of women is undetermined, with some reports of much higher rates in low-income and/or ethnic minority women and other reports of comparable rates among women. This program uses both the R01 and R21 grant mechanism. DEADLINE: February 1, 2007

MORE INFO: Email [Joy Knipple](#) or visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-376.html>

### **DRUG ABUSE DISSERTATION RESEARCH: EPIDEMIOLOGY, PREVENTION, TREATMENT, SERVICES, AND WOMEN AND SEX/GENDER DIFFERENCES (R36)**

The primary objective of this program announcement (PA) is to prepare qualified individuals for careers that can significantly impact the nation's drug abuse research agenda. Within the framework of this program's commitment to excellence in research and projected need for investigators in drug abuse research, special attention will be given to recruiting individuals from racial or ethnic groups underrepresented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences. This funding opportunity announcement will use the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Dissertation Award (R36) mechanism.

DEADLINE: February 1, 2007 and June 1, 2007

MORE INFO: Email [Melissa W. Racioppo](#) or visit [Drug Abuse Dissertation Research](#)

### **WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH AND SEX/GENDER DIFFERENCES RESEARCH**

The intent of this funding opportunity is for research on women's mental health and sex/gender differences in mental health across the lifespan. The epidemiology and disability burden of mental disorders provide clear evidence of the value of a focus on sex differences research. There are differences in both the prevalence and clinical course of mental disorders between men and women. In recognition of the importance of studying sex/gender differences in health outcomes, NIH has provided guidelines to researchers for inclusion of women and men in clinical research and for gender analysis of clinical trials outcomes. Through research such as that called for in this FOA, NIMH seeks to increase the understanding of the significance of sex/gender differences in mental health outcomes and to assess their significance for mental health prevention, treatment and services. This grant uses both the R01 and R21 award mechanisms.

DEADLINE: February 1, 2007

MORE INFO: [Joy Knipple](#)

West Virginia University Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center  
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R01: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-333.html>

R21: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-334.html>

### **HEALTH DISPARITIES AMONG MINORITY AND UNDERSERVED WOMEN**

The purpose of this initiative is to stimulate research aimed at reducing health disparities among racial/ethnic minority and underserved women. More specifically, this initiative seeks applications for research related to health promotion or risk reduction among minority and underserved women age 21 and older; and intervention studies that show promise for improving the health profile of minority and underserved women. Investigators responding to this announcement should focus on enhancing the body of knowledge of a variety of factors (e.g., social, economic, demographic, community, societal, personal, cultural) influencing the health promoting and health compromising behaviors of racial and ethnic minority women and underserved women and their subpopulations. The focus of this program announcement (PA) is on women age 21 and older, but investigators may also focus on the childhood antecedents of adult health disparities. This PA will use the NIH R01 and R21 award mechanisms.

DEADLINE: February 1, 2007

MORE INFO: Email [Yvonne Bryan](mailto:Yvonne.Bryan@nih.gov) or visit [Health Disparities](http://www.nih.gov/healthdisparities)

### **Research Priority (October, 2006)**

The Research Committee will continue its efforts to expand participation in the Women's Health Research Community.

Action (as of January, 2007)

The Research Committee will meet to discuss plans for an upcoming event in the spring that will showcase gender biology research at West Virginia University. Talks and poster presentations by researchers across disciplines are planned. In addition, breakout sessions for specific areas of research will facilitate cross-fertilization of ideas and networking for future collaborations.

### **Overall WV CoEWH Research Goals**

*a. Develop a comprehensive multi-disciplinary research agenda that includes: stimulating new basic and applied gender specific research in WV, fostering collaborations across academic departments, disseminating gender specific research findings amongst WV researchers and encouraging women to participate in clinical research trials through the WV CoEWH Clinical Care Center.*

The research component of the WVU CoEWH program has formed a WVU CoEWH research committee that plans on instituting six steps to meet its overall research goal:

- Document all current campus-wide gender-specific research.
- Develop a WVU database of women's health researchers.
- Promote interest in gender-specific research through seminars and scientific sessions.
- Stimulate gender specific research unique to WV.
- Encourage collaborative projects.
- Coordinate clinic patients with CoEWH research projects.

### **Develop a WVU CoEWH Research Committee**

To meet the overall goal for research, a WVU CoEWH Research Committee, has been established. The members of the WVU CoEWH Research Committee are composed of scientists that represent the major WVU Colleges associated with gender-specific research. The CoEWH research committee includes members from the following WVU Colleges:

- Medicine
- Dept of Ob/Gyn
- Dept of Physiology
- Dept of Pathology
- Dept of Community Medicine
- Dept of Pediatrics
- Dept of Psychiatry

- Dept of Internal Medicine
- Center on Aging
- Cancer Center
- Nursing
- Dentistry
- Agriculture
- Animal Science
- Dairy Science
- Arts and Sciences
- Biology

The WVU has a large resident population of researchers already involved in gender-specific research. For the first step for increasing the research component of the CoEWH, the research committee members are creating a listing of researchers in their colleges and attempting to recruit them to be active participants in the WVU CoEWH.

The research committee members have contacted each WVU researcher to introduce them to the CoEWH. Additionally, the chairperson of the Committee has been and will continue to meet with various departments within these Colleges to introduce the CoEWH and to recruit new members. Each researcher has been invited to be either an active member of the CoEWH research committee (i.e., attend monthly meetings) or become a participating member (i.e., attend the gender-specific seminars).

New research faculties have been recruited to WVU who are embarking on research issues uniquely related to women's health. They are establishing their laboratories in all the newly formed Centers and Institutes at the WVU Health Science Center.

#### **Centers and Institutes at the WVU Health Sciences Center**

[Interdisciplinary Center For Neuroscience](#)

[Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Cardiovascular Sciences](#) (CIRCS)

[Sensory Neuroscience Research Center](#)

[Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center](#) (MBRCC)

[Center for Advanced Imaging](#)

#### **Institutes**

[National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health](#) (NIOSH)

[Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute](#) (BRNI)

#### **Develop a WVU database of women's health researchers from research centers and institutes**

A database of WVU researchers from the Centers and Institutes that are engaged in gender specific research continues to be developed. The database includes the researchers' brief biosketch, their research interests, and a list of recent gender-specific lectures and publications.

Each of the new faculty who is identified as a gender-specific researcher is asked to participate in the CoEWH at some level. This database will function as the source of names, email addresses and publication records of WVU gender-specific researchers for use by the research committee.

Promote interest in gender-specific research through seminars and scientific sessions

The WV CoEWH research team posts events for various audiences throughout the year. Announcements of seminars and scientific programs that are uniquely related to women's health are emailed and advertised in order to educate women and men, researchers, doctors, the public, the press, and policy makers about women's health research. These seminars are publicly announced across graduate and clinical departments as well as on the CoEWH web site: [www.wvhealthlywomen.org](http://www.wvhealthlywomen.org).

In addition, monetary support from the WVU administration has been available to support speakers who work in the field of sex differences research and women's health. The School of Medicine and the Office of Research and Graduate Education provides annually between \$1,000 - \$2,000/year to support seminar speakers. Seminar speakers are asked to meet with CoEWH research members to discuss their research and foster cross-fertilization of ideas.

#### Stimulate gender specific research unique to WV and encourage collaborative projects

One of the more important contributions that the research component of the CoEWH can bring to WV and to the country is the stimulation of new, novel gender-specific research. The CoEWH is establishing a network of projects that uniquely target diseases specific to rural women in WV such as ovarian and breast cancer in indigent populations of Appalachian women. Clinical and basic science researchers are working together on new research initiatives.

It is anticipated that the above three steps will lay down the foundation for the recruitment of new researchers in the area of women's health. The database from steps 1 and 2 will be used to send emails and email internet links to current researchers highlighting monies and collaborations that are available for gender-specific research. The seminar series of step 3, will also serve as an introduction to the WV research community of potential intra- and extramural research opportunities.

Currently, as a result of CoEWH activities, a new clinical and basic science research team has emerged to work on gender-specific research.

#### **New Research Project: "Breast Cancer, Adipokines and the Metabolic Syndrome"**

**Investigators: Linda Vona-Davis, Ph.D., Surgery; Barbara Ducatman, M.D., Pathology; Marissa Howard-McNatt, M.D., Surgery**

Objective: To compare the plasma concentrations and mammary adipose tissue mRNA expression of leptin and adiponectin in breast cancer patients and patients with benign breast disease and to correlate these adipokines with adipose tissue and tumor VEGF expression and angiogenic activity assessed by microvessel counts.

The WV CoEWH is making every effort to stimulate and facilitate this type of research. By combining basic scientists with clinical researchers, the CoEWH will also be stimulating research across departmental lines.

#### Coordinate clinic patients with CoEWH research projects

The WV CoEWH has established a centralized Clinical Care Center (CCC) in the Physician Office Center adjacent to the WVU Medical Center. The CCC is directly associated with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and has resident medical staff that represent those medical departments required for a "one stop" clinical center for women's medical help. The director of the WVU CoEWH Research Committee, Dr. Michael Vernon, and the new director of the CCC, Dr. Vicki Baker, are both from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and are therefore in constant communication with each other.

#### **Plan to Meet Standard**

The CCC is the ideal locus for the recruitment of patients for gender specific research. Dr. Baker and Dr. Vernon and the executive director of the WV CoEWH have met to establish a working relationship between the research committee and the CCC with the objective of educating the CCC personnel to recruit patients for the CoEWH. As discussed in step 5 above, there are basic scientists that have requested the use of the CCC as a source of patients and in addition to these researchers; two clinical researchers have also requested the use of the CCC for patient recruitment.

### **Education Component**

#### **Education Highlights**

- Graduate certificate program in women's health developed and implemented
- Inventory of women's health content in the health professions schools is underway
- Development and implementation of an OnLine Women's Health Curriculum

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- Curriculum presented to the CoEWH Board
- The Education Component developed Women on Wellness Lecture Series. The first two lectures were delivered during the first quarter
  - HPV Vaccination
  - Campus Culture and Sexual Assault

The Education Component met on a regular basis throughout the quarter and has made progress in establishing and meeting goals emphasizing women's health education for undergraduate and graduate programs across the health professions. The group has also identified and implemented a program of continuing education for established health professionals utilizing innovative information technology resources.

Jamie Shumway, Associate Dean for Medical Education, and past Co-Director Education Component of the CoEWH, has been charged with the responsibility to oversee the preparation of the institution for our LCME accreditation.<sup>2</sup>

Three of the five task forces have met and completed their review and recommendations of strengths, concerns, and areas in transition for the Institutional Setting, Educational Program, and Medical Student sections of the database. The section databases and reports and all materials that are required for the LCME accreditation visit to date are being added to the INTRANET website. The URL is: <http://intranet.hsc.wvu.edu/lcme>. For purposes of this report, we have attached an adobe file<sup>2</sup> of the home page, as the intranet is not an open site. If there is interest in viewing any of the detail please contact Betty Critch Parsons.

Dr. Shumway encourages all faculty and staff to visit this website for more detail. Sections 4 and 5, Faculty and Resources (finances, facilities, and IT-library), respectively, are currently being reviewed by their self-study task forces. We are on schedule with completing the LCME database and self-studies to be mailed to the LCME in December. For purposes of this report the site referenced in last months report is only available to WVU intranet users.

The "Honoring Women Healthcare Professionals" a facet of the "Changing the Face of Medicine"<sup>1</sup> exhibit sponsored by the National Libraries of Medicine was on display at Health Sciences in October 18<sup>th</sup> through December 8, 2006. This innovative, interdisciplinary effort honored women who have made lasting and significant contributions to the Health Care Professions at WVU. It provides an entertaining and enlightened educational opportunity for students, faculty, staff and the public to learn about outstanding women who have made significant contributions to WV.

We partnered with the West Virginia Healthy Kids & Family Coalition and West Virginia Community Voices on a project funded by the Claude Worthington Benedum foundation called the "West Virginia Perinatal Wellness Study. Ann Dacey, Co-Director of the study has completed the second phase of this study during this quarter, "A Blueprint to Improve West Virginia Perinatal Wellness" To review results: [http://wvhealthykids.org/p\\_wellness/pw\\_home.htm](http://wvhealthykids.org/p_wellness/pw_home.htm) -

Dr. Susan McCrone presented a paper in Ireland in entitled Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Anxiety, and Depression: The State of the Science.

The SON has applied for a grant to fund education about obesity in adolescence.

The Education Component has begun the development of a lecture series "Women on Wellness Lecture Series".

a. Diverse training/education programs: Provide diverse training/education programs by fostering the development of culturally competent health care professional training/education in women's health.

Appalachian "cultural" competence opportunities are provided in their required WVU Rural Health Partnerships program (RHEP) (See prior reports for definition of RHEP program) rotations across the all of the health professions. Status: ongoing. WVU VP of Rural Health and past President of NRHA received the NRHA Presidents award for Lifetime achievement.<sup>3</sup>

The professional education-working group has identified areas within the health professions that can work together to focus on the cultural differences of the diverse populations of women in the state. Experiences in “cultural competence” already exist for health professional students in training during their “clinical” phase of their education in the West Virginia Rural Health Partnerships (RHEP) program. All students in all the health professions are required to participate in community settings for an extended period in their educational programs. Multidisciplinary faculty related to race, ethnicity, and gender offers multidisciplinary topics.

Curricula in Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Allied Health (Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy), and Social Work are currently being examined, and threads pertaining to women’s health are being identified. Plans to rectify weaknesses in curricula will be developed. Curricular examination will proceed on an ongoing basis.

The School of Nursing (SON) and the WVU Women’s Studies Dept. offer a “linked course” in which freshman nursing students enroll in an introductory course in the SON and a linked women’s studies class. Students fulfill certain assigned activities and readings that fulfill the requirements of each course. They also are required to develop teaching /instruction materials geared to laypersons that focus on health concerns of women.

The Certificate in Women’s Health received approval as a track in Public Health Degree Program and is up and operating. One manuscript pertaining to women’s health care has been developed by a student and has been submitted for consideration for publication.

Dr. Davisson, Co-Director of the CCC, completed the development and implementation of an OnLine Women’s Health Curriculum during this quarter. The curriculum is currently offered to residents. Dr. Davisson presented the curriculum to the CoEWH Board at the November meeting.

b. develop, enhance or expand existing training/education programs. Expand the core curricula of health professions programs to include all levels across the continuum from undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate, and continuing professional education.

The “Honoring Women Healthcare Professionals” a facet of the “Changing the Face of Medicine” exhibit sponsored by the National Libraries of Medicine was on display at Health Sciences in October 18<sup>th</sup> through December 8, 2006. This innovative, interdisciplinary effort honored women who have made lasting and significant contributions to the Health Care Professions at WVU. It provide an entertaining and enlightening educational opportunity for students, faculty, staff and the public to learn about outstanding women who have made significant contributions to WV.

Events included:

- The keynote speaker was Antonia Novello, 14th Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service.
- An outstanding rural health healthcare provider, Dr. Katrina Poe, MD offered both a series of speeches to HSC Medical students, WVU employees and the public, and a classroom didactic experience for nursing students.
- Dr. Poe provided a lecture to the Nursing 110 students Health and wellness. She captivated the students with her description of growing up in rural Mississippi, choosing a profession, and how she has implemented her dreams as a rural health doctor. Students wrote that it was the best presentation of the whole semester and to please invite her back.
- Dr. Poe delivered a Women’s Studies Residency Lecture: issues in Rural Health.
  - Dr. Poe’s reach across the Health Sciences and the College of Arts and Sciences demonstrates extent of the intra-disciplinary structure of West Virginia University.
  - Dr. Poe, at the suggestion of WVU HSC CoEWH, will be a keynote at the Rural Women’s Health Conference Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington DC, August 13 -15, 2007
- Creating Network of WV women in Science and Health, seminar lead by CoEWH Research Component Director, Linda Vona-Davis, PhD.
- Local legends celebration of Women in Nursing
- Local Legends celebration of women in Medicine
- Local Legends celebration of Women in Pharmacy
- Celebration of women in the Dental professions
- A history of West Virginia Women in Medicine

- Prescription for Success: Consumer and Women's Health information on the internet

We partnered with the West Virginia Healthy Kids & Family Coalition and West Virginia Community Voices on a project funded by the Claude Worthington Benedum foundation called the "West Virginia Perinatal Wellness Study. Ann Dacey, Co-Director of the study has completed the second phase of this study during this quarter, "A Blueprint to Improve West Virginia Perinatal Wellness" To review results: [http://wvhealthykids.org/p\\_wellness/pw\\_home.htm](http://wvhealthykids.org/p_wellness/pw_home.htm) -

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology has developed a 1-month, 4th-year elective clerkship elective in women's health. This is in cooperation with CoEWH. It will be on the agenda of the School of Medicine Curriculum Committee shortly. (Under development as scheduled.)

The School of Medicine is in the process of enhancing the third-year Medical Student Medicine Clerkship that will offer students the opportunity to experience a 2-week clinical rotation in women's health in the CoEWH.

The School of Nursing is in the process of planning a rotation in the CoEWH for its Family Nurse Practitioner graduate students who are interested in a focused clinical experience in women's health. (Under development.)

The School of Medicine Curriculum Committee will conduct an analysis of the Pre-Clinical Education Program for the M.D. degree, using the Association of American Medical College's CurrMIT curriculum database to identify gender-specific topics appropriate to enhancing women's health. This is scheduled, but not yet completed. The degree programs in the other health professions schools have been asked to conduct similar analyses.

Curriculum in Women's Health in the School of Social Work: As it is appropriate to social work, women's health is covered across the Social Work curriculum (Human Behavior in the Social Environment, Welfare Policy, & Practice). A central Social work theory is a bio-psycho-social-spiritual view of a person in his/her environment. As well, social work is committed to vulnerable populations. Women are considered such a population.

Pharmacy: The Women's Health curriculum exists in Pharmacy 715 (12 lecture hours). This follows the AACP guidelines for women's health curriculum.

IT-Folicacid.net is a multidisciplinary site pre and post test required for all Pharm 715 students

Case based (problem based) exercises on Pharm 723 (4 hours) regarding women's health, pregnancy, osteoporosis and menopause

## **Curriculum**

### **Undergraduate**

Health professions schools (Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing, Allied Sciences, and Social Work) have initiated a curriculum examination intended to identify women's health content in the curriculum. Quantity and quality of women's health content is being assessed with the intent that areas of weakness will be strengthened. Women's health experts in all schools are being identified and encouraged to serve on curriculum committees to ensure expertise in content areas. This is an ongoing initiative.

In order to foster the development of culturally competent health care professionals the School of Nursing (SoN) and the Department of Women's Studies at West Virginia University have joined in offering a "linked course." This course requires that freshman-nursing students who elect to take the course enroll in the introductory course in the SoN and a linked women studies course. They are required to fulfill specified activities and readings that satisfy both course requirements. Dr. Susan McCrone (SoN) has developed this course and teaches it in conjunction with Dr. Ruth Kirschner (Community Medicine).

One hundred students enrolled in a Community Health education class developed posters for a community-wide poster presentation. The presentation focused on health issues of women, especially those who were in violent relationships.

## **Graduate**

The graduate professional schools have developed a similar curriculum assessment and revision plan as that has been instituted for the undergraduate curriculum. The graduate core curricular offerings are being expanded and women's health experts are members of the curriculum committees in the School of Medicine (Dr. Mahreen Hashmi), the School of Nursing (Dr. Nan Leslie-graduate education; Prof. Doris Burkey-undergraduate education), and the School of Allied Health (Dr. Rachel Yeater). The School of Medicine (SoM) Curriculum Committee is conducting an analysis of the Pre-clinical education program for its students using the AAMC CurrMIT curriculum data base to identify gender-specific topics appropriate to enhancing women's health. The degree programs in the other health professions schools will conduct similar surveys.

A graduate student in the Public Health program developed and delivered a workshop "Social and Cultural Barriers to Health among African American women"<sup>15</sup>.

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology is in the process of expanding the number individuals in residency and fellowships, and Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Dentistry are in the process of planning a senior year elective clerkship through the Women's Center of Excellence. A women's health fellowship for residents in Obstetrics & Gynecology, Internal Medicine, and Family Medicine is also being planned.

The Education Committee is in the process of developing an interdisciplinary education module to be utilized by students across the health professions schools. The intent of this learning experience is to promote and encourage interdisciplinary understanding and cooperation among members of the various health professions schools, and also to increase students' awareness and understanding of the unique health care needs of women across the lifespan in this rural Appalachian state.

This module is explicated as follows:

The first module, which will also serve as an exemplar for future module development, focuses on the health promotion/health dysfunction prevention of adolescent females. Interdisciplinary teams of students will collaborate to develop a health care plan for the adolescent female. The teams will present their plans to a board of judges from the HSC disciplines that are participating in the CoEWH. This could be an annual event, but the various schools in HSC must agree to participate. Perhaps a monetary prize could be awarded to the team/s with the "best" (most appropriate, comprehensive and practical) plan/s.

A member of each health discipline will be asked to provide an overview of the discipline specific content that we would expect to be addressed by the student teams.

This is still in the in the planning stages see technical report and 3rd qtr report for examples etc.

The Certificate in Women's Health Track is seeking to become a track that would be attractive to all students across the University. Currently, this newly approved program has completed its first round. One student has completed a manuscript pertaining to women's health care and has been submitted for consideration for publication.

WVU has developed a newly approved track in Public Health that will focus on women's health.

### **Information Technology**

The state of WV has had a long-term commitment to the people of the state in terms of education and health care. To this end the state, the institutions of higher learning and private agency have teamed together to offer health care students learning experiences in rural areas (Rural Health Education Partnerships – RHEP). Today all health professions students are required to experience a 3-month rural clinic rotation in a community clinic/agency as a facet of their education. In addition to course learning requirements, students are expected to complete a service-learning project aimed at serving the people and agency in which their rural rotation is assigned. Because students must continue with University/College coursework while in their rural site, a sophisticated information technology network has been established in WV. The assorted health care professions utilize a variety of web casting modalities to educate both students and the public. For example, the School of Medicine delivers education not only to medical students but provides education and consultation to health professionals across the state via Mountaineer Doctor Television (MDTV). MDTV currently delivers services to 19 distant sites and two service providers in WV,

MD, and OH. Because community education is a growing emphasis, live web casting and MDTV are utilized to educate EMS providers, facilitate patient support groups such as diabetes support groups, and provide professional continuing education opportunities in the communities. A wide variety of continuing education programs in topics of interest in women's health and intended for web broadcasting are now available or under development.

### **Public Broadcasting**

Dr. Bob's Health Report<sup>165</sup> and Doctors on Call are televised programs that feature a wide array of women's health topics. Doctors on Call offer an interactive format that allows the public to call into the TV studio and ask questions for the speaker to answer. These programs feature a variety of health professionals as speakers and address a range of subjects.

### **Newspapers**

The CoEWH is presently initiating a weekly newspaper column in the local newspaper that addresses a topic that is pertinent to women's health. Health professionals are being recruited to participate in this initiative. The written columns will be sensitive to the literacy levels appropriate to the residents of WV.

West Virginia University is committed to the education of health care professionals for West Virginia including medical, dental, nursing, and pharmacy, as well as professional programs including exercise physiology and medical technology. Our former Education Co-Director, Dr. Jamie Shumway is also the Chair of the Curriculum Committee for the School of Medicine. Dr. Nan Leslie, also Co-Director, is heavily involved in the curriculum planning for the school of nursing.

Dr. Mahreen Hashmi, Education committee, is both the program director for the OB/GYN residency program and coordinator for the women's health rotation for junior medical students. The institution provides support for these individuals' time and effort to make curricular changes and is currently considering a women's health fellowship program.

### **c. Numbers of individuals in residency and fellowship programs in Women's Health Expand the numbers of individuals in residency and fellowship programs in women's health.**

We continue to offer our certificate in Women's Health. Enrollment in this program has increased. An online Women's Health Curriculum was developed and implemented this year for medical students. Distance technology regularly used for education in the health profession schools. Members of the Education component participate on curriculum committees as Women's Health Experts. We continue to work on the development of Residency Fellowship Program in women's health. It would be housed in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The fellowship would be open to residents who have completed training in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Internal Medicine and Family Medicine. A proposed curriculum has been developed.

Pharmacy Internal Medicine Specialty Resident (PGY-2) could have a women's health component if the candidate wishes. We are presently recruiting a candidate for this position.

### **d. Curriculum component in women's health module: Develop a curriculum component in the form of a women's health module.**

The WVU CoEWH Professional Education Working Group has continued to meet and plan for the development of a module that all health professions at all levels of the continuum of education can access. It is envisioned that these learning materials be available on the Internet and in a form that can be easily accessed. The emphases and differences that may be required by the different health professionals (students and practitioners) accessing it will be accommodated by discipline and "continuum specific" study guides that will be developed by expertise in the various health professions, schools, and programs. (Status: This is currently in the discussion and planning stages. The literature is being searched for suitable materials and pre-existing e-learning materials. This topic is a major item for discussion at the next Working Committee meeting.). Dr. Christina DiBiase from the School of Dentistry has developed an electronic presentation entitled, The Link between Periodontal Disease and Heart Disease & the Role of Oral Infection Control. This presentation is be available for students at WVU and as part of the CoEWH lecture/presentation series.

A component of this module will address “cultural competence” issues, thus contributing to the accomplishment of performance indicator A. The cultural distinctions include women of the State who are primarily of a rural, entirely Appalachian population, most of who do not move out of the state. People of WV are undereducated as a whole. In 2000, approximately 20% of the population age 25 or younger did not have a high school diploma.

d. Increase the number of individuals in residency and fellowship programs in women’s health

A Fellowship/residency in Women’s health in the school of medicine is planned. Residency recruitment plan in planning stages.

e. Develop or expand curriculum component in women’s health module

A women’s Health education certification has been developed, approved and offered. This is primarily graduate level and upper level undergraduate level.

West Virginia Rural Health Education Partnership (WV RHEP). The mission of the West Virginia Rural Health Education Partnerships is to achieve greater retention of West Virginia trained health science graduates in underserved rural West Virginia communities by creating partnerships of community, higher education, health care providers, and governmental bodies. This mission is not rhetoric, rather one that has been carved from a set of guiding principles formulated by the partners who govern this organization and have four years experience at building this partnership. Value-based leadership from all elements that constitute the partnership characterizes our organization: the community and rural providers, higher education, and state government. The values of WV RHEP are: partnerships between communities and institutions, high quality education experiences, community-based education experiences, interdisciplinary teaching and learning, and community-based service and research. The use of information technology to keep the students linked is foremost in the implementation of this required program. At the major rural teaching sites there are Learning Resource Centers (LRCs). Each LRC is equipped with desktop computers and ports for students to connect with their laptops (a required part of the MD and Allied Health professional student programs).

To provide a platform for the dissemination and access to the delivery of the WVU CoEWH has established a website: [www.wvhealthywomen.org](http://www.wvhealthywomen.org).

The School of Nursing uses web casting as a method to deliver content to students at distance-learning sites. (On-going).

Mountaineer Doctor Television (MDTV). No change in its use. It was described in the December 2004 Quarterly Report:

MDTV delivers education across the state to students in different locations. MDTV is a state-wide Tele-health Network delivering services in clinical telemedicine consults professional continuing education, patient/community education, distance learning and administrative teleconferencing. MDTV currently delivers services through a digital ISDN network to 19 distant sites and 2 service provider sites located within the states of West Virginia, Maryland, and Ohio. The use of ISDN allows MDTV to expand its services throughout the world, thus improving our current administrative teleconferencing capabilities. MDTV can provide point-to-point or multi-point configurations at varying bandwidths. WVU uses MDTV to provide graduate and undergraduate courses, which allows the students to remain in their local community while pursuing their educational goals. Medical students and residents doing rotations at any of the distant sites have access to programs originating from the two service provider sites to complement their training. Community education continues to be a growing area of the network. EMS programs are held on a bimonthly basis in an effort to assist EMS personnel in understanding their unique role in the recognition and prevention of injuries. A diabetes support group was also developed for patients in communities with MDTV. This program educates patients on the importance of proper diet, exercise, and blood glucose monitoring. Professional continuing education is also an integral component of the MDTV system. Weekly grand rounds in Emergency Medicine, Medicine, Pediatrics, and Surgery are available to all distant sites. With increased demands and shrinking resources for continuing education across the state, MDTV provides a valuable educational tool in decreasing professional isolation. (No change. Continues to be used to connect the campuses and rural areas for the delivery of real-time education and clinical care.)

Two other physician programs are of note: Doctors on Call (a weekly call-in television program) and Healthline (a weekly call-in radio show). While they are mainly to answer questions of a clinical nature, considerable education of the public on pertinent health issues occur. (see attached) Secure OnLine Environment (SOLE): SOLE is

learners' portal for online education and information. It is a web-based tool for students to access courses and for instructors to build and maintain those courses. Developed by Academic Technologies as an open-ended system for online course development and management, SOLE harnesses the communication power of the Internet within a single-login, user-friendly environment. SOLE began as a course delivery system, but has grown to become an environment for many other applications and resources. This is WVU's main LMS (Learning Management system). WebCT is also used as a development and LMS platform for the development of instructional materials.

The CoEWH web site continues to be updated with particular attention to the possibility of it to serve as a medium for our educational materials.

The University has invested in a new e-learning platform for course development – VISTA. It replaces WebCT as the old platform.

f. Collaborate on professional education/training activities with other institutions and programs

The RHEP program lead by Hilda Heady, Associate Vice President for Rural Health, WVU, serves as a model for collaboration of professional education. RHEP partners with 476 +/- sites across 54 counties. It includes seven schools and 13 disciplines.<sup>4</sup>

We will collaborate with senior management level of the project and collaborate internally with the Leadership component. For example: Develop a mentorship program for women in health professions. The program will offer an opportunity for integration and collaboration among working groups (Education and Leadership), and afford an opportunity for emerging leaders in women's health in WV to be mentored by women who have an in-depth knowledge of the culture, needs and practices of women in the state.

In cooperation with other schools and departments in the University, the Educational Working Group will establish interdisciplinary alliances that will foster holistic and comprehensive care for women of WV and society. Interdisciplinary alliances already established include:

Continue to work with interns and other students from across the University, including WVU Women's Studies, Students from the College of Business and Economics, Civic Engagement etc.

Collaboration has occurred at the senior management level of the project. But no direct collaboration has occurred with representatives of the Professional Education Working Groups getting together. Internal collaboration has occurred however. For example:

A mentorship program for women in health professions is planned in collaboration with the Leadership Working Group. Not only would such a program offer an opportunity for integration and collaboration among working groups (Education and Leadership), but it would afford an opportunity for emerging leaders in women's health in WV to be mentored by women who have an in-depth knowledge of the culture, needs and practices of women in the state.

In cooperation with other school and departments in the University, the Educational Working Group will establish interdisciplinary alliances that will foster holistic and comprehensive care for women of WV and society.

Interdisciplinary alliances already established include:

An industrial relations graduate student from the WVU College of Business and Economics has worked with the CoEWH project director to develop an internal communications model for the CoEWH.

Use innovative information technologies to provide education and training for health care professionals.

Distance learning is regularly used for education in health professions. Rural health (RHEP) is a rotation across all of the health professions. See prior reports for descriptions etc

g. Collaborate on professional education/training activities with other institutions and programs.

The RHEP program is a collaboration of all Health professions in the institution. SON regularly collaborates with the College of Arts and Sciences, Women's Study program, as well as with Public Health students etc. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with other institutions as funding becomes available. In the meantime we collaborate with other institutions as CoEWH.

h. Collaborate with other entities as the local, state and regional levels to foster teaching and learning in women's health.

Participation with RHAP includes 476 sites across the state, (54 Counties). There are seven schools from across the state included in the rotations representing 13 Health science disciplines. This allows for continual collaboration with other entities, local, state and regional.

g. Serve as a Change Agent within University

The directors and members of the education component collaborate with other departments within the university to be more inclusive of women's health issues. The component directors participate on curricula committees.

We are working on the development a plan for change that will include: the development of a communication tool whose purpose is to communicate the mission of the CoEWH to the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center faculty, staff and student body as well to the University at large and the constituents of the State of WV. The goal of this communication tool is based on a basic change philosophy, in order to effect change; the organization must achieve the buy in from its staff. The staff will buy in if they feel valued and that happens when we feel a part of the whole. That is achieved by communication. This will be an ongoing process.

Determine specifics facets of curriculum in all health care disciplines that target women's health issues. Stress the need for culturally competent health care, especially for WV women:

Integrate Informatics and Distance Education Modalities to offer holistic education modules in various aspects of women's health care that are targeted to specific health care providers but are wide enough in scope to be appropriate for other health care providers. An agenda item has been placed on the School of Medicine's Curriculum Committee to appoint a subcommittee to 1) identify curricula that relates to women's health, and 2) to suggest strategies to enhance women's health teaching in the curriculum. Recruit education opinion leaders in women's health to promote curriculum change among the health professions schools and continuum of education.

The school of Pharmacy works with the CoEWH to raise awareness for women's issues locally, regionally, nationally and through world wide networking channels.

h. Collaborate with OWH, DHHS Regional Women's Health Coordinators and State Women's Health Coordinators and Minority Women's Health Panel of Experts: Collaborate with the Office of Women's Health (OWH), DHHS Regional Women's Health Coordinators (RWHC), State Women's Health Coordinators (SWHC), and Minority Women's Health Panel of Experts (MWHPE) on issues affecting women's health.

The leadership of the Professional Education Working Group works closely with the overall leadership of the WV CoEWH and with the component leadership of the Leadership and Outreach Working Groups

Not implemented yet at the national level. Waiting to hear from the funding agency.

At the state level, collaboration has occurred through the various state agencies. This has mainly been possible working with the Outreach and Leadership Working Committees.

i. Participate in CoE Professional Education Working Group

Representative(s) are available.

j. Demonstrate institutional commitment consistent with policy and implementation in changing the curriculum

Education co-directors are members of the curriculum committee and WISH.

Representatives of all departments, schools and colleges in the Health Sciences and from several departments, etc., within the University participate actively in the CoEWH. This was demonstrated by the participation of all components and leadership of the health sciences community at the site visit, the Celebration of women in medicine and Dixie Horning visit. The integration of all health professions into the "Changing the Face of Medicine" program demonstrates the change in the culture.

k. Integrate with other key components

Representatives of all departments, schools and colleges in the Health Sciences and from several departments, etc., within the University participate actively in the CoEWH. The directors of the Education component are members of the team that will deliver the “Changing Face of Medicine Celebrating America’s Women Physicians” The Outreach Director, the Deputy Director and the project director are all working with the well integrated WVU team.

Evaluation

The evaluation material developed in 2005 and updated in 2006 is continuously monitored and used as guidance.

Publications by WVU Faculty focusing on Women’s Issues:

**School of Nursing:**

Cleveland, A., & McCrone, S.H. (2005). Development of the Breastfeeding Personal Efficacy Beliefs Inventory: A measure of women’s confidence about breastfeeding. *Journal of Nursing Measurement*, 13 (2), 115-128.

Owens, J., & Leslie, N. (2005). The worry that goes with warts. *Clinical Excellence for Nurse Practitioners*, 9(3), 137-140.

Badzek, L., Leslie, N., Schwertfeger, R., Deiriggi, P., Glover, J., & Friend, L. (2006). advanced care planning: A study of home health nurses. *Applied Nursing Research*. 19, 56-62.

Tessaro I., Rye S., Parker L., Trangrud K., Mangone C., McCrone S., & Leslie N. (2006). Cookin’ Up Health: Developing a nutrition intervention for a rural Appalachian population. *Health Promotion Practice*, 7(2), 252-257.

**School of Social Work:**

Alkadry, M. G., & Tower, L. E. (2006). Unequal pay: The role of gender. *Public Administration Review*, 66(6),

Tower, L. E. (2006). Barriers in screening women for domestic violence: A survey of social workers, family practitioners, & obstetrician-gynecologists. *Journal of Family Violence*.

Tower, L. E., & Mersing, R. (2006). Battered rural women & safety: Barriers & solutions. *Proceedings of the National Institute on Social Work & Human Services in Rural Areas, USA*, 120-129.

**Community Outreach Component**

**Outreach Highlights-**

The Consumer Advisory Board and Working Groups continue to work to:

- Identify and disseminate materials to women across the state
- Identify and deliver priority screenings, especially for minority and underserved
- Identify conferences, fairs, and festivals in which the CoEWH should participate
- Expand Speaker’s Bureau
- Delivered/participated/lead: seminars, lectures, conferences, presentations, and exhibits across the state
- Purchased exhibits with funding from WVU. COEWH
  - affiliated members are developing priority women’s health messages (e.g., domestic violence, obesity prevention, wellness) to have printed on the exhibit materials. These will be used at community and state outreach events in 2007.
- The Outreach Working Group on health resources reviewed the CoEWH web site and forwarded recommendations to make it ADA-compliant. They will continue to identify materials to add to the site.
- Consumer Advisory Board members are helping to establish women’s health resource centers at Pocahontas Memorial Hospital, which serves a rural area, and at a high-rise apartment building for low-income senior citizens in Wheeling
- We provided literature to public health students, Consumer Advisory Board members, and other health advocates to distribute at community events, such as:
  - Libraries, senior centers, and community centers.

- Outreach co-coordinators are linked to all 55 counties in WV through the WVU
- Outreach co-director Dr. Bowen cites the COEWH in a quarterly “OpenLine Newsletter” to all CEOS (Community Educational Outreach Service) groups in the state.
- From August to November 2006, a nurse-journalist from Rwanda in the WVU Council of International Programs participated in the activities of the COEWH. She gave 9 public presentations to more than 500 people on issues related to women in Rwanda, particularly focusing on women and the genocide and the mental, emotional, and physical health problems associated with the genocide. She met with a wide variety of people in the Health Sciences Center and with community health professionals at agencies like Morgantown Health Right, WIC, and Early Head Start. While she did not have the written English skills to prepare documents for us (English is her third language), she increased awareness of the lack of health information and public discussion about women’s sexuality in Rwanda and took back with her many ideas to use in her country. In addition, she discovered that America has poverty and homelessness.

**Accomplishments for October 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006 are cited under each objective.**

**1. Identify and develop culturally and linguistically appropriate women’s health education materials/activities**

**a. Women’s health education materials**

- Distributed OWH materials to many communities via CAB members.
- Continued to identify Spanish speaking women and distribute Spanish language resource materials for the small but growing West Virginia Hispanic population by working with a student getting service learning credit through the WVU Civic Engagement Department. Literature for the HPV lecture was provided in Spanish
- Dr. Bowen, Outreach Co-Chair, wrote two new WVU Extension Service publications, “Brush Up on Healthy Teeth” a Leader’s Guide and Participant Handout on oral health for West Virginia women. A statewide training in October 2006 equipped Community Educational Outreach Service (CEOS) leaders to present these programs in their communities in 2007. The heart disease information will reach approximately 2,615 CEOS members in 20 counties.
- Dr. Howe is on the doctoral committee for Ms. Jan Rezek, a faculty member at West Virginia University Institute of Technology (WVUIT) in Montgomery, West Virginia. Ms. Rezek is interested in doing her PhD project on a women’s health topic related to at-risk girls in rural West Virginia, particularly those who become mothers before the age of 18.
- WVU faculty incorporates women’s health education materials in their classes. We include developing materials for traditional college-age students since WVU has a student population of 28,600 students for the fall 2006 semester, and the undergraduate student population is over 90 percent traditional college age (18-22), a much different demographic than one finds elsewhere in the state. As examples of materials and programs for students
- Jessica Yoak, Women’s Studies minor, completed a very successful women’s studies field experience with the CoEWH during the fall 2006 semester. She led a team of 5 students to develop and deliver a women’s health lecture series. Two lectures were delivered: HPV and Sexual Assault on Campus.
- Dr. Howe focused a major part of her fall 2006 HIST 445: History of American Women course on women’s health issues. Students took a multifaceted approach to health and read texts such as Andrea Tone’s *Controlling Reproduction* and learned that some of the rights they have taken for granted, i.e., access to birth control, did not always exist. Dr. Howe is teaching WMST 225: Women in Appalachia in the spring 2007 semester and will include a health issues essay about traditional medical practices and current health issues.
- The CAB and WVU outreach committee members believe that our primary focus should be on identifying and distributing existing materials before we begin developing new materials. To that end we established a women’s health resource working group to carry out this goal. Members in 2005-06 included Kim Cordingly (Chair, Job Accommodation Network), Pat Smith (Cancer Information Specialist), Susan Anderson Borrer (CAB member), Laura Carter (CAB member), Tammy Hart (WVU Student), Mary Ellen Zeppuhar (WVU Center of Excellence in Disabilities), and Susan Hayden (West Virginia Library Commission, Adult Services Library Consultant). The use of the Extension Service as a distribution point for the needs of particular regions is an important component.
- Kim Cordingly, Betty Critch Parsons, Dr. Bowen, and Dr. Howe met to review the Women’s Health Resource working group’s recommendations and discuss progress on the web site. At this time, further

progress on the web site depends on Betty Critch Parsons hiring an administrative assistant with responsibility for the web site.

- The WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities has a database system which is housed on Brinkster.com that could be used as a model for the COEWH's informational materials. WVU outreach committee member Mary Ellen Zeppuhar is making arrangements to share information about this web-based system with Betty Critch Parsons. Committee members would like to adopt this so that the COEWH could more easily report information on types of materials distributed, where they were distributed, etc.

#### **b. Women's Health Resource Inventory**

- CoEWH developed an extensive inventory of Women's Health Resources during 2005-06 as requested by the OWH. This listing is located on our web site [www.wvhealthlywomen.org](http://www.wvhealthlywomen.org). Our web site links to these references resources.

#### **c. Women's Health Resource Center**

- We are establishing women's health resource centers around the state through our CAB members. These will include Pocahontas Memorial Hospital and senior apartments in Wheeling, where many low-income women live. CAB members also suggest that we have literature available at the Morgantown Health Right, which serves people with no health insurance. While we will explore this option and will focus on low-literacy materials. Health Right serves a large homeless population.

#### **d. Develop health education activities on prevention and treatment of CVD, diabetes, cancer, and HIV/AIDS and innovative outreach strategies**

##### **1) Health education activities on prevention and treatment of CVD**

- Dr. Bowen collaborated with the American Heart Association (AHA), WVU partners, and Wood County partners on a pilot community project on heart health.
- The program was piloted in Wood County, 2 hours west of Morgantown. Future funding is being sought to disseminate the "Love Your Heart Talks" that resulted from the pilot.
- CAB member Lisa Lee-Ranson sent the following dates for American Heart Association 2007 events. We will try to have COEWH materials at as many of these as possible:
  - January 19 - Style Show near Wheeling
  - February 2 - Go Red lunch in Huntington
  - February 6 - Go Red lunch in Morgantown
  - February 7 - Go Red lunch in Wheeling
  - February 13 - Go Red lunch in Clarksburg
  - February 14 - Go Red lunch in Beckley
  - February 14 - Go Red lunch in Wheeling
  - February 16 - Go Red lunch in Parkersburg
  - February 21 - Go Red lunch in Charleston
  - February 24 - Charleston Heart Gala
  - February 24 - Heart Ball - Belmont County Club
  - September 22 - Charleston Heart Walk
  - October 21 - Clarksburg Heart Walk
  - October 28 - Fairmont Heart Walk
  - TBD - Morgantown Heart, Cabell/Huntington Heart Walk and Wood/Washington Heart Walk

##### **2) Health education activities on prevention and treatment of diabetes**

- CAB member Monica Andis is very involved in state diabetes education programs.
- CAB member Julie LeJeune showcased COEWH materials with the West Virginia Medical Institute's exhibit at the WVU Extension/WV Diabetes Control Program Diabetes Symposium and Workshop, October 18-20, 2006, in Charleston. More than 250 attended from 17 states.

##### **3) Health education activities on prevention and treatment of cancer**

- We continue to identify and work with partners to deliver screenings.

- With Sherry Stoneking of the WVU Betty Puskar Breast Care Center, the COEWH literature and exhibit were at the breast cancer screening/mammography program October 2 and at the cancer survivors' dinner (attendance of 400) October 8.
- With April Stannard and eight regional Cancer Information Specialists, the COEWH co-sponsored various walks around the state to raise funds for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program. Women's health literature was available at many of the walks. We distributed information about our web site, diagnostic tests, and common screenings (the last 2 from the OWH web site) at these events and, when possible, menopause kits and *A Lifetime of Good Health* booklets. Events included the following:
  - Ripley, September 30 – 30 copies of literature
  - Lewisburg and other Greenbrier County events, October 1 – 150 pieces
  - Clay, October 7 – 100 pieces
  - Wellsburg (Dog Walk), October 7 – 100 pieces
  - Union, October 8 – 100 pieces
  - Thomas, October 8 – 15 pieces
  - Huntington, October 8 – 300 pieces
  - Itmann, October 14 – 100 pieces
  - New Martinsville, October 14 – 100 pieces
  - Hamlin, October 14 – 100 pieces
  - Grafton, October 14 – 15 pieces
  - Wheeling, October 15 – handled by CAB member Laura Carter
  - Elkins, October 20 – 10 pieces
  - Welch, October 21 – 100 pieces
  - Williamson, October 29 – 100 pieces
  - Pleasants County – 30 pieces
  - Free clinic days for women in Wood County (30 pieces), Ritchie County (40 pieces), Calhoun County (30 pieces)
  - CAB member Julie LeJeune is working with the Mountains of Hope Cancer Coalition on early detection and screening strategies for their multi-year Cancer Plan and promotes COEWH as a partner in this effort.

#### 4) **Health education activities on prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS**

No activity in this area.

#### 5) **Innovative outreach strategies**

##### a) **Participation in conferences and seminars**

- We continuously identify conferences where the COEWH can have a presence. Such conferences may include the general audiences, community leaders, and health professionals.
- We established a Working Group on Conferences and Seminars to identify priority events for COEWH involvement. Members are Julie Lejeune (Chair), Judy Wilkinson, Susan Anderson Borrer, and Sharon Brinkman-Windle. Ann Dacey continues to take a key role on a Benedum Foundation project: The Perinatal Wellness Study is a planning grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation to consider the extent of the issues, learn what perinatal preventive health programs currently exist, and identify how other states address the issue. See last quarter's report for details. The Perinatal Wellness Study web site is [http://www.wvhealthykids.org/p\\_wellness/pw\\_home.htm](http://www.wvhealthykids.org/p_wellness/pw_home.htm).
- We had our literature at the WVU School of Medicine Department of Family Medicine and the Office of Continuing Education for the 32nd Annual Hal Wanger Family Medicine Conference at the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center in Morgantown October 12-14, 2006. Approximately 120 people participated.
- CAB member Susan Hayden arranged for our exhibit and literature at the West Virginia Adult Education Association conference October 25-27 at Lakeview Resort in Morgantown. The West Virginia Library Commission staffed the exhibit for us. The conference theme was Safe and Sound focusing on health literacy issues. Attendance was about 300 adult educators, rehab counselors and human service caseworkers. In addition to OWH material, we included the flyer on oral birth control and "Instructions for after a Coloscopy and Cervical Biopsy" Tammy Hart developed for low literacy women.
- The WV Rural Health Conference was October 25-27, 2006, at Stonewall Resort. Several COEWH members attended.

- The Charleston Area Medical Center/West Virginia Medical Institute Patient Safety Conference was November 2, 2006, in Charleston. CAB member Julie LeJeune distributed COEWH information.
- Ann Dacey and Betty Critch Parsons served as presenters and provided literature in a variety of conferences across the state such as: the Governor's Worksite Wellness Conference October 15-17, March of Dimes Prematurity Summit October 19-20, Growing Healthy Children's Forum November 2-3, Mercer County Women's Forum October 27 (3000 attended last year), and the WVU Hospitals Health Fair at the Morgantown Mall October 20, Rural Health Forum Planning Committee, Children's Health Luncheons, Pediatrics annual Newborn Conference
- Other various meetings and committees across the state: Deputy Attorney General to discuss Perinatal Wellness study, Legislative Interims and WV Health Care Authority
- We also had literature at the annual WVU Council for Women's Concerns' Women of Color Day Luncheon October 18. Dr. Bei Wu of the WVU Center on Aging spoke on race and ethnic differences in health care for U.S. women. About 300 people attended.

**b) Exhibits** A set of exhibits was purchased with funding from WVU. COEWH-affiliated members

- are developing priority women's health messages (e.g., domestic violence, obesity prevention, wellness) to have printed on the exhibit materials. These will be used at community and state outreach events in 2007.
- The COEWH exhibit and accompanying COEWH literature were used at the following events, as listed previously.
- A October 9 – "Silent Witness" program on domestic violence was co-sponsored by
  - WVU Division of Social Work, WVU Center for Women's Studies, Junior League of Fairmont, Morgantown-area Rape and Domestic Violence Center, and COEWH.
- From October 23 – December 8, 2006, a Changing the Face of Medicine traveling exhibit on women in medicine was featured at WVU Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center. The COEWH exhibit was in the lobby throughout this time and for all events related to the traveling exhibit.
- A Working Group on Fairs and Festivals is helping to plan and carry out women's health activities at state and community fairs and festivals. Working Group members include a CAB member representing CEOS clubs in the state.
- The WVU Center for Women's Studies always includes the WVU COEWH brochure in its displays at events it sponsors.

**c) Changing the Face of Medicine Exhibit, Women's Studies Residency**

- Dr. Howe worked with WVU librarian Carroll Wilkinson, Betty Critch Parsons, education co-directors Nan Leslie and Susan McCrone, COEWH deputy director Ann Chester, and others to coordinate the "Changing Face of Medicine" traveling exhibit at WVU October 18-December 8, 2006. The exhibit was housed in the lobby of the Health Sciences Center. While the exhibit focused solely on women who were medical doctors, the WVU programming included all women in the health sciences, and the planning committee represented that range of interests.
- The exhibit opened with a keynote address October 23 by Dr. Antonia Novello, U.S. Surgeon General from 1990 to 1993.
- The WVU WISH committee sponsored a networking program October 28 for women around the state and honored Dr. Rashida Khakoo.
- Using the "Local Legends" format of the national exhibit, the WVU School of Medicine identified women medical doctors with a connection to WVU who were honored at a program November 3. COEWH director Dr. Barbara Ducatman and COEWH education co-director Dr. Anne Cather were among those honored.
- The Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Dentistry developed their own programs to honor women important to their professions. The School of Nursing program was November 3 and the School of Dentistry event was November 30.
- The Eighth Women's Studies Residency in honor of Judith Gold Stitzel, founding director of the Center for Women's Studies, was held November 5-8 in conjunction with the exhibit. The residency featured Dr. Katrina Poe, the 2005 Country Doctor of the Year. Dr. Poe is from Kilmichael, Mississippi. The Eberly College of Arts and Sciences contributed \$1500 for this program, and the Health Sciences Center assisted in making arrangements and additional honorarium support. Her schedule included:
- a videoconference with parents, students, and staff of the Health Sciences Technology Academy November 6 about her life and work as an African American doctor in a small rural hospital

- a public lecture “Issues in Rural Health,” a presentation to NSG 110, the introductory nursing class, and talks with individuals on campus and in the community, including Cathy Jasper, the WVU representative to the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence’s Women of Color Empowerment Network.
- Presented a web cast grand rounds on rural health care for the Department of Community Medicine and a grand rounds for the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine.
- She met with individuals from the Teaching Scholars Program to discuss cultural competencies, and toured rural health facilities in Preston County with Nursing Professor Imogene Foster.

Dr. Poe is really an outstanding woman and represents so many ideals of the Center of Excellence model. Dr. Poe brought Linda Turner with her; Ms. Turner is a nurse who works with Dr. Poe and nominated her for the Country Doctor of the Year award. Dr. Poe’s visit was an outstanding success, with students saying, “She’s what I want to be” and much “elevator talk” at the Health Sciences Center about her presentation.

- The WVU Libraries featured a program entitled “Prescription for Success: a program in honor of the changing the face of medicine exhibit. The program was delivered at the WVU Alumni Hall. The order of events for that day was as follows:
  - o 10:30 - Welcome by Frances O’Brien, Dean of the WVU Libraries
  - o 10:40-11:30am - Guided Tour of the exhibit by Manon Parry, curator of the Changing the Face of Medicine Exhibit, National Library of Medicine
  - o 11:30-1:00 pm - Lunch Break
  - o Introduction of speaker by Susan Arnold, Interim Director of the Health Sciences Center Library
  - o 1-3pm - “Prescription for Success: Issues in Consumer Health with Special Attention to Women’s Health” by Terry Ottosen, Consumer Health Outreach Coordinator, NNLM Southeastern Atlantic Region, University of Maryland, Baltimore Health Science and Human Services Library.
- Dr. Howe gave a public lecture on “Changing the Face of West Virginia Medicine: The Stories of Wheeling Physicians Eliza Hughes and Harriet Jones” November 27 at the Health Sciences Center. Hughes and Jones were early doctors in Wheeling and Jones is featured in the exhibit. For more information: [www.nlm.gov](http://www.nlm.gov) .
- Dr. Howe’s HIST 445: History of American Women class for the fall 2006 emphasized the women’s health link with the COEWH and the “Changing the Face of Medicine” exhibit. Students could receive extra credit for attending events related to the exhibit.

#### **d) Building Networks**

- Betty Critch Parsons chairs the Morgantown Chamber of Commerce Vision 2020 Health Committee.
- Betty Critch Parsons is a member of the WELCO (Wellness council of American) North Central West Virginia Board of Advisors
- Dr. Howe, Betty Critch Parsons, and WVU outreach committee member Linda Cooper are members of the West Virginia Walks Committee. A major focus of this group during this quarter was attending meetings of the Metropolitan Planning Organization to ensure that the plan included opportunities for walking and biking paths. Linda Cooper worked with the Morgantown Board of Park and Recreation Commission to organize walking leagues, building on the successful West Virginia Walks campaign of 2005.
- Betty Critch Parsons continues to be the president of the North Center West Virginia SHRM (Society for Human Resource Managers) and a member of the State Board. We believe this is an effective way to get wellness in front of and a part of the strategic plan of Human Resource Managers/Directors across the state.
- Ann Dacey is president elect of AWHONN (Association of Women’s Health Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses)

#### **f) Newsletters/Newspaper Articles**

- Articles about the COEWH were published in the following:
- WV Community Educational Outreach Service Openline Newsletters
- Organizations are expressing interest in women’s health information. The following organizations have newsletters which may provide additional avenues to reach different audiences: West Virginia University Center on Aging, WV Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program, the WV Medical Association, and West Virginia Child Care Providers, WVU Hospital’s Wellness Program, Monongalia General Hospital Wellness Program, Blue Cross-Blue Shield, West Virginia Federation of Women’s Clubs, American

Association of University Women, Business and Professional Women, as well as the West Virginia Education Association, and West Virginia-National Association of Social Workers.

- We plan to develop a series of short articles for weekly county newspapers and other periodicals around the state, too, or even in regular daily newspapers. Articles may be distributed statewide through the WVU HSC News and Information Service for a regular series on women's health. We envision these to be short pieces (c. 300 words) that may build on some of the material already available on the OWH web site, with specific information added on WVU resources or West Virginia issues.
- We work with the WVU HSC News and Information Service to publicize COEWH activities. An article on "Why West Virginia Women's Health Matters" is being discussed by the WVU Outreach Committee to help articulate the relationship between health issues and women's employment, education, political participation, etc. Dr. Howe and other outreach partners will collaborate and submit it to the State Journal, the state's business journal, and to the West Virginia Institute for Public Affairs' Public Affairs Reporter for state government officials.

**g) Television and radio coverage/billboard**

- Stacy Wise of the WVU HSC News and Information Services is our liaison to the media.
- Business cards with the COEWH phone and web site are distributed at events.

**h) Student Events**

- FMLA (Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, formerly Female Equality Movement), a WVU student organization, regularly does public programming related to women's health. On October 18, 2006, FMLA sponsored its annual "Love Your Body Day" to call attention to the problem of eating disorders among young women. The group also had meals featuring healthy foods, a yoga session, and a belly dancing session

**i) Student advisory board**

- We have taken preliminary steps to establish a student advisory group to link students in social work, women's studies, law, and health sciences disciplines in projects related to women's health, with the idea of fostering cross-disciplinary discussions and cooperation among students who may then work together as professionals. This idea grew out of the WVU Outreach Committee. We have collected names of some students who are interested in this effort and will call the first meeting in the spring 2007 semester.

**j) Participation in the Women of Color Empowerment Committee (WOCEC)**

- The purpose of WOCEC is "to provide networking opportunities, enhance leadership capacity and support for women of color and activists working to eliminate violence against women and children." Kenyatta Coleman of the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence is the coordinator of this network, which first met in January 2005. Cathy Jasper, administrative associate for the WVU Center for Women's Studies, is our representative to this group. Ms. Jasper is one of the women in the photograph on the COEWH brochure cover. The Center for Women's Studies supports Ms. Jasper's travel to these meetings through its Judy Mossburg Fund for Faculty, Staff, and Student Development, in recognition of the fact that participation in this program is a form of professional development for Ms. Jasper. The WOCEC recently received a grant from the Appalachian Community Fund to further its work.
- Ms. Jasper publicized Katrina Poe's visit through the WOCEN. The established goals of WOCEC are: 1) to strengthen the network of women of color by involving more people, holding quarterly meetings, communicating with women of color, and holding statewide cultural events/activities; 2) to give voice to victims who identify as women of color by identifying barriers that keep them from coming forward as victims of violence and provide cultural sensitivity training to social service workers, law enforcement officers, etc.; 3) to encourage and emphasize a coordinated community response through multicultural events and organizations/agencies who can help.

**k) Outreach to Immigrant/International Groups**

We are developing outreach to minority groups including immigrant communities in West Virginia who may not understand the American health care system or may need culturally appropriate materials.

**l) West Virginia Council of International Programs and COEWH**

From August to November 2006, a nurse-journalist from Rwanda in the WVU Council of International Programs participated in the activities of the COEWH. She gave 9 public presentations to more than 500 people on issues related to women in Rwanda, particularly focusing on women and the genocide and the mental, emotional, and physical health problems associated with the genocide. She met with a wide variety of people in the Health Sciences Center and with community health professionals at agencies like Morgantown Health Right, WIC, and Early Head Start. While she did not have the written English skills to prepare documents for us (English is her third language), she increased awareness of the lack of health information and public discussion about women's sexuality in Rwanda and took back with her many ideas to use in her country. In addition, she discovered that America has poverty and homelessness.

#### **m) Office of Healthy Lifestyles**

Linda Carson, WVU outreach committee member and member of the coordinating group for the WV Office of Healthy Lifestyles, chairs the Working Group on Healthy Lifestyles. This working group will help the COEWH collaborate with the new statewide initiative.

#### **Other Contacts with Minority Communities**

Barb Howe and Elaine Bowen initiated a partnership with the West Virginia Coalition for Minority Health (WVCMH.) The mission of WVCMH is to decrease disease incidence and mortality and increase survival rates among minorities. Its goals include: 1) to coordinate programming, collect and distribute resource material; 2) to increase community involvement in health screening programs; 3) to collaborate with statewide health initiatives; and 4) to support and fund community-based programming. A WVU student is working on establishing a north-central West Virginia chapter of this coalition, as her mother is the state coordinator. We anticipate that there will be many opportunities to work with this group in the future.

## **2. Develop a website for the COEWH**

The site is promoted on the new COEWH brochure and at all outreach events. Outreach co-chairs submit materials to post on the web site and continually develop this site as a useful resource. We have a list of books on women's health and a link to the WVU Bookstore so people can order these through the bookstore. The WVU Bookstore asked us to publicize its special efforts during October for breast cancer awareness products, and we did that.

- We link to organizations with similar goals, including the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and organizations which our CAB members represent (e.g., West Virginia Lymphedema Network.)
- The COEWH site has the list of National Health Observances in a calendar format. WVU Health Sciences News & Information Services routinely refers requests for this information to our site.
- A calendar of health events in West Virginia is available. CAB members and others submit event details to publicize their events.
- As noted above, the resource inventory is posted on the site.
- We plan to develop a press resource section on our COEWH web site to publicize the COEWH and links to materials available on women's health sites ([www.4woman.gov](http://www.4woman.gov)).
- Relevant press releases from WVU Health Sciences Center are posted on the web site.
- The health resources working group will work with the COEWH web administrator to organize on-line resources in categories under areas of health (Wellness, Cancer, HIV-AIDs, and so on) to make it easier for those visiting the site to locate information.
- The health resources working group also reviewed the new WVU School of Medicine Web sites and the required template for these pages, to which the COEWH web site now conforms.
- Marie Abate, WVU outreach committee member, works with pharmacy students who answer questions through a web-based information line, Health Tip that is linked to our web site. These students may also be able to translate material about prescriptions and drug usage into a low literacy format.
- Links were built to sites such as the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. We also plan a link with information about accessible transportation options for people with disabilities around the state.
- The site includes information about women's health screenings. While everyone does not have Internet access, publicizing existing clinics is a public service. We added links to the county health department home page, if that county has such a free-standing page. Only 9 of the 55 counties have such sites.
- Betty Parsons has had a specialist review the web site to conform to ADA requirements.

### 3. Develop professional and lay outreach worker program

No further development on this objective.

### 4. Develop Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) and community alliances, especially serving underserved populations

- Approximately 30 CAB members represent 24 different organizations and 14 geographically dispersed counties, with an emphasis on membership chosen from partnering organizations. Members are drawn from the community and represent the served populations. This cross membership strengthens links between the COEWH and partners. The board provides advice and feedback to all COEWH components.
- CAB membership expanded to better represent underserved populations and all geographic areas, including faith communities, eastern panhandle of West Virginia, and minority health leaders.
- CAB members have affiliations with 27 professional organizations, 29 community civic organizations, 6 religious organizations, 5 universities, 8 media outlets, and 21 local health providers.
- Our first CAB meeting of 2006-07 was November 29 via videoconference to Morgantown, Charleston, and Wheeling, with nine members attending and others submitting reports in advance via email. Highlights of the meeting were:
- *Ann Dacey reported the perinatal wellness study is complete and results are available at [www.wvhealthykids.org](http://www.wvhealthykids.org)*
- *Elaine Bowen reported on several health projects:*
  - *The Wood County Women's Heart Health project needs funding to expand statewide;*
  - *A new 4-H health officer program involves over 17,000 youth in learning about basic dental health, with club members as peer instructors. Next year's focus is physical activity.*
  - *The Office of Women's Health's curriculum, "BodyWorks," has been piloted across the country. A nurse practitioner in Harpers Ferry used it with moms and daughters. May trainings are planned for Morgantown and the eastern panhandle. Training and materials are excellent and free!*
- *Lynne Ryan reported WIC provides breast pumps for mothers. They just got the first 50 for WIC moms. Ruby Memorial Hospital is trying to get funding to buy more for non-WIC moms. WIC is also working with doctors in Preston County to increase breastfeeding.*
- *Trish Weinschenker reported the October state CEOS conference featured sessions on heart health and obesity. CEOS members took part in various walks around the state for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program and for heart health.*
- *Laura Carter is working with the Ohio County health department on the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program and is talking to the Health Right program in Wheeling to see about possible programs there.*
- *Julie LeJeune reported that the West Virginia Medical Institute (WVMI) is working on an electronic health records project to ensure better safety for patients under WVMI's purview. One WVMI Christmas project is a "best friends' tree," where people can donate items for animals at the shelters and are offering Holiday Cheerios.*
- *Zobeida Bonilla, the newest CAB member from Huntington is involved in evaluation projects in the state related to children in the early stages of substance abuse. Another project in all 55 counties evaluates community capacity for dealing with substance abuse. She also teaches and works on health education materials in Spanish for the Boston Women's Health Book Collective, publishers of Our Bodies, Ourselves.*
- *Laurie Thompsen reported the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WVCADV) received money from the Benedum Foundation for a 2-year project with Head Start, using the Muskie Institute curriculum. They have five training teams and are doing this over the next five years.*
  - *The coalition is also purchasing Dance Dance Revolution for the 14 domestic violence shelters in the state and is doing a daylong training program for family court judges with trainers from Boston. The coalition released a report with West Virginia recommendations.*
  - *The first task force meeting for the Head Start program will be December 12.*
  - *The WVCADV also wants to work with medical schools to train residents and do screenings in hospitals.*
- *Emily Hopta reported West Virginia was selected for the April 2007 "Shaping America's Youth" conference to unite stakeholders to talk about public policy. There will be discussions around the state on the prevalence of obesity and how to respond.*

- *The state is also collaborating with women chemists at DOW for a women in science program in January and February 2007, sponsored by the Kanawha Valley Section of the American Chemical Society. This includes the Chemical Heritage Foundation's "Her Lab in Your Life: Women in Chemistry" traveling exhibit. See [http://www.chemheritage.org/women\\_chemistry/](http://www.chemheritage.org/women_chemistry/).*
- *The Office of Healthy Lifestyles, Clinical Advisory Group, is looking at legislative issues, with a special focus on cleaning up the bill that created the office. Some things in the bill related to vending machines and physical activity are not possible to do.*
- *Anne Williams reported on the following:*
  - *Events in October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month went well. Cancer Information Specialists held about 150 events statewide, including 23 walks with 1200 participants that raised over \$60,000 for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program. There were also 11 free screenings and other events. Anne will send Barb the URL for an article in the Centers for Disease Control's e-journal on assessing awareness and knowledge of breast and cervical cancer.*
  - *National Folic Acid Awareness Week is coming up in January. Anne's office is doing a mass mailing. There is a lot of free information that can be ordered from [www.folicacidinfo.org/campaign](http://www.folicacidinfo.org/campaign).*
  - *A pilot obesity prevention program is being done in the family planning program because they have not done obesity screening before. They are trying to fit obesity screening into family planning clinic visits, distribute pedometers, and track the data from this study.*
  - *Contraceptive prices were a huge concern when the CAB met last. Anne reported Ortho stabilized pricing for 2007, yet prices are higher than those for 2006. Clinics now have supplies for their clients, but the office plans to request legislative improvement funds to cover increased costs for the current fiscal year.*
  - *Anne participated in the state women's health coordinators' conference call in late October. She mentioned on-line presentations on women's self-image, including dental health and self-image. The next call in late January will focus on the HPV vaccine and the political environment surrounding the vaccine. WV is now covering this vaccine for some girls.*
- *Barb Kupchak reported two students are doing projects on the HPV vaccine and breast cancer issues. She is working with a geriatric group and needs more information for that from us. She is also going to a United Nation's meeting in April as a representative of the Sisters of St. Joseph, an official UN NGO. Focus areas for the Sisters of St. Joseph are women's health and children and families.*
- *Barb Howe reported on the residency and the "Changing the Face of Medicine" exhibit at WVU's Health Sciences Center October 18 to December 8. Dr. Katrina Poe, the 2005 Country Doctor of the Year, was the 8<sup>th</sup> women's studies resident this year. She was in Morgantown November 5-8 for a variety of events.*
- *Betty Parsons reported that First Lady Gayle Manchin is now the honorary chair of the COEWH "brain trust advisory board" for statewide visibility for women's health.*
  - *The COEWH received certificates of excellence for the second year in a row for all 5 areas of our work.*
  - *The COEWH lecture series started with a talk by Dr. Jan Palmer on HPV and will continue on November 29 with one on sexual assault by Deb Strouse, including a video Deb helped make. Mike Vernon, COEWH clinic director, wants to offer these lectures around the state.*
- *The CAB discussed the public education exhibits Barb Howe is working on.*
- *We invited Zobeida Bonilla, who works with the Boston Women's Health Book Collective, and lives in Huntington, West Virginia, to join our CAB. She has a Ph.D. in anthropology and has been very involved in developing Spanish- language materials for the BWHBC, which publishes *Our Bodies, Our Selves*.*

##### **5. Provide outreach to students in high and middle schools across the state**

- We will explore ways to collaborate with the Girl Scout, 4-H, the Association for Women in Science's Expanding Your Horizons Program, and other events.
- HSTA students at 14 sites were involved with the "Changing the Face of Medicine" exhibit through a video conference with Katrina Poe in November 2006 as described above.
- We will work with the Adolescent Girls Health Working Group.

**6. Work with Regional Women's Health Coordinators and State Women's Health Coordinators and the Minority Women's Health Panel of Experts to reach underserved women in WV**

Anne Williams is co-chair of the CAB with Dr. Bowen and Dr. Howe.

**7. Collaborate with other CCOEs through joint COEWH/CCOE joint projects**

**8. Participate actively in COE Outreach and Minority Working Groups.**

Ms. Williams, Dr. Howe, and Dr. Bowen meet regularly to stay updated on COEWH, WVDHHR, and OWH business.

**9. Demonstrate institutional commitment and policy support in the development of appropriate outreach strategies and materials, especially preventive services**

- Dean Mary Ellen Mazey of the WVU Eberly College of Arts and Sciences paid half the fee required by the Council of International Programs to host Ildegonde Karererwa at the COEWH.
- The Center for Women's Studies and Extension Service continue to pay for costs related to outreach, such as copying and postage.
- All deans sign off on their faculty's involvement when there is a commitment of time. The time commitment from the outreach co-chairs far exceeds the amount of time specified in the COEWH contract.
- All WVU faculty are expected to participate in public service. Work on the COEWH counts as part of that public service.
- The COEWH has contributed speakers to the WVU Health Sciences Center's speakers' bureau. To date, 16 people volunteered to make local and/or statewide presentations on a gamut of topics related to women's health. This will be posted on the web so the public can easily request a speaker for their programs.
- The WVU HSC News and Information Services send out publicity.
- The Center for Women's Studies pledged \$1,000 to support the series of research presentations that the research committee wishes to sponsor.
- The Eberly College of Arts and Sciences contributed \$1500 toward the Katrina Poe residency. The Health Sciences Center provided \$3000 toward her honorarium, as well as covering costs for the reception following her public lecture. The Teaching Scholars Program, Center for Black Culture, Department of Community Medicine, and Department of Behavioral Medicine hosted events for Dr. Poe.
- WVU President Hardesty formed the Executive Task Force on Wellness in March 2005. Its mission is to lead and support efforts to develop and promote quality nutrition and wellness programs. Dr. Bowen serves on this task force. They established a strategic plan of action for the university and meet monthly to coordinate and collaborate on wellness activities across campus and the state.
- Dr. Sue Day-Perroots, dean of WVU extended learning invited Associate Provost Cheryl Torsney, Dr. Howe and Ruth Kershner to join a team to provide services to the new Secure Female Facility of the Bureau of Prisons in Hazelton, West Virginia. Prison staff want inmate programs on parenting, nutrition, stress management, and health care. The Bureau of Prisons approved WVU's plan and is awaiting funding approval to provide these services. These may include on-line courses, classes taught at the prison, and short certificate courses such as first aid. Anne Cather expects to involve medical students in this outreach effort as part of their community service requirement.

**The WVU outreach committee includes:**

1. Amy Allen, MA, MS, CHES, Project Director, Cancer Information Service
2. Sharon Brinkman-Windle, MPA, Cancer Center
3. Linda M. Carson, Ed.D. (on WV Office of Healthy Lifestyles coordinating board), Ware Distinguished Professor , Director, WV Motor Development Center , School of Physical Education
4. Kimberly Cordingly, M.A. Consultant, Job Accommodation Network
5. Ann Chester, Ph.D. Assistant Vice President for Health Sciences for Social Justice
6. Linda Cooper, Community Medicine
7. Ann Dacey, R.N. Senior Program Coordinator, Center of Excellence in Women's Health
8. Alan Ducatman MD, MS Professor and Chair, Dept of Community Medicine
9. Suzanne Gosden, M.Ed., Clinical Instructor
10. Linda Jacknowitz, MS, MLS, Mountains of Hope Cancer Network
11. Ruth Kershner, R.N., Ed.D., Community Medicine

12. Joyce McConnell, J.D., Professor of Law
13. Susan Pearce, WVU Division of Sociology
14. Leesa G. Prendergast, MS, CHES Assistant Director for Community Outreach WVU Prevention Research Center (PRC)
15. Shelia Price, DDS, Assistant Dean of Administration of Dentistry
16. Sally K. Richardson Executive Director/Associate Vice President WVU Institute for Health Policy Research, Charleston
17. Pat Smith, Cancer Information Specialist
18. Deborah Strouse, Health Education Specialist
19. Catherine Yura, Ed. D., Director, WVU Carruth Center for Counseling and Psychological Services
20. Mary Ellen Zeppuhar, Clinical Associate, WVU Center of Excellence in Disabilities

**10. Integrate with other COEWH key components, i.e. recruitment for clinical trials in the community**

- Betty Critch Parsons attended the CAB meeting on November 28.
- COEWH outreach co-directors attend monthly leadership meetings.
- COEWH outreach co-directors submit materials and links to the web site.
- Dr. Howe presented a Teaching Scholars Program November 15 at the WVU Health Sciences Center about the COEWH and integrating gender issues into teaching about medicine. Her presentation focused on women's medical history, how women were defined as "crazy" in the past, and changing perspectives on women's reproductive health.
- Dr. Rashida Khakoo, COEWH professional education committee member, co-facilitates the Teaching Scholars Program.
- The COEWH had an active coordination role to bring the exhibit "Changing the Face of Medicine" to WVU Health Sciences Center in the fall of 2006. Dr. Howe attended bi-weekly meetings on this exhibit, coordinated the residency visit as part of this exhibit, publicized it through women's studies, and gave a lecture November 27 on two early Wheeling, West Virginia, women doctors. Betty Critch Parsons, Dr. Ann Chester, Dr. Susan McCrone, Dr. Shelia Price, and Dr. Nan Leslie are also involved.

**11. Evaluate community outreach performance.**

See attached.

**Academic Leadership Component**

Leadership Highlights

- CoEWH has developed a tracking system to document faculty by gender and minority status
- CoEWH collaborates with the Faculty Development Committee and the Teaching Scholars Program to provide mentorship and leadership training
- An online climate study has been developed, and revised to the current survey versus an alternate survey are being considered based upon the VP HSC input.
- Salary equity study
- The salary equity study for the School of Medicine has been completed for the Academic Year 7/03 – 6/04.
- Review of School of Medicine 7/04 – 6/05 salary data has begun for our annual salary equity study.
- Discussions to conduct a salary equity study for the School of Nursing have been postponed due to the announced retirement of the current Dean. This analysis will be done when a new Dean is in place.
- Plans are now in place to conduct a salary equity study in the School of Pharmacy, which has a new Dean as of July 1.
- Development of data base of all Female Faculty in all the Health Sciences Schools.

**The Leadership component supports the development of women as leaders in:**

- Academic health centers
- Partner organizations
- Communities we service

The COEWH Leadership team continues to work closely with the well-established Women in Science and Health Committee (WISH) which has, for many years, represented women's interests at the Health Sciences Center and offered mentoring and development programs focused on women students, residents and faculty. In addition, COEWH maintains a close association with the Faculty Development Committee and with the Teaching Scholars Program, both of which provide a broad range of mentorship and leadership training opportunities. The Leadership Director, Maria Kolar, is a member of the WISH committee, and WISH members serve as the COEWH Leadership team. This working partnership has been effective for both WISH and the COEWH in terms of institutional visibility and credibility for both organizations. The WISH Committee continues to focus on the following:

- COEWH Leadership support (continued): potential RFP for leadership
- Salary equity survey
- Gender equity survey design, institutional support, and initiation
- Quarterly Newsletter development
- Expansion of Women's Leadership efforts to include other WVU campuses and all of West Virginia
- Concierge resources for faculty & family
- Participation in regional or National mentoring program for women
- HSTA mentoring
- Introduction to Health Sciences Students
- Nomination of WVU women for national leadership awards and development programs

a. Recruitment, retention, and promotion of women in the health care professions:

The Leadership team thus far has focused on three areas that we see as critical to explore before creating a specific mentoring and leadership development plan:

**1. Assessing leadership programs and activities already in place across the Health Sciences to find both overlaps and gaps and to assist people to network more effectively in the development of leadership programs.**

As a result of a query of members of the committee who play significant leadership roles in each of the HSC schools and, we have compiled a list of important leadership events and opportunities for women across the Health Sciences. Of particular note is "The Faculty Development Conference Series" Three conference series devoted to 3 areas (Leadership and Management, Enhancing Learning through Innovation in Education, and Enhancing Research in Scholarship) have already occurred. The Leadership and Management Series included the following titles: Conflict Resolution, Understanding HSC Financial Statements, Developing an Executive Vision, Chairing/Running Effective Meetings, HSC Finances-Understanding Budgets, Leadership from Within, Unleashing Creativity and Innovation, Team Building, Strategic Thinking/Planning, and Running a Search Committee. A second series on Leadership included the following titles: Diversity: Creating an Inclusive Environment, Building and Sustaining Teams, Running a Search Committee, Setting Goals for Professional Development, Strategic Thinking, Organizational Skills and Time Management, Chairing/Running Effective Meetings, and HSC Finances: Understanding Budgets. The planned Winter/Spring 2007 series includes the topics of: Increasing Diversity Among Health Care Professional Students; Myths, Magic, and the Real McCoy: Insights into Rural and Appalachian Culture; Learning From the Middle and Managing Up; Cultural Competency in Clinical Care; and Balancing Your Personal and Professional Lives. As of 11/06, these conferences have been recorded and placed on our CoEWH and Faculty Development websites. This allows anyone to view the lecture and Powerpoint presentation at their own convenience, thus increasing the spread of this information to a larger population of students and faculty.

The second annual Women of the Water Retreat was held and included many topics of discussion regarding Leadership. A new Women's Lecture series is planned and will bring leadership topics to not only the academic community but also to the community at large as an educational offering.

A subcommittee of the Leadership committee is building a Leadership/Opportunity page for our website that will also link to the WISH website, which keeps an updated list of conferences and educational advancement opportunities for women. A comprehensive Women's Resource List has been created by COEWH. The list is updated as new resources are identified.

## **2. Reviewing recent studies of salary equity and diversity and determining what, if any, baseline data is available from which to build our new surveys.**

As a result of a March 2005 meeting with all the Deans of the Health Sciences schools, we received the support of all four Deans and the VP, Health Sciences to proceed with a salary equity survey. Review of earlier data made it clear that a review of contract data alone will not provide the information needed for a fully descriptive, comprehensive compensation survey since much of the gap in compensation occurs as people take on roles that are incentives or covered by non-contract funding. The Dean pledged his full support. COEWH leadership developed a proposal to move this project forward and has presented it to the Dean of the Medical School. The other Deans are willing to share their salary information as long as it is pooled in any reports made to protect individual confidentiality, as their faculties are much smaller than the medical school. The Dean of the School of Medicine directed the Associate Dean of Administration and Finance to work with our committee. The committee met bi-monthly with the Associate Dean of Administration and Finance and the data from the Academic Year 03-04 was obtained and reviewed – See f for findings and for future plans.

## **3. We are in the process of exploring existing policies and attitudes regarding recruitment, retention and promotion of women faculty and leaders**

After our initial investigative work, we determined that it was important to conduct a thorough climate survey of the HSC. A joint WISH-COEWH task, chaired by Kathy Rosen, M.D., who was the Chair of WISH developed a climate survey instrument and partnered with researchers who are planning to conduct the survey and publish the results. The climate survey was developed by a researcher in the WVU Social Work Department in collaboration with a researcher in the School of Pharmacy.

Kathy Rosen, M.D. has left the University. Linda Von-Davis has replaced Kathy Rosen. The survey instrument was delivered to the HSC VP for review and comment. The committee continues to review the comments and suggestions of the HSC VP and is also considering an alternative survey instrument, as the developed survey may not be the desired instrument. Once the survey is approved by the VP it will be conducted on-line throughout the HSC. Once we have the findings from the survey, along with the other information we have gathered, we will present this information to the Deans and the VP Health Sciences, along with policy recommendations to address issues that are identified. We plan to repeat the climate survey annually and track changes as the administrative responses are noticed and begin to affect the culture of the institution.

### **b. Recruitment of diverse students in women's health.**

Both the Medical School and the Dental School have active programs to engage minority students in studying science and becoming interested in the health professions starting in 8th grade. We have talked to the leadership of both of these programs about using them as a model for the other health professions, or incorporating the other health professions at some point in the decision matrix for their students learning about health careers.

- Technology in Delivery of Leadership activities. The Health Sciences Center Teaching Scholars Program, which is a yearlong program for junior faculty across all health sciences programs identified as future leaders The Teaching Scholars Program, is ongoing. While this was an on-campus institute, it included sessions on the use of technology and discussion of the plan to establish a Virtual Leadership Institute by 2006/07. The Virtual Institute will then be offered nationally. A committee has been formed to use what was learned from participants in the summer institute and our experience with the on-line Teaching Scholars Program to develop the Virtual Institute.
- Integration. The directors of the four working groups meet regularly and continually discuss ways to work together to meet mutual goals.
- Attraction and retention of diverse students will be on the agenda of items talked about at the leadership institute. This issue is important to the leadership of the HSC and is on the radar screen. We will discuss ways to enhance institutional efforts in this regard.

### **c. Recruitment of diverse faculty of Departmental Chairs, Deans and upper level university positions**

The WISH committee has as one of its primary goals the support of recruiting and retaining diverse faculty so that a diverse pool of qualified emerging leaders is available when important leadership openings occur. At this time, the internal pool is relatively shallow. West Virginia University salaries hover just below 50% of the national average, and WVU loses many highly qualified diverse faculties to other institutions in mid-career. In addition, the competition for highly qualified diverse leadership candidates is fierce and WVU loses good external candidates because of salary limitations as well. It is our hope that our salary equity and climate surveys bring this issue to the foreground for leadership within the university and at the State level so that we may begin to change policy internally to attract reward and retain highly qualified people. The COEWH designation is a plus in this regard as it provides both an additional incentive for action and an opportunity to attract good candidates.

This issue was discussed in our meeting with the Deans. The focus of the institution is on attracting quality candidates and filling positions. Positions here often go unfilled for longer than at other institutions because of where WVU falls in the national salary levels. We will continue to work with the leadership in this area and we feel that the outcome of the salary and compensation surveys and an ongoing dialogue on the opportunities they present for institutional change will begin to address the diversity issue.

Complete lists are being compiled of people serving in leadership positions and on faculty committees, both appointed and voluntary, across the Health Sciences to determine if there are patterns of diversity or if there are gaps that should be filled. This information will be integrated with the salary and climate information when we present it. The list is nearing completion and we hope it will be final in the near future. It will serve as a baseline against which to measure progress.

A new Dean, Patricia Chase, has been appointed to the School of Pharmacy. She joins Jane Martin, Dean of the School of Nursing, to become the second female Dean of the four HSC Deans,

d. Retention of diverse faculty

See c. above. The Dean of the Medical School, who assumed that position in July 2004, has made a clear commitment to retaining diverse faculty. He informed the COEWH leadership that he had met with the Social Justice Officer for WVU to begin a dialogue to introduce aggressive strategies to create and promote increasing diversity.

e. Promotion of diverse faculty

See c. and d. above. This is part of the WISH committee's agenda. The committee is compiling a list of female and minority faculty and gathering CV's and tracking accomplishments with the goal of recommending people for honors, special courses (such as the AAMC's ELAM course, or university-sponsored leadership opportunities.) Working with CoEWH, WISH plans to make a concerted effort to see that promising diverse faculty is brought to the forefront of opportunities as they arise.

Noteworthy accomplishments in the promotion of faculty are (1) the selection of Aina Puce, PhD to the 2006-07 Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program, (2) the announcement that Hilda Heady, Associate Vice President for Rural Health, received the 2006 President's Award from the National Rural Health Association, (3) the selection of Anne Cronin, Associate Professor of Occupational Medicine, for a Fulbright Senior Specialists Project.

Additionally, an annual award entitled "Women in Science and Health Excellence Award" has been established. This award will recognize a woman whose career achievements demonstrate excellence in research, education, mentorship, or leadership. This award includes \$2,500 honorarium and is sponsored by the Women in Science and Health Committee and our COEWH. Funding is provided by the WISH Committee and the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center.

Lastly, WVU will serve as a site for the traveling exhibit entitled "Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians." With this event will be the presentation to a female WVU School of Medicine graduate of an award entitled: WVU HSC: Living Legends Changing the Face of Medicine."

f. Salary equity for diverse faculty

A salary equity study was completed on the School of Medicine 2003-2004 Academic Year data. This database included all MD and doctoral faculty and excluded those with major administrative roles, all <.53 FTE (benefits eligible) and all with degrees at the Master's level. This data set was chosen to allow comparisons to the most recently available AAMC data. Data obtained on each faculty member included: gender, department, degree, rank, years at current rank, salary (base and base + incentives) and clinical productivity (wRVU's). Comparisons were then made in reference to gender; base vs AAMC 25th and 50th percentile salaries; salary versus years at current rank; and salary versus clinical productivity. Using standard deviations as the means of statistical analysis there were no significant differences, patterns or trends among men and women. However, outliers were identified among both men and women that will likely require additional information or salary adjustments. More importantly, this initial analysis will serve as the baseline benchmark for comparisons to be made over time.

School of Medicine salary information for the 7/04 – 6/05 academic years has been gathered. AAMC for the corresponding academic year has also become available. An initial meeting was held to set goals and timelines for this next annual salary equity study. Results from academic year 03/04 will be compared to 04/05. Plans to study all HSC schools continue. Initial discussions to conduct a salary equity study in the School of Nursing were halted do to the announced retirement of the Dean to become affective 6/07. Plans are now in place to conduct a salary equity study in the School of Pharmacy, which has a new Dean as of July 1.

g. Development and implementation of a “Mentoring Plan for Diverse Faculty and students in Women’s Health”

Once we complete the information-gathering process described earlier in the report, additional work will occur in this area of focus. Pieces of the mentoring plan are already in place, as the Virtual Leadership committee is currently meeting to plan this on-line opportunity, and the Skills Bank program is being expanded to include more opportunities and match more mentor-mentee pairs.

h. Technology in delivery of leadership activities

The Teaching Scholars Program, of which 54% of the faculties served are women, is offered on-line. Although the scholars meet, most of the information, background reading, exercises and group discussion for this program now takes place on-line. In 2006, this program will be further developed into a Virtual Leadership Institute.

i. Institutional commitment

The Vice President for Health Sciences and all the Deans have demonstrated significant support and enthusiasm for the COEWH. Leaders from across the Health Sciences, from WVU Hospitals, and from across the WVU campus attended our recent site visit and continue to be responsive and available to us as we make requests for information or assistance. The Institution is proud of the COEWH designation and has offered considerable in-kind support for many of our efforts.

j. Integration

The Leadership committee will continue to work with Outreach as programs are developed in response to community leadership needs. In addition, the Leadership programs that are geared to promising students will build connections with the Research group to provide opportunities for students to participate in and learn from research projects. Leadership offerings, such as the Faculty Development Leadership series and the Teaching Scholars Leadership module, offered for one month each year, reach across all disciplines.

**Evaluation**

The evaluation material developed in 2005 and updated in 2006 is continuously monitored and used as guidance

**CoEWH Leadership Committee members are as follows:**

- Ann Chester, PhD, Assistant HSC VP for Social Justice

West Virginia University Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center  
National Center of Excellence in Women's Health  
December 31, 2006

- Anne Cronin, OT, PhD, Associate Professor
- Linda Vona-Davis, PhD, WISH Committee Chairman
- Barbara Ducatman, MD, Chair Department of Pathology
- Hilda Heady, Associate HSC VP for Rural Health
- Rashida Khakoo, MD, Assistant HSC VP for Faculty Development
- Maria Kolar, MD, Associate Dean for VA Affairs
- Susan McCrone, RN, PhD, School of Nursing
- Shelia Price, DDS, Associate Dean School of Dentistry
- Aina Puce, PhD, Professor of Radiology
- Judith Sedgeman, Director Center on Innate Health

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- Susan McCrone, RN, PhD, School of Nursing
- Shelia Price, DDS, Associate Dean School of Dentistry
- Aina Puce, PhD, Professor of Radiology
- Judith Sedgeman, Director Center on Innate Health

**Evaluation Committee**

West Virginia University Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health is using a series of evaluation matrices to document Center activities and accomplishments. Initial evaluation efforts began with the creation and later revision of the logic model. Using the logic model as a guide, the evaluation group met with each component to develop a component-specific evaluation matrix. Over the previous year, the evaluation matrix for each component has been refined and updated to reflect objectives, activities to achieve the objectives, and the status of each activity. Activities are categorized as follows:

- Complete: The activity is has been successfully completed. Proof of why the activity is complete is included in the discussion.
- Cancelled: COEWH decided not to do the activity. The discussion explains why the activity was cancelled.
- Planned: COEWH had said we would do this activity, but hasn’t yet. COEWH still plans to conduct the activity at some specific time in the future. The discussion explains why and specifies when.
- Deferred: COEWH has postponed this activity to an unspecified time in the future. The discussion explains why.
- In Progress: The activity has been started, but is not yet complete. The discussion explains when the activity is expected to be complete.
- Ongoing: The activity is something that COEWH does on a regular basis, e.g. hold meetings.

In addition to the status of activities, each component’s matrix incorporates the performance requirements specified by the Office of Women’s Health contract. The evaluation committee has continued to work with each component of the CoEWH to ensure that evaluation strategies include a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods, and capture both process and outcome measures. Our logic model in conjunction with the performance requirements of the contract with the OWH drove work plan activities, and continues to shape evaluation efforts.

**Information Technology – Web committee**

West Virginia University Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center  
National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health  
December 31, 2006

The Information Technology committee supports the activities of the CoEWH and is woven through all the components. Through the use of our web site we help to create awareness of Health Issues among the public in general and women in particular. We provide links to wellness promotion and disease prevention information and resources. These links are continually updated. Web Tools such as SOLE portal (a secure on-line learning environment at WVU for students, faculty and guests), is used for dissemination of health-related information. Our Web Site address [www.wvhealthywomen.org](http://www.wvhealthywomen.org) portrays our vision and mission. We have re-designed the Web Site and the homepage displays a new banner with a portrait of 3 generations of women, again emphasizing our mission of serving women from all spectrums of life. The site is in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to provide reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities, which is required of Universities receiving federal contracts. As always, IT strives to integrate the activities of the major components of this Center: Community Outreach, Leadership, Professional Education, Clinical Care and Research.

Accessibility: We are reaching more people, becoming more visible. Our COEWH Web Site is displayed among the top 10 using National Search Engines like Google and Yahoo and employing keywords as 'women's health' and 'West Virginia University'. One can access the site using our local search engines for West Virginia University ([www.wvu.edu](http://www.wvu.edu)) and WVU Health Sciences Center ([www.hsc.wvu.edu](http://www.hsc.wvu.edu)). Also, WVU School of Medicine as well as Ruby Hospital sites have provided a link to our site. We are cross-linked with West Virginia Women's Commission, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services (WVDHHS) and other state agencies involved in the delivery of healthcare. Our site is also accessible from the national COE list. The Center's Multi-Disciplinary Clinic physicians are accessible by names as well as by specialty (Women's Health) from the Ruby Hospital Healthcare Web Site. (<http://www.health.wvu.edu/>)

The traffic logs that we have set up, indicate that the number of visitors have been increasing steadily. For this quarter ended there were 56901 hits. There are also 73 International visitors. Countries showing representation are: Australia, Austria, Canada, China, European Union, Germany, Hong Kong, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Netherland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom. This traffic increased this quarter.

Patient Information: Patients have access to Multidisciplinary Clinic and Stroke Clinic and a flow chart of Multidisciplinary Clinics has also been posted. Directions to the clinic, hours of operation, contact information and physician profiles have been provided. Physician Profiles have direct link to Ruby hospital Web Site. Other patient resources include links to the Cancer Center Site, a Local Health Department Map searchable by County, Rural Health Program Locations, and Clinical Trial Information.

Community Outreach events have a great presence on our web especially with wellness material. The Event Calendar lists important national, state and local events.

The state of WV has had a long-term commitment to the people of the state in terms of education and health care. To this end the state, the institutions of higher learning and private agency have teamed together to offer health care students learning experiences in rural areas (Rural Health Education Partnerships – RHEP). Today all health professions students are required to experience a 3-month rural clinic rotation in a community clinic/agency as a facet of their education. In addition to course learning requirements, students are expected to complete a service-learning project aimed at serving the people and agency in which their rural rotation is assigned. Because students must continue with University/College coursework while in their rural site, a sophisticated information technology network has been established in WV. The assorted health care professions utilize a variety of web casting modalities to educate both students and the public. For example, the School of Medicine delivers education not only to medical students but provides education and consultation to health professionals across the state via Mountaineer Doctor Television (MDTV). MDTV currently delivers services to 19 distant sites and two service providers in WV, MD, and OH. Because community education is a growing emphasis, live web casting and MDTV are utilized to educate EMS providers, facilitate patient support groups such as diabetes support groups, and provide professional continuing education opportunities in the communities. A wide variety of continuing education programs in topics of interest in women's health and intended for web broadcasting are now available or under development.

The IT group will enhance the Professional Education by supporting its use of Distant Education Technology. The program functions as a platform to utilize this technology to allied health students doing rural rotation. We will be posting links to all faculty development seminars on our web in the next quarter.

The IT will provide solutions to Research Infrastructure in terms of identification, organization and funding. Research page of our site has links to Women's Health Research Newsletter, National Research Coordinating Center, National Funding Opportunities, WVU Health Research Initiatives and Funding opportunities.

The IT group will continue to provide the necessary support to Evaluation group in terms of Data Collection and Analysis.

Our Web Site is a continually evolving dynamic platform with information updates. It reflects the current and future changes occurring in the five components of COEWH and acts in a supportive role. The Web Site is going to be user-friendly, accessible to ALL populations and will be a source of Health-Related Information.

**Attachments and/or web links:**

**1. Changing the Face of Medicine Brochure**

<http://www.wvhealthywomen.org/newsItems/Chging%20Faces%20Brouchure.pdf>E-Nes Online

**2. LCME**

WVU School of Medicine

January 2007 issue: <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/som/enews/archives/07/jan/>

December 2007 issue: <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/som/eNews/archives/06/Dec/index.asp>

November 2007 issue: <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/som/eNews/archives/06/Nov/index.asp>

**3. RHEP**

<http://www.nrharural.org/about/sub/news/PresAward.html>

<http://www.wvrhep.org/>

<http://ruralnet.marshall.edu/>

**4. A Blueprint to improve West Virginia Perinatal Wellness**

[http://wvhealthykids.org/p\\_wellness/pw\\_home.htm](http://wvhealthykids.org/p_wellness/pw_home.htm)

**5. Doc's on Call Schedule**

**6. Women on Wellness Lecture Series**