

JSPH Hosts *Healthy People 2020* Meeting

November 7, 2009

Since 1979, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, has developed national preventive health goals and objectives for each decade. Known as *Healthy People*, these goals and objectives have been used as guides for health programs and policies as well as serving as benchmarks to assess overall health, risk factors, preventive health services, and public and private health systems to support the overall health of our nation.

Healthy People 2020 (HP 2020) is being developed. The framework for HP 2020 uses an ecological model including individual behavior, social, family, and community networks, living and working conditions, and broad social, economic, cultural, health and environmental conditions. It also incorporates determinants of health, program and policy interventions, outcomes, and assessment, monitoring, evaluation, and dissemination of preventive health and health promotion initiatives. The four overarching goals for Healthy People 2020 are:

- Elimination of preventable disease, disability, injury, and premature death

- Achievement of health equity, elimination of disparities, and improvement in the health of all groups
- Creation of social and physical environments that promote good health for all
- Promotion of healthy development and healthy behaviors across every stage of life

On November 7, 2009, the second of three national HP 2020 meetings was held on the Jefferson campus. Approximately 250 health professionals attended the meeting, which was hosted by Dalton Paxman, Regional Health Administrator for HHS Region III. JSPH Dean David B. Nash, MD, MBA welcomed attendees to Jefferson and linked the graduate education, research, and professional development work of the School to the nation's prevention agenda.

Highlights of the meeting included a presentation by Karyl T. Rattay, Director of Delaware's Division of Public Health, who discussed state initiatives from the past decade. The program also included a panel moderated by Michelle Davis, Deputy Regional Health Administrator for Region III. Panelists included: Shiriki Kumanyika, Vice Chair of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on

HP 2020; Rear Admiral Penelope Slade-Sawyer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health; Carter Blakey, Senior Advisor for the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, HHS; and Richard Klein, Chief, Health Promotion Statistics Branch, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A broadcast message was provided by HHS Assistant Secretary Dr. Howard Koh.

The meeting was enriched by the oral public comment segment from over 50 members of the audience. The comments addressed a diverse range of health issues presented by service providers, advocates, administrators, and researchers.

JSPH was pleased to host this important national health meeting and encourages students and health care professionals to read the HP 2020 objectives and submit public comments by visiting: <http://healthypeople.gov/hp2020/Comments/default.asp>. ■