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Promoting the Translational Relationship between Public Health Practice and Research

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Editorial

Promoting the Translational Relationship between Public Health Practice and Research

Public health has always been about a translational relationship between research and practice. Imbedded in public health practice core functions of assessment, policy development and assurance is a relationship with systemic, evidence-based research. The assurance process, in particular, embraces the full continuum of innovative research to provide for insight and solutions for public health challenges (Turnock, 2009).

The inaugural 2006 Michigan Journal of Public Health (MJPH) and Editorial Board of Directors were recognized by the American Public Health Association (APHA) President and APHA Committee on Affiliates Award for its commitment to peer review and publication of the continuum of public health practice, research and policy. This issue provides examples of that ongoing commitment with local, statewide and national/international public health content focusing on the Great Lakes Region, inclusive of the Canadian international border.

- A Michigan study of prevalent norovirus strains proposes current public health recommendations for home isolation following clinical recovery may need to be
lengthened (Abdumailova, Dixon, Mosher, Somsel, Muyombew, Clark, et al., 2011).

- Results from a contact investigation of active infectious tuberculosis across the United State-Canadian border suggest multiple barriers to assessing the degree of transmission risk to bus contacts (Pillai, Saunders, Bateman, Heimann, Edelson, Kim, 2011)

The *Journal* continues to look towards the future. Discussion of public health initiatives relevant to The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 were described in an article about the H1N1 Pandemic and use of Michigan Care Immunization Registry information technology (Gleason-Comstock, Davis, Dixon, Heimann, 2009) and continue to be explored in this edition’s article on the potential for increasing access to health care through mid-level dental providers (Shaefer, Tetrick, Phillips, 2011).

The translational relationship between public health practice and research is a two-way street. Two icons of public health publication continue to provide guidance for the *MJPH*. *Public Health Reports*, a journal published by the U.S. Public Health Services in collaboration with the Association of Schools of Public Health, continues to address bridging the practice-research gap, suggesting the translation of research to practice has numerous barriers, but noting the importance of developing mechanisms for communication between research and practice (Scutfield, Lamberth, 2010). The APHA *American Journal of Public Health* recently emphasized the importance of a paradigm shift in health disparities research to translational, transformational and transdisciplinary
increasingly focused on community engagement (Dankwa-Mullan, Rhee, Stoff, Pholhaus, Sy, Stinson, et al., 2010.) *MIPH* will continue to work on the strengthening of translational relationships between public health practice and research through its Editorial Review Board membership, publishing of public health conference proceedings and a commitment to expansion of the Research and Practice section with the goal of being indexed in the National Library of Medicine’s PubMed database.

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