




Dean's Message: Interim Dean Richardean Benjamin

From the Editor


As time flies, my blessings build



By Irvin B. Harrell

The National Academy of Sciences has chosen Steven M. Becker, a professor at Old Dominion University to serve on its Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board. Becker is an internationally known authority on disaster preparedness and response, radiation emergencies, and risk communication.

The Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board is part of the Division of Life and Earth Studies of the National





PT/PTA Collaborative meeting sows seed of success

On Oct. 6, 41 second-year Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students from Old Dominion University and 30 second-year Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) students from Tidewater Community College (TCC) gathered at ODU for the first-ever student PT/PTA Collaborative meeting in the Tidewater District. Students spent the first half of the afternoon learning about curricular similarities and differences, discussing Virginia law, and reviewing guidelines for supervision and delegation across different settings.

After a short break, which included some dancing, students worked in small groups of three- to four-on-case scenarios involving PT and PTA teamwork in home health, outpatient, acute care, school systems, and skilled nursing. Moderators Mira Mariano, PT, PhD, OCS (ODU) and Melanie Basinger, PT, DPT, MS (TCC) facilitated discussion following the small group breakout sessions. The afternoon ended with students having the opportunity to ask questions from a panel of expert clinicians representing each of the above practice settings.

Overall, the response to the event was positive with feedback such as “I didn’t realize how similar our curriculums are;” “I learned how we can work together as a team;” “It was great hearing about PTs and PTAs work together from the panel.”

Both programs plan to continue with this event next year with the goal of increasing student awareness and improving teamwork allowing future PTs and PTAs to be more effective throughout their career. Better teams will improve the profession’s ability to meet its vision: “transforming society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience”.

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By Irvin B. Harrell



The impact of transportation on public health has continued to be an important issue in the nation and Hampton Roads area. After meeting with key stakeholders in transportation in 2016, the Old Dominion University Center for Global Health (CGH) prioritized addressing public health issues associated with transportation in the Hampton Roads region.

In 2016, the center launched the Public Health and Transportation Working Group along with a Public Health and Transportation Data Archive website. The working group brought transportation and health experts together from across Hampton Roads to discuss key issues developed during a previous two-day webinar hosted by the National Academy of Sciences.

On Sept. 11 of this year, the center hosted a Public Health and Transportation Workshop for the group at the School of Community and Environmental Health. The workshop was comprised of 17 participants who represented organizations such as the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, the Virginia Department of Transportation, Hampton Roads Transportation, Inc., Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center, and Stafford University.

The goal of the workshop was to review the results of the needs-assessment survey distributed from May-August 2017 via Qualtrics, and to use the survey data to determine the future trajectory of the group. Dr. Muge Akpınar-Elci, director of the Center for Global Health, welcomed participants and presented the agenda for the workshop. After introductory remarks, My Ngoc Nguyen, the center's program manager who was responsible for the design, administration, and analysis of the survey, reported the results. All members of the workshop participated in an informative Q&A and also provided their input on an upcoming transportation grant opportunity. A general discussion on the next steps to be taken by the group then yielded the following recommendations:

- Creation of a consortium with guest speakers, panel discussions, and community engagement to discuss current health and transportation topics/issues in Hampton Roads

- Compare data on bike path usage with health data (health per bike mile) and analyze the economic beo



Upcoming Events

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