

University Graduate Students Awarded Schweitzer Fellowships

Two graduate students at Rush University's College of Nursing, **Jacqueline Diaz** and **Kenya Hemingway**, have been selected as 2005-2006 Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows. Honoring the legacy of Dr. **Albert Schweitzer** by committing



Jacqueline Diaz



Kenya Hemingway

a year of service with a community-based organization, each Schweitzer Fellow will devote at least 200 hours of service to local communities that lack access to adequate health services.

Diaz will work with the Chicago Department of Public Health's Living Well With Diabetes Program. She will help to monitor diabetes, promote diet and exercise in the management of diabetes and address medication compliance at the

Lower West Neighborhood Health Center. "My goal is to teach the skills necessary for the self-management of diabetes in order to minimize the human and economic costs of its long-term complications," said Diaz.

Hemingway will partner with school-based health centers to conduct health education workshops on such topics as alcohol/drug abuse, nutrition, sexual activity, and the prevention of violence. The project will be aimed at predominantly African-American high school students, and will provide an opportunity for teenagers to learn healthy lifestyle behaviors that will benefit them throughout their lifetime. "Through early intervention and the implementation of appropriate teaching strategies, students will be motivated to improve their health and reduce high-risk behaviors, which is the major cause of morbidity and mortality amongst adolescents," said Hemingway.

Established in 1996, the Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows Program annually selects a new class of Fellows to partner with local community-based organizations that help the underserved. In addition to their direct service, Fellows meet monthly to share ideas and experiences, and to visit the various sites where other Fellows are conducting their projects.

Once the Fellows have completed their year of service, they join an international network of over 1,200 Schweitzer "Fellows for Life." Virtually all Fellows continue to support and inspire each other through a continuing commitment to a life of service. ♦

As Seen On TV *(continued)*

may occur entirely or in part as a result of a diagnostic procedure. If an autopsy is needed to establish the cause of death the family's permission is not needed.

Tell me that they would risk losing their medical licenses, or better yet jail, in order to alleviate their guilt over possibly killing this patient. I just don't buy it.

Tell me that the autopsy was the first place that an enlarged heart was noted in a patient who gets admitted for respiratory distress. I just can't believe that a chest X-ray would not have found this long before his postmortem.

During the autopsy, health and safety procedures should be carefully observed and followed. Come, come ladies, no masks? Tsk, tsk!

Of course as surgical interns they would not be qualified to perform and present the outcomes of an autopsy. It takes several days to several weeks before the processed microscopic slides are examined by the attending pathologist. Only the pathologist can formally issue the report. Miraculously, our interns had results immediately, and shared their findings with the grieving family.

Sorry, guys, but the inaccuracies win on this one.

OUR ACCURACY DIAGNOSIS IS...

Serious – IV infusion of reality needed. ♦

Going Up?

Scenario: An executive recruiter has a position she has been trying to fill for the last month. While waiting for an elevator she overhears you talking about your career ambitions. Listening to you describe your goals, the recruiter knows that you are the perfect nurse for the job she is trying to fill. The recruiter cannot believe her good luck. She has 30 seconds to entice you to interview for the position. Are you "Going Up?"

"Hello there, my name is **Kathy Brockmann**. I'm a corporate executive recruiter for Care Centers. I overheard you just now say that you want autonomy in your clinical role. I also heard you say that educational growth and professional advancement are essential for you?"

"I also heard you say that you believe nurses should be recognized and respected for their contributions to healthcare?"

"I want you as part of our team. We have 30 nursing facilities in the Chicagoland area and in Northwest Indiana. Our exceptional philosophy of care has made us one of the most respected leaders in healthcare. You're one interview away from a career path filled with opportunities.

"Here's my business card. I would love to talk with you. My phone number is 847-417-0963. Call me later today."



Kathy Brockmann

Off Hours Calendar of Events

Taste of Chicago
June 24 - July 4
Grant Park
Jackson Blvd. & Columbus Dr., Chicago
Admission: free
(312) 744-3370
www.cityofchicago.org/specialevents

23rd Annual Strawberry Festival
June 24 - June 26
Long Grove Business District
Old McHenry and Robert Parker Coffin Roads, Long Grove
Admission: free
(847) 634-0888
www.longgroveonline.com/strawberry.html

Jammin' at the Zoo
June 24 - Big Head Todd and the Monsters
July 22 - Blues Traveler
Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago
Admission: \$20 adults; \$10 ages 4 - 12; 3 and under free
(773) 742-2000
www.lpzoo.org/ www.lpzoo.org

Chicago Country Music Festival
June 25 and 26
Grant Park
Jackson Blvd. & Columbus Dr., Chicago
Admission: free
(312) 744-3370
www.cityofchicago.org/specialevents

I-CARE 5K Run/Walk for Autism
June 25
Governors State University, University Park
Admission: \$17 mail-in; \$20 race day; \$5 kids'
(708) 798-0923
www.irunwalkforautism.org

Race to Taste 5K Run/2-Mile Walk
June 26
Grant Park
Admission: \$20 early; \$25 race day
(312) 744-3315
www.cityofchicago.org/specialevents

Chicago Antique Market
June 26 and July 31
Randolph St. (between Ada and Ogden), Chicago
Admission: \$8; children under 12 free
(312) 951-9939
www.chicagoantiquemarket.com

Eyes to the Skies Balloon Festival
June 30 - July 4
Lisle Community Park
Ill. Hwy. 53 and Short Street, Lisle
Admission: \$9; \$2 kids ages 5-12
(630) 575-9798
www.eyestotheskiesfestival.com

African-Caribbean International Festival of Life
July 1 - July 4
Washington Park
5100 S. Cottage Grove Ave.
Admission: \$10; \$5 for kids 7-11; \$25 season pass
(312) 427-0266
www.festivaloflife.com

Naperville Ribfest
July 1 - July 4
700 S. West St., Naperville
Admission: \$7; free for kids ages 11 and under
(630) 548-5215
www.ribfest.net

Chicago Folk & Roots Festival
July 9 and 10
Welles Park
4400 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
Admission: \$5 donation requested; \$1 for seniors and kids
www.oldtownschool.org

Outdoor Film Festival
July 12 - Citizen Kane
July 19 - Annie Hall
July 26 - My Darling Clementine
Grant Park Butler Field
Lake Shore Drive at Monroe St., Chicago
Admission: free
(312) 744-3315
www.cityofchicago.org/specialevents

Toulouse-Lautrec and Montmartre
July 16 - October 10
Art Institute of Chicago
111 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago
Admission: \$15 Monday - Thursday; \$18 Friday - Sunday
(312) 443-3600
www.artic.edu/aic/exhibitions/toulouse.html

Evanston Ethnic Arts Festival
July 16 and 17
Dawes Park
1700 Sheridan Rd., Evanston
Admission: free
(847) 448-8058
www.cityofevanston.org/departments/parks/ethnic.shtml

26th Annual Chinatown Summer Fair
July 17
Wentworth from Cermak to 24th Street, Chicago
Admission: free
(312) 225-0303

Kane County Fair
July 20 - July 24
Kane County Fairgrounds
800 S. Randall Rd., St. Charles
Admission: \$6 daily; kids under 5 free
(630) 584-6926
www.kanecountyfair.com/fair.cfm

Take me to the River

By Zachary Brennan

Chicago nurses, if you're looking for an offbeat adventure, we've got one for you! Wateriders Chicago Kayak Tours provides customers with a leisurely paddle down the infamous Chicago River. For about three hours over a distance of approximately five miles, you can kayak through downtown Chicago on either an architectural or historical tour, or take a more enlightening "Ghosts and Gangsters of Hustlertown" tour.

Charlie Portis, the owner and founder of Wateriders Chicago Kayak Tours said, "Most of our tours are non-strenuous, easy-going tours with lots of stops. Our tours are enjoyable for anyone from eight to eighty."

Each tour teaches a wide range of facts about Chicago history, including how the Sears Tower remains erect, and the connection between Al Capone and O'Hare Airport. Tours also focus on how important the river was to the development of Chicago. The city's economic boom really began after 1848 when the river canal was built and the railroad came to town.

But the tours are more about the scenery, than the educational aspects of the tour. Portis said, "We group the kayaks together at certain points along the river and we do highlight the interesting facts, but our guides don't interrupt the scenery while we're paddling, which makes it more of an adventure in the city than a tour."

What really separates Wateriders Chicago Kayak Tours from most other kayak or rafting tours is how the tours have a humorous and almost theatrical performance to each adventure. "For instance, we begin and end every tour with a quote from **Nelson Algren**, the famous Chicago poet and writer," Portis said.

From 10 am to 2:30 pm on weekends, weather permitting, groups of eight to twelve people can participate in the tours using either single or double kayaks. The tours begin on Memorial Day weekend and run through October. Both tours take the same routes down the river. It is recommended that paddlers be over the age of 15 for the "Ghosts and Gangsters" tour, due to discussions of some of the more edgy aspects of Chicago – gambling and prohibition.

Private groups of between six and twenty people can book a paddle tour by appointment, all seven days of the week, and the tour provides one guide for every nine participants.

Prices are \$55 per person, \$50 per person for groups of four or more, and discounted rates for corporate outings of 30 people or more.

"It's a good workout, but it's not strenuous. We let everyone get comfortable with the paddling before we begin. Anyone under the age of eight can ride in a double kayak, and not have to paddle," said Portis.



Trips depart from 900 N. Kingsbury Avenue, just north of Chicago Avenue in the Domain building of the renovated Montgomery Ward complex. Street and garage parking are available. For more information call (312) 953-9287 or visit: www.wateriders.com. ♦

Continuing Education

1.5 hours of CE Credit

Subjects:

- NATIONAL INFECTION RATE REPORTING STANDARD IS COMING FOR HOSPITALS
- HICPAC'S KEY POINTS ON CASE FINDING, RISK ADJUSTMENT
- TARGET ZERO: HOSPITAL PROVES IT'S POSSIBLE
- VIRUS BIAS? TRANSFUSION INFECTIONS UNDER THE RADAR
- CASE REPORTS: TWO FATAL INFECTIONS AFTER TRANSFUSION
- AABB RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DETECTING PLATELET INFECTIONS
- JOURNAL REVIEWS

Objectives:

- TO IDENTIFY THE PARTICULAR CLINICAL, LEGAL, OR EDUCATIONAL ISSUES RELATED TO EPIDEMIOLOGY
- DESCRIBE HOW THE ISSUES AFFECT NURSES, HOSPITALS, OR THE HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY IN GENERAL
- CITE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE ISSUES, BASED ON GUIDELINES FROM THE FEDERAL CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OR OTHER AUTHORITIES AND/OR BASED ON INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLINICIANS AT INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTIONS DELIVERY OR MANAGEMENT OF A FACILITY

released a template for such laws, which recommends reporting three process measures and two outcome measures. The HICPAC process measures selected for rate disclosure laws are central line insertion practices in intensive care units; appropriate timing of surgical antimicrobial prophylaxis; and influenza vaccination coverage rates for health care personnel and patients. The outcomes indicators are surgical-site infection (SSI) rates and central line-associated laboratory-confirmed bloodstream infections.

While the HICPAC document was released with no recommendation in favor or against state disclosure laws, the issue has taken on an air of inevitability as state after state takes up discussions. Infection rate disclosure continues to gather momentum despite criticism from ICPs and others who question the value of such laws.

National Infection Rate Reporting Standard is Coming for Hospitals

NQF action would codify CDC guidelines, standardize laws

A leading health care quality group is moving to set national standards for infection rate disclosure laws that essentially would codify recently released guidance by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Hospital Infection Control has learned.

The National Quality Forum (NQF) in Washington, DC, is seeking funding to establish a national standard for hospital infection rate reporting, an issue that is sweeping the country in the form of individual and often varying state laws. Many infection control professionals – who will be largely responsible for gathering and reporting the rates – want to head off the nightmarish scenario of different reporting laws in every state, preferring instead a national standard based on the template created by the CDC's Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC).¹

"I think the great fear among the folks who are going to have to deal with this is – if there are 50 different ways of doing it – it is just going to be total chaos," **Kenneth W. Kizer**, MD, MPH, president and chief executive officer of the NQF, tells HIC.

Four states (Pennsylvania, Illinois, Florida, and Missouri) have passed infection-rate disclosure laws, and some 30 other states are discussing legislation. As a result, HICPAC recently

"There is a strong feeling that consumers, purchasers, and others want this information," Kizer says. Even though critics point out there is no evidence such laws will actually improve patient safety, he says he is convinced infection rate disclosure will drive quality improvement.

"There is no question. Have there been randomized controlled, double-blind studies that have shown it? No, nor will there ever be. But when you start reporting stuff about hospitals, it's amazing how much attention suddenly gets focused on these things," Kizer explains. "Who wants to have their hospital known as the one where you go to get infected? Having this information out there basically increases the competition to drive the rates as low as possible, which has a beneficial effect of improving the quality and making it better for patients."

The NQF, a private, non-profit organization, is seeking funding to go forward with the national standard. "Before we start on something like this, we would have to make sure we could finish it," he adds. "That funding basically goes to pay for the meetings where the different groups and experts would come together and to pay for mailing, reviewing and other expenses of putting one of these standards into effect."

A funding proposal is under creation, but an obvious source, the CDC, is considered a doubtful benefactor for the NQF. "We have talked to the CDC, but we are all cognizant of what its budget looks like for next year, and it's not very pretty," Kizer notes.

The NQF strives to improve health care through endorsement of consensus-based national standards for measurement and public reporting of health care performance data. The organization can endorse something such as the HICPAC guidance as a "voluntary consensus standard," a kind of precursor to actual regulation.

"What comes out of our process actually does have a legal status," he says. "That legal status relates to the federal entities, so that if Medicare were to require reporting of [health care infections], it is obligated to use a consensus standard or justify that something government-specific is better. The latter is not likely to happen. If the standard is

good enough for the industry, then it is probably good enough for Medicare."

How would an NQF national standard affect current state laws and ongoing state discussions? "If the states know we are working on a national template, some of them might say, "Let's wait a few months and see what comes out of that process," Kizer continues. "The states could also take the position that they will put something in place for now; but when there is, in fact, a national consensus standard, they will move to that. My sense is that most states [that have adopted laws] would want to come into compliance with a national standard."

To continue this article and receive 1.5 hours of CE credit, go to www.nurseslounge.com and click on the CE link. The cost for registration & the test is \$15.00.

Below are the CE/CME questions associated with this article:

According to Kenneth W. Kizer, MD, MPH, president of the National Quality Forum, disclosure of infection rates will improve quality of care by increasing the competition to drive the rates as low as possible.

- A. true
- B. false

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) pointed out there currently is no widely agreed upon, scientifically validated method for doing which of the following to health care-associated infection data?

- A. computer entry
- B. gleaning out pseudo outbreaks
- C. risk adjustment
- D. establishing benchmark ranges

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