



University of Connecticut Health Center

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Connecticut Health

The next generation of health care development

PROGRAM OF THE MONTH:

Connecticut Poison Control Center

MARC BAYER, M.D., MARY MCCORMICK, PHARM.D., & CHARLES MCKAY, M.D.

Staffed 24-hours-a-day by experts in toxicology and poison information, the Connecticut Poison Control Center is a free public service of the University of Connecticut Health Center. The new hotline number for poison control centers nationwide is 1-800-222-1222. By dialing that number, callers will be connected with the nearest poison control center. Specially trained poison information specialists staff all centers and a board-certified toxicologist is always on-call.

In addition to responding to thousands of calls from the general public, the center's staff also provides information to medical professionals on

poison exposures, treatment, outcome data, and follow-up. With access to the most current information for the evaluation and treatment of poisonings, the center also serves as a clinical training facility to nurses, emergency department residents, and pharmacy students. Most recently a community

The New National Hotline
800-222-1222

educator has been added to the staff to help the public learn more about poisons and poison hazards and to build relationships with community



organizations and businesses. The community educator will work to promote the poison center and the new national hotline at various presentations and health fairs in the community and provide informational brochures on poison prevention, emergency action and plant information, and emergency number stickers.

For more information about poison prevention, call the education line at 679-3531.

Written by Amy Hanoian, M.A.
Community Education Specialist

Connecticut Health projects take place in virtually all 169 Connecticut towns and meet a wide range of community and public health needs.

Questions or comments? Interested in listing your project?

Contact Ms. Corey A. Conlon at caconlon@adp.uhc.edu or (860) 679-3236.

Faculty Gain Representative Voice

Under the auspices of the Connecticut Health Signature Program, the Legislative Liaison Committee builds relationships between faculty and the Connecticut General Assembly. Formed to address the lack of a faculty role, the Legislative Liaison Committee (LLC) aims to involve faculty in developing well crafted health legislation.

The Committee has already successfully engaged with legislators in providing assistance in the development of a number of bills that surfaced during the 2002 Session of the General Assembly.

The Legislative Liaison Committee's is currently planning its efforts to help shape the quality of health and health policy legisla-

tion that is likely to re-emerge in the next session of the Assembly. The process of proactively identifying issues significant to UCHC faculty and staff will be addressed as a part of the Connecticut Health Seminar Series half-day conference on July 1st, 2002. To receive an invitation to this event, please contact Corey Conlon at (860) 679-3236.

Connecticut Health General Information

Connecticut Health facilitates and promotes public health and public sector service to the State of Connecticut. The *Connecticut Health* Project Database serves as a central source of information regarding UCHC's community and public health programs. Working with governmental and community-based organizations, it seeks out opportunities for UCHC faculty and staff to collaborate on new initiatives, and it consults on the development of new projects that are initiated from within the Health Center.

Connecticut Health represents for the University of Connecticut Health Center a new and permanent emphasis on community and public health. It embodies the contribution of the Health Center to the health of the citizens of the entire state. From *Connecticut Health* will come an expanded range of programs that augment the Health Center's traditional mission in education, research, and high quality medicine and fulfill its obligation as a publicly funded institution.

Highlights – Did you know . . . ?

- Connecticut Health has currently identified 220 projects that provide community and public health services.
- UCHC offers free support groups for nearly two dozen different conditions. Check it out at www.connecticuthealth.org by searching under Keyword "support groups"
- The network of UCHC services extends far beyond the Farmington Valley. Search various towns and counties for UCHC activity at www.connecticuthealth.org.
- More than 80% of breast cancer cases occur in women over age 50. Browse more information on cancer and other aging concerns at www.connecticuthealth.org.

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The greatest results in life are usually attained by simple means and the exercise of ordinary qualities. These may for the most part be summed up in these two - common sense and perseverance.

Owen Feltham

What is *Connecticut Health* anyway?

The University of Connecticut Health Center is placing increasing emphasis on its community-based and public health programs. In 2000, the health center developed four new strategic initiatives as, one of which, *Connecticut Health*, calls for a substantially increased collaboration with governmental and private non-profit agencies in addressing the community and public health needs of the state.

Connecticut Health is an umbrella under which are gathered the hundreds of UCHC projects and programs that address the health-related needs of sister state agencies, local governmental agencies, community-based organizations, and the citizens of Connecticut. *Connecticut Health* seeks to incentivize, facilitate, and promote public health and public sector service to the State of Connecticut. A program falls within *Connecticut Health* by virtue of substantive involvement of UCHC faculty, staff, residents and students in addressing community and public health needs. Programs range from providing all of the health and

mental health care for the state's prison population to running small pilot projects designed to improve the day care available to disabled children. Programs addressing the needs of underserved populations, providing direct care to the poor and uninsured, research projects that address significant health problems in underserved populations, and educational programs are of particular interest. Virtually all *Connecticut Health* projects are undertaken as a collaboration with governmental agencies or community-based partners.

Because the full extent and range of community-based programming at the



Connect to Connecticut
on our website!
www.connecticuthealth.org

health center has never before been fully appreciated, *Connecticut Health* maintains a website to serve as a central source of information regarding UCHC's community and public health programs. Contact us if you are interested in listing a project on the *Connecticut Health* website.