

# Northwest PUBLIC HEALTH

## From the Dean

### **UW School of Public Health and Community Medicine: Regional Player in Improving the Public's Health**

We are pleased to announce the inaugural issue of *Northwest Public Health*.

The transition of *Washington Public Health*—the annual journal published by the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Health—into the biannual regional publication *Northwest Public Health* is a reflection of the School's commitment to support public health in the Northwest region.

The School serves the entire region through its degree programs in all fields of public health, from biostatistics to environmental and occupational health, and through innovative training programs such as the Summer Institute for Public Health Practice, the Graduate Certificate Program in Public Health, and the Extended MPH degree program. The School also has a long history of involvement in the health sector through the Health Policy Analysis Program (HPAP), which has worked with policy makers in this region since 1974 on issues from public health improvement to Medicaid managed care. So, it is fitting that *Northwest Public Health* is now published at HPAP.




The School has made a renewed commitment to strengthen communication between public health practice and academia and to actively promote partnerships with community organizations and public agencies. The refocusing of this journal is one important component of this commitment. It also complements the work of the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice, which is working to improve coordination across the region on such issues as workforce development, bioterrorism preparation, public health leadership, and informatics.

HPAP and the Northwest Center aren't the School's only regional efforts. A number of our other centers have a regional focus, including:

- The Northwest Center for Particulate Air Pollution and Health—one of five centers around the country funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to study the effects on human health of particulate air pollution
- The Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center—focused on injury and illness prevention, health promotion, and on integration of health and safety activities in agriculture
- Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation—a consortium of universities working to advance cost-effective cleanup and greater stakeholder understanding of the nation's nuclear weapons production facility waste sites
- The Northwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety—one of 16 education and research centers funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to promote safety and health training programs in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska.

As I hope these activities and this new publication demonstrate, the University of Washington School of Public Health seeks to collaborate with all of you by making our educational opportunities, research, and expertise in the public health sciences more accessible and responsive to the public health community and our academic colleagues throughout the region.

Patricia W. Wahl, Dean  
UW School of Public Health and Community Medicine

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