

Conference aims to narrow health equity gap

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Next week, the Nevada Public Health Association will hold its annual conference in Las Vegas. The theme of this year's conference is "Social Justice: Narrowing Nevada's Health Equity Gap."

Conference plenary sessions and breakout sessions will address the straightforward yet intractable fact that health inequalities are a product of social inequalities. Sessions also will examine how efforts to reduce health inequalities in our communities and state require action on all social determinants of health.

The conference's focus reminds us that the related tasks of reducing health inequalities and improving the health of all Nevadans require us to attend to matters of fairness and social justice.

The conference provides a unique opportunity for public health professionals, researchers and students to network and exchange ideas with their peers at the only annual statewide public-health conference held in Nevada. Attendees include public-health professionals from the state's three county health departments, the state health division and health authorities and Nevada's two schools of public health.

Conference speakers include the president of the American Public Health Association, Dr. Carmen Nevarez, whose keynote presentation will examine why social justice makes public health imperative.

Other featured speakers include Dr. Ursula Bauer from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who will be speaking on communities putting prevention to work; and Herb Schultz from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, who will be discussing the public health promotion and disease prevention provisions of recently passed health reform legislation.

The conference will showcase the latest public health research and policy analysis from scholars at the University of Nevada, Reno, University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the University of Nevada School of Medicine. It will provide an opportunity for attendees to learn from Nevada public-health practitioners on efforts to advance the public's health.

For more information on NPHA and the upcoming conference, including a complete conference agenda and registration information, please visit www.nphaonline.org.

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