

Piney Woods Perspective

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Piney Woods Area Health Education Center

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Pandemic Influenza Preparedness in East Texas

Worldwide health officials say a pandemic flu outbreak could occur at any time. The World Health Organization predicts such an outbreak could spread globally within weeks, perhaps coming in waves. Following the recent Pandemic Influenza Summit held in Austin, preparations for dealing with a pandemic were stepped up in Texas.

To address this health issue, Piney Woods AHEC is participating in a state-wide Pandemic Influenza (PI) Taskforce that was formed by the East Texas AHEC. The taskforce, formed in October, has been monitoring the situation along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's and the federal government's recommendations on PI planning. The taskforce has been developing prevention and education activities to offer the AHEC's service region.

Recently, Piney Woods AHEC partnered with Angelina County & Cities Health District (ACCHD) in Lufkin and the Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness to host a series of pandemic flu education and workgroup sessions.

"The whole world is preparing, and we want to be ahead of the curve," said Sharon Shaw, director of the Angelina County & Cities Health District in Lufkin and spokeswoman for the local public health response team. "Preparation is the key," Shaw said. "That means businesses and critical infrastructure such as education, health care and emergency services must take the lead. That's what we're doing."

The ACCHD and PWAHEC have scheduled community education and workgroup sessions to target representatives from the medical community, fire and EMS, city and county government, faith-based groups, educational systems, business, mental health and law enforcement. The participants attending the education sessions are given planning information to take back to their organizations to review and discuss and begin their PI planning. Workgroup sessions have already been held for K-12, college, and medical and health care educators.

More than 200 businesses also were offered the education sessions at Lufkin's First Friday Luncheon. Guest speaker was Dr. David Lakey, associate director for biosecurity and infectious disease with the Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness. Education and workgroup sessions will be offered throughout the summer. The education process used in Lufkin will be used as a model to prepare other counties for the pandemic influenza. Predictions are that 30 percent of any given population could be sick at any time during a pandemic flu outbreak.

For more information, contact Kinnie Parker, PWAHEC program coordinator at (936)468-6941 or Meredith Stanford, ACCHD at (936)633-0676

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PandemicFlu.gov



AvianFlu.gov



Together Rx Access Prescription Program

A program is available to the uninsured population that can allow them to obtain brandname as well as generic prescription drugs at low costs. The new Together Rx Access Card is a free, easy-to-use card that offers savings of about 25 to 40 percent and sometimes more to uninsured patients. Individuals interested in the program can call tollfree to 1 (800) 444-4106 or visit www.TogetherRxAccess.com for more information or to enroll in the program.

To qualify for the Together Rx Access Card, applicants must not be eligible for Medicare, have no public or private prescription drug coverage, have incomes of up to \$30,000 for a single person or \$60,000 for a family of four and be a legal U.S. resident. More than 275 FDA-approved prescription products from 10 major companies are included in the program, including medicines used to treat diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, cancer, allergy, asthma, arthritis and depression. The majority of pharmacies nationwide and in Puerto Rico accept the Together Rx Access Card, with savings provided to the consumer at the pharmacy counter.

The Together Rx Access Card participating companies are Abbott, AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline, and members of Johnson & Johnson Family Companies,

Novartis, Pfizer, sanofi-aventis Group, Takeda and TAP Pharmaceutical Products.

In addition to participating in the Together Rx Access Program, each of the 10 companies independently offers Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs). People enrolling in the program will be automatically notified if they may be eligible for further savings, and in some cases, free medicines through PAPs. They also may be referred to the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA), which can help eligible individuals get the medicines they need through public or private program. PPA can be reached directly at 1-888-aPPA-Now or via www.pparx.org.



J. Kevin Langford, Ph.D.

Piney Woods AHEC Welcomes Its Newest Board Member

The Piney Woods AHEC would like to welcome J. Kevin Langford, Ph. D. as its newest board member. Langford is currently an assistant professor of biology at Stephen F. Austin State University. He will also serve as the Pre-Professional adviser for the upcoming year at SFA.

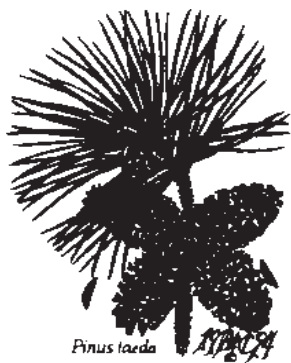
Langford joined the biology faculty in the fall of 2002. A native of Newton, Texas, Langford, a third-generation alumnus of

SFASU, earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology from there in the 1980s. Following completion of his doctoral research in 1995 at the Medical College of Wisconsin, in Milwaukee, Langford spent the next seven years at the Arkansas Cancer Research Center in Little Rock, Ark.

Langford maintains active research in the areas of cellular and molecular events that dictate the transformation of a single cell into an individual organism during embryonic development. Much of this work involves the biology of syndecan, an important cell surface receptor that performs critical functions during development as well as normal growth. Currently, Langford is investigating the role of syndecan during the development of the coronary blood vessels using a chicken embryo model system. Also, to better understand how molecules outside of a cell function as regulators of cell behavior, the expression pattern of several families of such molecules are being determined during heart formation.

In addition to his teaching and research at the university, Langford also is the faculty sponsor of the SFASU Cycling Club and the Brothers Under Christ fraternity. Within the community, Langford is an active member of the Nacogdoches Rotary Club and serves in many capacities within Fredonia Hill Baptist Church.

Langford's return to Nacogdoches also was a "homecoming" for his family. Langford's wife of 18 years is a native of Nacogdoches. They have three daughters, Katie, Jamie and Torie, who have been welcomed back to Nacogdoches by grandparents James and Carol Beene of Appleby and great-grandmother Barbara Jones of Nacogdoches.



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Continuing Education Opportunities



6/23

Lymphedema Management

Dallas, Texas

Contact (214) 324-1119 or
leslie@cprtrainingandmore.com

6/24-6/30

Disparities in Health in America: Working Toward Social Justice

M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, Texas

Contact: (713) 794-1724 (fax) or
register@mdanderson.org

7/10-7/14

Meeting the Public Health Challenge: Strategies to Protect and Improve the Health of Communities

University of North Texas
Denton, Texas

Contact:
www.txphtrainingcenter.org

7/25-7/27

The Process of Collaboration (Part I)

Circle of Ten Retreat Center
Edom, Texas

Contact: (903) 541-0013 or
circleof10@circleof10.org

8/15 - 8/18

Physical Assessment of Adults by the RN

The University of Texas at Arlington
School of Nursing
Arlington, Texas

Contact: (817) 272-2778

8/19

Psychiatric Nursing Symposium

The University of Texas at Arlington
School of Nursing
Arlington, Texas

Contact: (817) 272-2778

8/20-8/23

National Association for Rural Mental Health 32nd Annual Conference

Co-sponsored by
National Institute for Mental Health
San Antonio, Texas
www.narmh.org

8/22- 8/23

Selected Trauma Topics (CE for EMS)

Longview Regional Medical Center
Longview, Texas
Contact: (903) 381-7243

8/26

HealthFind 2006

Austin, Texas
Contact: (512) 936-6743 or
www.orca.state.tx.us

9/19- 9/26

Pharmacology For Advance Practice Clinicians

Dallas, Texas
Contact: (800) 377-7707 or
info@cforums.com or
www.contemporaryforums.com

9/21 -9/22

Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC)

Longview Regional Medical Center
Longview, Texas
Contact: (903) 381-7243

9/22-9/23

Reaching for the Stars: Innovative Tools of the Trade

University of Texas M.D. Anderson
Cancer Center
Houston, Texas
Contact (800) 847-5783
or (713) 790-1600

Online Education

Working with Case Management: Roles, Benefits and Improved Outcomes

MSU Nursing/Michigan State AHEC
www.nursing.msu.edu/ahecce1

Texas Webinar Series

Texas Hospital Association
www.thaonline.org

Telephone Workshops

Telephone Education Workshop
CancerCare Connect
www.cancercare.org

East Texas Geriatric Education Conference

**Math and Nursing Building Room 126
(SFA Campus)**

*Topics in Health and Aging-
Noon-3pm
Case Study- Noon-2pm*

7/14/2006- Topics in Health and Aging-
Expanded Geri Syndrome Incontinence

8/11/2006- Case Study- Video of Rural
Elderly In East Texas

Contact: (936) 468-6901 or
kparker@pwahec.org



Piney Woods AHEC

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You may contact the staff at the following locations:

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Letters, news, research and articles welcome.
Please e-mail any changes in your contact information to info@pwahec.org

SETHA Grants Scholarships to Faculty

The Southeast Texas Hospital Division 4-A of the Texas Hospital Association awarded two scholarships each in April in the amount of \$750 to Amanda Page, Hemphill, Texas and to Jan Smith, Kirbyville, Texas. Page is employed with Sabine County Hospital and is pursuing a career as a medical coder. Smith is employed with CHRISTUS Jasper Memorial Hospital as a laboratory assistant and is pursuing a career in health information.

In order to be eligible for the SETHA scholarship, applicants must be an employee in good standing from a Division 4-A SETHA member facility, registered in or accepted by a program that will lead to further education or certification in the health care field, have a written recommendation by the administrator or director of the member facility and submit a personal letter describing their career plans.



From Left to Right:
Deborah Wiegand, Administrator,
Jan Smith, Recipient, Laboratory,
Joan Pace, Laboratory Director, Kay
Powell, Human Resources Director
All from CHRISTUS
Jasper Memorial Hospital

Life Support Courses

8/19&20

Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support

Stephen F. Austin
State University

Contact: (936) 468-6901



Alternate formats of this material are available upon request. Please contact the PWAHEC office at (936) 468-6901.

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