Seizing Leadership Opportunities to Improve Public Health
Visibility, leadership and relationships: key to greater impact

A tireless champion for the improvement of the health of North Carolinians, former North Carolina State Health Director Dr. Leah Devlin brings a dynamic combination of insight and experience to UNC. With her finger on the pulse of emerging public health trends, Professor Devlin is helping to boost collaboration between the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and the practice community, and to increase the School’s contribution to quality improvement efforts in public health.

• **Enhancing Leadership through Relationships**
This Visiting Professorship is working to connect the School, including the North Carolina Institute for Public Health, with legislators and other leaders working on public health issues in practice. Through membership and participation in key state and national level public health boards, foundations and task forces, Dr. Devlin is helping to match the resources and expertise of the School with the priorities of the practice community.

• **Supporting Students and Faculty and Creating Service Opportunities**
Through strengthened relationships and networks, Dr. Devlin will identify internship opportunities for students in public health agencies and other practice environments. She will also provide consultation with faculty on strategic planning, engagement and teaching.

• **Increasing the School’s Contribution to Quality Improvements**
By serving on the steering committee for the National Public Health Accreditation Board, the North Carolina Center for Public Health Quality Steering Committee and other quality assurance efforts, Dr. Devlin helps promote the highest standards in shared accountability for health outcomes. She will consult with School leaders to develop approaches to strengthen the School’s capacity as a regional and national leader in public health quality improvement.

**IMPACT!**

Synergy + Collaboration = Better Public Health

Improved public health is no accident. It comes about through the strategic involvement of key stakeholders working together to create a healthy environment for communities in North Carolina and beyond.

**GOAL**
To increase the contribution of the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health to quality improvements in the health system and practice community.

**PARTNERS**
New and existing partnerships are being forged across all departments in the School, including the North Carolina Institute for Public Health, the NC legislature, and throughout the public health system and practice communities at state and national levels.
Sheila Leatherman: First Gillings Visiting Professor
Making complex public health issues simpler and goals achievable

Leadership Means Improving Policy
Sheila Leatherman, a research professor in the School’s department of Health Policy and Management, has worked across the breadth of public health and health policy, translating research into public health practice. The Gillings Visiting Professorship will provide the means for her to focus a portion of UNC’s public health research on microcredit and its impact on global health.

Making the Complex Simple
“Professor Leatherman is known internationally for the quality of her work on complex public health issues,” said Peggy Leatt, PhD, chair of the School’s Health Policy and Management Department. What she brings to the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health is the ability to look at complex public health policy issues, break them down into their component pieces and devise solutions that provide not just short-term relief but long-term, replicable programs and policies.

• She is one of the world’s leaders in improving the policies that guide the way we operate and administer health care—in both developed and developing countries.

• Her strong research skills and experience, coupled with her documented ability to translate the research into practice, is a model of public health leadership.

• As a research professor, professor Leatherman spends much of her time as a visiting professor or visiting scholar, evaluating and analyzing health care systems and issues throughout the world.

Leadership
Sheila Leatherman is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine where she serves on the Global Health Board, a trustee of the board of the American Refugee Committee, and a member of the executive board of the International Society of Quality. For her work over the past decade with the NHS, she was named an Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE).

GOAL
Sheila Leatherman is helping the School build capacity in global health and microfinance.

IMPACT!
Microcredit, for example
Microcredit is a strategy for advancing small loans—as little as $100—to individuals in order to reduce poverty through self-sufficiency. Leatherman is working on how to use the microcredit organizations worldwide to create predictable access to health education and health care services to improve the health and well-being of the recipients, their families and their communities.

Anticipate. Accelerate. www.sph.unc.edu/accelerate e-mail accelerate@unc.edu
Leveraging Local Knowledge to Improve Public Health
Building an online learning program for the global public health workforce

Worldwide, the need for accessible, high quality global health education is growing. Current distance learning offers public health practitioners access to high quality curricula, but traditional academic criteria often do not address the needs of local health practitioners. Dr. Rohit Ramaswamy comes to the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health to promote a blend of distance-instruction and virtual knowledge-sharing that will better prepare practitioners to apply new skills to develop local solutions to public health problems.

Infrastructure for Global Health Learning

- **A Practitioner’s Curriculum**
  In today’s world, the need to expand and develop the global public health workforce is pressing. Public health professionals in the field often have limited access to high quality instruction. Dr. Ramaswamy will work with faculty members from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health to develop and apply a standardized, rigorous, distance-based curriculum for core public health competencies, to real-world case studies and global health problems. This model not only increases access to high quality public health training for professionals worldwide, but will be adapted to meet the specific needs of learners and will capitalize on their experiences.

- **Short Term/Long Term Benefits**
  Short term beneficiaries are professionals working in international non-profit organizations or governments responsible for implementing health programs around the world. In the longer term, the program will benefit local partners of these organizations—community health, social workers, and other professionals responsible for the day-to-day activities required to improve and sustain a population’s health. Participants will remain connected through a global community of practice that allows them to enrich their knowledge and experience through on-going knowledge sharing.

**IMPACT!**
Bridging the Classroom-to-Field Global Health Gap
In 2006, the World Health Organization estimated a global shortage of 2.4 million public health professionals in 57 countries. This initiative will provide global health professionals access to the world-class educational opportunities available at UNC, while simultaneously connecting to local practitioners around the world.

**GOALS**
- Document best practices for providing distance education to global health practitioners.
- Combine core public health skills with applied problem-solving in a distance learning format.
- Identify partners to help the School scale up the reach of this public health distance learning approach.

**PARTNERS**
Faculty across multiple departments in the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, IntraHealth International, Plan USA, and GRAVIS, India.

This initiative will “lead to innovative educational programs which focus on the specific needs of local communities of learners in different regions of the world.”

-William A. Sollecito, DrPH, Director, Public Health Leadership Program, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

**Leadership**

Rohit Ramaswamy, PhD, MPH, Gillings Visiting Clinical Associate Professor, public health leadership program, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, leads the project’s diverse team. Partners include three international non-profit organizations and faculty across multiple departments in the School. The team reflects the range of complexity inherent in the field of global public health as well as the diversity of expertise required to address complex challenges in new ways.

Anticipate. Accelerate.  
www.sph.unc.edu/accelerate  
e-mail accelerate@unc.edu
Collaborating for the Sake of Public Health
Visiting Professor to École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique in France

Merging Medical Cultures
The public health “cultures” of Europe and the U.S. have diverged to some degree. Our European colleagues tend toward a more theoretical approach to training public health professionals, but have been very effective with on-the-ground systems like Médecins sans Frontières. The U.S. trains and teaches in a very practical way but implements programs in an idealistic and theoretical manner. The two approaches need more “cross-fertilization” to strengthen each approach.

Global Win-Win

- **Prevention**
  France has a “prevention-oriented” outlook in its broader culture, and there is much to be learned about how to implement community based prevention programs in the U.S. public health system.

- **Cost Management**
  France’s health care delivery system presents useful lessons for the U.S. and North Carolina—managing costs while respecting principles of choice. This information can help restructure our programs.

- **Breaking the Funding Barrier**
  Most funding sources limit programs to a single national context or system; this visiting professorship allows us to cross boundaries.

Enormous Local and Global Upside
North Carolinians recognize that we live in a global economy—that public health itself is a global endeavor. Through his visiting professorship people will work together to understand financing and delivery of health care and preventive services, increasing knowledge and practice transfer.

GOAL
To generate practical programs and projects that draw from the best talents of the two institutions and national cultures. Participants will sharpen basic cross-cultural skills to deepen understanding of diverse viewpoints in order to improve the practice of collaborative research and project implementation.

IMPACT!

**Pooling Medical Resources**
Many developed nations are cooperating to reduce the global inequality in health status. This project brings together faculty and students from UNC and the EHESP to build a bridge between North Carolina and Europe and the Francophone parts of Africa through joint training, teaching and research projects.

**PARTNERS**
UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and the École des hautes études en santé publique (EHESP).

Leadership

**Tom Ricketts,** PhD, professor of health policy and management and Director, North Carolina Rural Health Research Program and Program on Health Policy Analysis, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, brings superb policy and management skills and teaching experience to the new school. He observes, “The people involved with this project are revolutionary in that the French have come to recognize the shortcomings of their public health training system and research infrastructure and have been tasked with adopting the best of the American model. The UNC side includes those who are open to new approaches and see the benefit of broadening their global constituencies to include largely ignored Francophone portions of the world.”
Public Health Leader Brings Experience to UNC

Environmental Sciences + Engineering appointment = our chance to learn

Bringing the School into the Public Eye
Renowned physician, former dean of the University of Iowa College of Public Health, James Merchant—health policy consultant to the Association of Schools of Public Health—brings leadership, expertise and savvy along with a rich background in environmental and occupational health research. A graduate of UNC School of Public Health, Merchant’s work led the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration to establish the 1978 Cotton Dust Standard, which sets limits for occupational exposure to cotton dust for workers in the textile industry as well as in several other industries. The standard is credited with substantially reducing the number of brown lung cases in the state and nation.

Enhancing Public Health Practice, Instruction and Research

• Dr. Merchant will offer leadership counsel to Dean’s Office as well as to department chairs at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

• Through his appointment in Environmental Sciences and Engineering, he will serve as an advisor on rural health and injury-prevention strategies.

• As a public health policy consultant to the Association of Schools of Public Health, he will promote the development of public policy positions and briefs.

• An alumnus of UNC’s School of Public Health, where he received his DrPH in epidemiology, he will promote the exploration and development of new, possibly unexpected educational opportunities.

Leadership

James Merchant, MD, DrPH, professor of occupational and environmental health, University of Iowa, is a highly respected public health leader with rich and varied experience. With his combination of experience in rural health and global health, Dr. Merchant models the complementarity of the School’s goal of solving public health problems across North Carolina and around the world.

GOAL
To learn from another public health leader, to exchange ideas with other schools, and to increase UNC’s impact in the field of public health.

PARTNERS
Faculty from numerous UNC departments and centers, N.C. Institute for Public Health, UNC Injury Prevention Center, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research and state and public health agencies.

IMPACT!
Our Chance to Learn
Dr. Merchant, whose research expertise is in occupational lung disease epidemiology, childhood asthma epidemiology and prevention, environmental health science research, occupational medicine practice, rural health outcome, and rural and public health policy, will help the School extend its leadership in key areas in public health.

Anticipate. Accelerate.
www.sph.unc.edu/accelerate or e-mail accelerate@unc.edu