

# Center for Academic Public Health Practice

Drexel University  
School of Public Health

Philadelphia  
Department of Public Health



## *What is it?*

- The formal professional linkage of the Philadelphia DPH and Drexel University.
- Part of a national trend of increasing integration of university and health department efforts in public health research, teaching, service and leadership.
- Defined by an MOA signed by the Health Commissioner and the Dean.
- Initiated September 10, 2004.

## ***Why did we create it?***

- To incorporate Drexel University's academic resources into the structure and evaluation of Philadelphia DPH programs, public health interventions and policy making.
- To provide the Philadelphia DPH with access to the public health academic and practical expertise of Drexel University.
- To ground the School of Public Health curriculum and research in the realities of public health practice...

***...all aimed at achieving the end goal of improved public health service to the residents of Philadelphia.***

# ***What will it achieve?***

- Expanded opportunities for student practica & master's projects,
- Joint research agendas & publication of results,
- Continuing education programs,
- Grant co-applications,
- Joint faculty and management appointments or exchanges,
- Two-way, informal technical assistance,
- Sharing information/library resources,
- Contracted technical assistance in the areas identified in the MOA,
- Evaluation of Philadelphia DPH public health competencies,
- Public health leadership training,
- SPH curriculum development, and
- Jointly sponsored speaker invitations and public events.

## ***How will it work?***

- The Center is overseen by a **Steering Committee** consisting of: the Medical Director, Deputy/Associate Health Commissioners, and designated program directors of the DPH; the Dean, Associate Deans, Department Chairpersons (or designees) and Center Directors of the SPH.
- **Monthly meetings** are held at alternating sites.
- **Principles underlying the Center:**
  - The DPH and SPH will share credit equally for all research findings attached to the Center's work.
  - The DPH will provide a wide range of service learning opportunities to students participating in the Center.
  - Students will be actively engaged in the Center's work whenever feasible.