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## **Oregon Public Health Week offers national speakers, activities, films and career fair**

*Public Health Week begins April 5*

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Oregon Public Health Week kicks off Monday, April 5, with a host of nationally renowned speakers, physical activities, films, a career fair and a youth photo contest.

Two of the outstanding speakers are: Sherman James, Ph.D., internationally known for his innovative research on racial and ethnic health disparities; and Jeffrey Levi, Ph.D., who leads advocacy efforts on behalf of a modernized public health system. Levi's work includes assessing the nation's public health preparedness, investment in public health infrastructure, and response to chronic diseases such as obesity

The theme for this year's Public Health Week is "A Healthier Oregon: One Community at a Time," with a different focus each day. Oregon's theme coincides with the national one, "A Healthier America: One Community at a Time."

Governor Ted Kulongoski has proclaimed April 5 to 11 Public Health Week in Oregon to stress the importance of promoting, protecting and

preserving health and quality of life for people in Oregon, which is a major goal of the state.

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The goal of the week is to raise awareness about public health issues, activities and programs. Topics will include discussions about health disparities, health care reform, poisonous products, green chemistry and healthy foods. Activities planned include strength training, a cycling tour, a neighborhood walk and Taoist Tai Chi instruction. There are also film presentations and discussions on topics such as suicide prevention and Latino health. All events are free.

"This is an important year for Oregon Public Health as we transition into the Oregon Health Authority. This week celebrates, informs and raises awareness about what public health is in our state and how we all play a role in our health," said Mel Kohn, M.D., M.P.H., director of Oregon Public Health.

Highlights of the week include:

### **Monday, April 5, Public Health Careers**

10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Public Health Career Fair kick-off event, Portland State University, Multicultural Center, Smith Hall, 1825 S.W. Broadway. The career fair offers an opportunity to learn about public health career opportunities that affect local and national health problems and priorities.

Noon to 1 p.m., Carlos J. Crespo, Dr. P.H., PSU professor and director, College of Urban and Public Affairs School of Community Health will address, "Health Disparities in Public Health." Crespo is a National Institutes of Health public health analyst and minority health scholar. His talk will be followed by a moderated panel discussion on the practical applications of health equity.

### **Tuesday, April 6, Healthiest Generation**

Noon – 1 p.m. "Measuring Social Determinants of LGBTQ Wellness: Speak Out 2009," panel discussion, Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Portland, Room 1E. Panel participants include: Molly Franks, M.P.H.; Tyler Smith, N.D.; and Linda Drach, M.P.H., all from Multnomah County Health Department. Smith and Drach are also from Oregon Public Health.

2 – 3:30 p.m. Elizabeth Grossman, author and journalist, will speak on "Chasing Molecules: Poisonous Products, Human Health and the Promise

of Green Chemistry," followed by a panel discussion by local experts, Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Portland, Room 1E.

6 – 9 p.m., student photo contest, "The Way I See It: A Youth Perspective on Public Health" winners will be announced at 6 p.m. before the screening and panel discussion of *Straightlaced*, a public health documentary, Hollywood Theatre, 4122 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

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**Wednesday, April 7, Health Equity**

Noon – 1 p.m., Lillian Shirley, B.S.N., M.P.H., M.P.A., director of Multnomah County Health Department, will speak on "21st Century Public Health: How do we respond to changing conditions? Migrating public health advocacy from programs to outcomes," at the Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Portland, Room 1E.

**Thursday, April 8, Oregon Public Health Association/health policy**

Noon – 1 p.m., Jeffrey Levi, Ph.D., Executive Director, Trust for America's Health, will speak on "Public Health in a Reforming Health Care System: An Opportunity for Transformation," at Portland State University, Smith Memorial Union, Vanport Room, 1825 S.W. Broadway. Levi is an associate professor, Department of Health Policy George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services.

**Friday, April 9, Health Equity**

9 – 10:30 a.m., Stacy Milbern, National Youth Leadership Network, will speak on "Supercrises, Welfare Lovers and Charity Cases," Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Portland, Room 1E.

Noon – 1 p.m. Sherman James, Ph.D., F.A.H.A., Susan B. King Professor of Public Policy in the Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University, will speak on "Race, Stress, and Health: 21st Challenges and Opportunities," Portland Community College, Cascade Campus, Moriarity Auditorium, 705 N. Killingsworth, Portland.

Major sponsors of Oregon Public Health Week include the Northwest Health Foundation, Community Health Priorities and Community Health Partnership, and Oregon's Public Health Institute. Other sponsors and partners include the Oregon Conference of Local Health Officials; Oregon

Public Health Association; Oregon Master of Public Health Program; Portland State University College of Urban & Public Affairs, School of Community Health and Education Equity Programs and Services; Oregon Department of Human Services Office of Multicultural Health and Services; Multnomah County Health Department; Oregon Public Health Division Adolescent Health Program, Women's Health Program and the WIC Program; Oregon Environmental Council; Oregon Health & Science University; and the Oregon Medical Association.

For more information about Oregon Public Health Week, please visit:  
<http://healthoregon.org/phweek>

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