

# CORPS CONNECTIONS

In-School and  
In-Training  
November 2010

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Members of the Corps:

Welcome to the first edition of “Corps Connections,” the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) quarterly newsletter. This newsletter is a result of feedback from you – Corps clinicians, scholars and sites – about the desire for improved communication. It is designed to provide periodic updates on what is happening with the Corps and connections to other sources of information.

As many of you have heard me say, this is an exciting time to be a member of the Corps. We are able to provide primary health care to more Americans than at any time in our history. As of September 30, 2010, the NHSC included more than 7,000 practicing clinicians and more than 10,000 sites.

In addition to our growing numbers, we are working hard to find better ways to support you, the members of the Corps. I hope you view this newsletter as one step in doing that. We are in awe of the work you do every day and thank you for your service.

With greatest admiration,



## From Training to Practice....NHSC Can Help!

*SEARCH Program Offers Clinical Rotations in Underserved Areas*

Conducting clinical rotations in underserved communities can help prepare you for your NHSC service. Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health, or SEARCH, is a state-based program developed by the NHSC to support opportunities for students and residents to experience clinical rotations on multidisciplinary health care teams, in underserved communities, across the United States and its territories. SEARCH provides opportunities for students and residents to:

- Improve ambulatory care clinical skills;
- Work with patients from diverse cultures;
- Serve as a member of an interdisciplinary health care team; and
- Benefit from the mentorship of a dedicated preceptor (e.g. faculty member).

There are currently 28 states participating in the SEARCH program. Rotations are designed and implemented by state and local organizations, so each one is different. Students from all disciplines are eligible to participate in most state programs. Many programs provide small stipends, work in collaboration with school rotation requirements or provide education credits or CME credits. The rotations can vary from two weeks to a semester in length.

Typically, the SEARCH rotation includes clinical practice and a community service project that gives participants a taste of community life. During these rotations, students and residents develop their skills and gain exposure to practicing in rural, frontier and urban HPSAs.

States participating include: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

To learn more about SEARCH, visit <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/search/>.

*“[The NHSC] is something that really affects you and changes the way that you think about how people do need access to care. It’s been a really, really good experience. It’s been a tough experience, but a really good experience too. I think... wherever you go from there it’s going to affect your life in a huge way.”*

**Lindsey Worthington, Dentist, Libby, MT**

## Happenings at Headquarters

- **Morehouse Initiative.** The NHSC has signed a cooperative agreement with Morehouse School of Medicine National Center for Primary Care to develop on-line training with content and format uniquely adapted to NHSC clinicians serving the underserved in isolated settings. The portal will include on-line training and resources, best-practice examples, tools, and templates, plus chat rooms, forums, and file-sharing to create a virtual community for clinicians serving the underserved. Portions of the portal are expected to be available this winter.
- **NHSC Ambassador Program.** NHSC Ambassadors include faculty members and health care professionals interested in educating students and clinicians about the NHSC and the rewards that come with providing services to those most in need. Many have a wealth of knowledge and experience with underserved populations, curriculum advice, and access to clinical rotations. To find an Ambassador in your area, go to the Ambassador Directory on the NHSC Web site: <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/ambassadors/directory.asp>
- **Flu Vaccinations.** The NHSC is working with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to encourage all current and future clinicians to get their flu shots this season. CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend that all health care workers get an annual flu vaccine. Unfortunately, fewer than half report getting an annual flu vaccine. Visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) for more information and get a flu shot this year.
- **NHSC Regional Support.** The NHSC now has full-time staff working in every region of the U.S. The Division of Regional Operations is responsible for managing NHSC scholar in-school activities and facilitating scholar placement. For a listing of the regional representatives in your state, you can call the NHSC at 1-800-221-9393.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **December 1, 2010.** World AIDS Day. Look for activities in your area.
- **January 16-22, 2011.** National Healthy Weight Week. Get out and exercise.
- **February 5, 2011.** American Dental Association’s Give Kids A Smile day. Sign up to participate at <http://www.ada.org/3452.aspx>
- **March 10-13, 2010.** American Medical Student Association (AMSA) in Washington, DC. [www.amsa.org](http://www.amsa.org).



### Contact NHSC

Call **1-800-221-9393** or visit **NHSC.hrsa.gov**

### Share and Follow

