



ETSU Community Partnerships Programs

*Programs Update
September, 2004*

Program Update

Rural Primary Care Track

Medical student recruitment hit a new high: eighteen first year students enrolled while a new second year student was permitted to join. The four semester clinical courses continue for the 13th year! The students are from: East TN (6), Middle TN (8), West TN (1), Arizona, Florida and Asheville.

The community-university curriculum section planning meeting is September 21. Ideas for research and community projects with Johnson and Hawkins counties and with the Hispanic community will be discussed by prospective faculty and community teams.

The interdisciplinary Communications for Health Professionals course has begun its fourth year. 116 medical, nursing and public health students are enrolled.

Healthcare Partnerships in Northern Iraq

Site visit to ETSU by Kathy Faud from Sulaymania nursing school and Dr. Jamal Faud, former minister of agriculture for all of Iraq. They visited with the ETSU college of nursing.

Dr. Olsen and Mr. Behringer discussed Northern Iraq with the Nashville Kurdish Forum.

CDs are being completed in health administration, communicative disorders and physical therapy.

ETSU Learning Resources completes library portal to allow Kurdish faculty to access free internet resources for teaching.



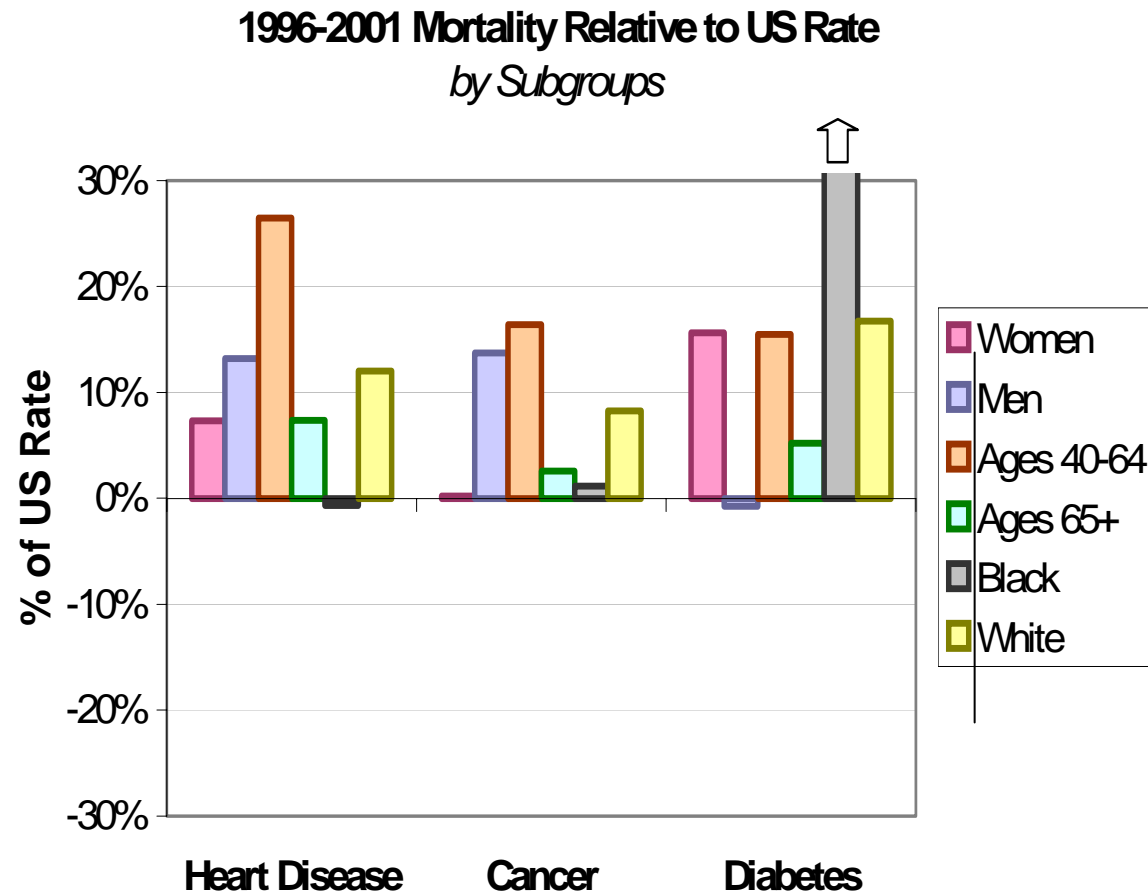
Fuad's during Mountain City visit with Lisa Heaton at hospital.



Suzanne Abercrombie and Dr. Randy Byington finish health administration CD.

Rural Appalachian Cancer Demonstration Program

The CDC announced an award of \$356,408, the third installment of Congressional appropriation for this program. The most recent mortality data analysis for the Appalachian region indicates our major disparity is premature death (ages 40-64).



Continuing Progress in the Regional Care Data Exchange

A Saturday Planning Meeting conducted August 21 identified critical issues in governance and legal, financing, clinical care, technology and communications.

BlueCross BlueShield has committed funding through a matching challenge grant to support the efforts of a new regional organization.

Governor Bredesen has invested in this approach in Memphis and has called a statewide conference to develop plans for Statewide support.

ETSU is represented on regional work groups to study key questions and make recommendations for regional plan.

Quality Improvement through Interdisciplinary Collaboration

A new interdisciplinary course offering will begin in Summer, 2005. Students will enroll from nursing, public health, medicine, nutrition and social work. This represents a new partnership with Rural Health Services Consortium to address quality of care issues with diabetes, design practice and community interventions in five sites.

The program addresses major national issues providing health professionals opportunity to work in teams to improve communication and quality of care issues.

ETSU received three year Federal funding (\$251,005 first year).

Informing Policy Makers: Project Medical Education

Aides to two US senators and 5 TN congresspersons visited ETSU on August 16-17. The theme of partnerships was prominent throughout the meetings. Speakers included Frank Proffitt (Hawkins), Dr. Deanna Brotherton (Cocke) and Alma Vasquez (Hispanic community). The group also visited Mountain City, heard about the Rural Track curriculum and visited the Johnson County critical access hospital. These aides help elected representatives to write health policy for the nation.



New Attention to Minority Issues

Hispanic Community

-Migrant Education program conducted by ETSU Foreign Languages for the third straight year serving the highest number of children ever.

-*Puertas Abiertas a la Comunidad Hispana* sponsored on September 23. Region's Hispanic community will introduce itself to business and education leaders from Northeast TN.

-Members of the *Coalicion Hispano-Americana de la Salud* will participate in generating ideas for new Rural Track programs. The group is organized as part of College of Nursing diabetes study.

African American Community

Public Health's Consultation with Organizations and in Communities course will conduct a regional assessment of health and health care for the region's 10,000 African Americans in Northeast TN. The client is the Division of Health Science's Office of Cultural Diversity. Students will organize focus groups with African American community members throughout the multi-county Northeast TN region.

New Grant Funding

National Health Services Corps. Assistance through ORCHCP and Department of Psychology to develop a curriculum and community-based training infrastructure for the new ETSU doctorate in psychology program that will have a rural emphasis.

National Institutes of Health - National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. ETSU was asked to participate in rural middle school study of substance abuse behaviors with Wake Forest University.

ETSU is proposing the development of a new **College of Pharmacy** to address the serious shortage of pharmacists in the state and region. In negotiations with the state, ETSU was also given approval to begin development of a full **School of Public Health**.

Upcoming Events and Actions

Completion of Communication Plan on describing public and multiple stakeholders about regional health disparities by nTara.

Publication of Expanding Community Partnership book, Pursuing Opportunities Through Partnerships: Higher Education and Communities including five chapters by ETSU representatives.

National presentation by Dr. Martin Olsen at American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists conference in Washington DC.

Completion of Tri Cities Care Data Exchange business plan with consultants and presentation to Dr. David Brailer, national director of health information exchange programs.

Preparation and selection of new Rural Track course sections involving community and university partners.