

Reproductive Health Interest Group

General Body Meeting

November 15, 2005

I. Guest Speaker: Dr. Jorn Olsen, Chair of Epidemiology

Dr. Olsen gave an overview of his research in reproductive health, including his work on exposure to severe stress during pregnancy and a lifecourse perspective approach on health for women and children.

II. Letter Writing: EC Action Campaign

Copies of a letter in support of Emergency Contraception becoming available over the counter were passed around the room and signed. These letters will be mailed to the FDA to encourage them to grant over-the-counter status to Plan B.

III. Recap of Proposition 73: What worked, What didn't, and Thank You!

Everyone who was involved in the campaign to defeat Prop 73 was asked to stand and was given a round of applause. The floor was then opened for feedback on RHIG's Prop 73 efforts.

1. **What Worked** - The email that we circulated regarding reasons to Vote No was determined to be a useful tool for members to spread our message to friends and family. One member encouraged us to continue our efforts to reach out to people who might not ordinarily think to vote no on this type of proposition, and not to just "preach to the converted"
2. **What Didn't Work** – The overwhelming flood of emails (at which point Paula reminded the group that we have the option to request a daily digest from the RHIG listserv in order to reduce the number of incoming emails). A few members voiced concerns over replying to emails without getting a response, while others suggested that it would have been helpful to have another meeting right before the mobilization. Everyone generally agreed that the limited time that we had to work with was one of the biggest problems.

IV. Overview of RHIG Activities and Business:

1. Dr. Tavrow gave a brief overview of the Population and Reproductive Health Matrix that must be fulfilled in order to achieve a Bixby certificate. Students were referred to the Bixby website, <http://bixbyprogram.ph.ucla.edu> for more information on the certificate as well as information on ongoing RHIG activities.
2. **Speakers Committee** (Leah and Tanya) – The next event is a brown bag with Dr. Kerndt, the Director of STDs for LA County, which is scheduled for December 1 from 12-1pm. Dr. Kerndt will talk about the dangers posed to sex workers by a lack of regulation in the adult film industry and will suggest ideas for future RHIG advocacy projects. The speakers committee is also in the process of organizing a panel on reproductive health and religion for Winter Quarter. Anyone who has suggestions for speakers is encouraged to contact Leah or Tanya, or join the speakers committee.

3. **On-Campus** (Andy and Cara Mae) - One major accomplishment this quarter was the success of the No on Prop 73 campaign. The officers reported on the success of attending the weekly formal dinner on sorority row along with members from Med Students For Choice to make brief presentations on Prop 73, which were well-received by the women in attendance. We will now be shifting focus to working on an EC Awareness campaign as part of the Reproductive Rights Coalition, with the goal of raising awareness and understanding about EC on campus. We will need members to help distribute the Oh \$#! Cards that were donated by the Pacific Institute for Women's Health in the Ashe Center, as well as gather information about the availability and price of EC in local pharmacies. Another issue for winter quarter will be investigating methods of Chlamydia testing for women in the Ashe Center.
 4. **Fundraising Committee** (update given by Robin) – We are interested in selling T-shirts with entertaining slogans about reproductive health and public health in general. One of the ideas proposed so far is “Public Health: We Do it Upstream”. We may hold a competition for students and staff to generate additional ideas. The major fundraising event scheduled for Winter quarter is a Valentine's Day social event hosted by RHIG in conjunction with another school (possibly Engineering or Business)
 5. **Off-Campus** (given by Robin) – Upcoming activities include volunteering to help Children's Hospital put together tool kits for their adolescent clinic and possibly working with the UCLA mobile clinic to help promote reproductive health in homeless populations. We will also look into participating in an advocacy event in Sacramento, and possibly even in Washington D.C. if there is a relevant and feasible opportunity.
 6. **Reproductive Rights Coalition (Robin and Bitia)** – We want to continue our partnership with other campus groups as part of the Reproductive Rights Coalition, and will need the support and attendance of RHIG members at these meetings and events.
 7. **1st Year Representatives (Robin and Bitia)** – We will be holding elections in Winter Quarter for 1st year members who would like to gain experience as a RHIG officer by serving as a third co-chair on a committee. Please talk to any of the current co-chairs if you are interested in running for one of these four positions.
- V. The floor was opened for additional ideas for other potential RHIG activities, but no one had any further suggestions at this time. The general meeting was then adjourned into working groups.