

disciplines in our extraordinarily multi-disciplinary field, including nutrition, social work, public health nursing, environmental sanitation, health planning, and health services administration. Articles have described efforts in the public, voluntary and private sectors; in urban and rural areas; addressing the environment, personal services, and behavioral change; describing multimillion dollar projects and some which were done "for free".

But, the unifying theme throughout the entire experience reflected in "Notes From the Field" is that a broad, dedicated creative body of public health professionals exists at all levels of society whose skills and talents are available to be harnessed to form the nucleus of the new public health for which the IOM report makes such an urgent statement. Calling for a rediscovery of the "governmental presence at the local level", the IOM report calls for state governments to ensure an organizing force in every community—one which can be sure that the services necessary in that community are present and that there is an ongoing surveillance apparatus. A review of the "Notes" columns over the past four years will provide a glimpse of the future for which the IOM makes its forceful case.

I canvassed the authors whose contributions made this column the success it has become. Specifically, I was curious about the impact the column might have had on their personal and professional lives and particularly upon the programs which they were describing. Here are some excerpts from the responses:

- "Seeing their work in print has been a great boost to staff morale."
- "Call it assertive affirmative action for new or emerging, less-supported critical issues in state and local health agency programming!"
- "I have handled many requests for reprints nationwide and some from Europe. Helps the field's development."

- "Has added credibility and visibility to program. Program is currently subject of highly complimentary replication legislation in the State Senate."
- "New funding sources for program continuation."
- "Many nurses are aware of the program, as a result of the article, and other disciplines have expressed interest."
- "Has had a good public relations impact on my department and the county."
- "To have a health promotion effort written up in 'Notes' may have boosted the health promotion profession's stock a bit."

REFERENCES

1. Tilson HH: Notes from a fertile field: A new forum (editorial). *Am J Public Health* 1984; 74:1304.
2. Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences: *The Future of Public Health*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press, August 1988.

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Editor's Note: I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the comments of one respondent who reminded me that I needed to make decisions faster and speed this good stuff to press. He was right, and I'm trying to do better. Guidelines to contributors are available upon request and suggestions about sources of interesting information for possible publication, as well as ways to make the column more useful to the readers, are invited.

A note of thanks to friends and colleagues who encouraged the creation of this activity, to those who supported its development, and to the many who contributed original materials to its content. You give us the energy to move ahead in difficult times and the confidence that however real the crisis depicted in the IOM report on Public Health in 1988, we have the solution within our grasp. HHT

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ERRATA

In: Reich MR, Frumkin H: An overview of Japanese occupational health. (commentary) *Am J Public Health* 1988;78(7):809–816. The author identification at the foot of column 1, page 809, should have included the following sentence: "Dr. Frumkin is currently with the Clinical Epidemiology Unit, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia." We regret the omission.

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In: McCusker J, Stoddard AM, Mayer K, Zapka J, Morrison C, Saltzman SP: Effects of HIV antibody test knowledge on subsequent sexual behaviors in a cohort of homosexually active men. *Am J Public Health* 1988; 78(4):462–467. Readers are advised of an error in two of the confidence interval estimates in Table 3 (page 466). The portion of the table (right column) that gives adjusted odds ratios for unprotected insertive contact should read as follows:

Adjusted OR (95% CI)
1.00
1.20 (0.38,3.90)
1.00
0.10 (0.03,0.29)