

COEH Hosts Fall Seminar Series

The **UCLA Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (COEH)** is hosting the 2006 Fall Seminar Series on the topic of Environmental and Occupational Health expanding on both historical and contemporary issues relating to toxins at home and in the workplace.

Distinguished speakers from the ranks of journalists, scientists, physicians, and historians will bring specific focus to each session of the series to be held on campus every Thursday beginning October 5, 2006 from 12 to 1 P.M. in 13-105 CHS lecture hall and from 1 to 2 P.M. at the Dean's Conference Room (CHS 16-059), 650 Charles E. Young Drive, South. The first hour is reserved for the talk; the second for a "Question and Answer" session followed by a reception.

This event is free to the public. All arrangements including parking are made by UCLA COEH. Individuals interested in attending should **RSVP to Vi Huynh by phone at (310) 206-6920 or by email at vthuynh@ucla.edu**. For directions to the campus, use the following link: http://www.ph.ucla.edu/about_map.html.

Series speakers and their topics are as follow:

October 5, 2006: Celeste Monforton, MPH is a senior research associate with the Project on Scientific Knowledge and Public Policy (SKAPP) at the George Washington University School of Public Health. The Project examines the way scientific evidence is used in the regulatory and legal arena, and informs decision-makers about the nature of scientific inquiry and its relationship to public health protection. Prior to joining SKAPP, Ms. Monforton worked for 11 years as a policy analyst and advisor at the federal OSHA and MSHA. She returned to mine safety work earlier this year, serving on a special team investigating the West Virginia Sago Mine disaster. Title of the talk: **Weight-of-the Evidence or Wait for the Evidence? Protecting Underground Miners from Diesel Exhaust**



October 12, 2006: Claudia Miller, MD is the Director & Deputy Chair for Community Medicine in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Texas. Dr. Miller has performed highly relevant research on chemical sensitivity, indoor air pollution, health effects of low level chemical exposure, and neurotoxicology (pesticides, volatile organics).

October 19, 2006: Chris Sellers, PhD is a member of the History Department faculty at State University of New York, Stony Brook Campus. His research interests are in the areas of: U.S. cultural, environmental history, history of medicine, and urban and technology history. Bearing a historical perspective, Dr. Sellers publications examine such topics as the relationship between business industry and the environment, health hazards on the job and in the environment, and the notion of how race is factored in the framing of environmental issues. Dr. Sellers has authored and edited several books including, *Crabgrass Crucible: Nature, Race, and Class in the Making of American Sprawl* and *Hazards of the Job: From Industrial Disease to Environmental Health Science*. Title of the talk: **The End of the Aerial Free Range: Discovering and Controlling Smog in Post-WWII Los Angeles**

October 26, 2006: Paul Blanc, MD, MSPH is Professor of Medicine and Endowed Chair in Occupational and Environmental Medicine at the University of California San Francisco where he has been on faculty since 1988. He currently serves as Chief of the Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Trained in internal medicine, occupational medicine, and medical toxicology, he also serves as the Associate Medical Director, California Poison Control System, San Francisco Division. Dr. Blanc's new book *How Everyday Products make People Sick: Toxins at home and in the workplace* is a compelling exposé, written by a physician with extensive experience in public health and illustrated with disturbing case histories. This book is a rich and meticulously documented account of injury and illness across different time periods, places, and technologies. It presents a picture not of one exceptional or corrupt industry but rather of how run-of-the-mill manufacturing processes and consumer marketing expose workers and the general public alike to toxic hazards. Title of the talk: **The Long History of Emerging Occupational Diseases**

November 2, 2006: Andrew Schneider is a journalist who has won two Pulitzer prizes for his investigative reporting work. He is the reporter who broke the Libby, Montana, asbestos story, with a series of reports for the *Seattle Post Intelligencer* called "A Town Left to Die." He is also the author of *Air that Kills: How the Asbestos Poisoning of Libby, Montana, Uncovered a National Scandal*. Currently, Andrew Schneider is with the *Baltimore Sun*, where he has been reporting on the issues of "popcorn lung," a disease called *bronchiolitis obliterans* that affects workers in popcorn plants (and other factories).

November 9, 2006: Andrea Hricko, MPH is one of Southern California's leaders investigating local community impacts from globalization of trade. The Ports of L.A. and Long Beach serve the entire nation, with nearly half of all U.S. imports entering through them. This activity bolsters the nation's economy, but it disproportionately impacts the lives of residents who live near the ports, railyards, warehouses and truck-congested freeways serving the ports -- which contribute 25% of the region's diesel exhaust emissions. Hricko, who directs the community outreach and education program at the USC/UCLA Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center, will discuss this critical issue through the lens of community health and the search for solutions.

November 16, 2006: Brian Dolan, PhD is an Associate Professor in the Anthropology, History, and Social Medicine Department at the UC-San Francisco School of Medicine. Dr. Dolan received his Ph.D. from Cambridge University in 1995. He has focused on: scientific revolutions, enlightenment of science and society, history of life sciences, and development and impact of medical technologies. Dr. Dolan is interested in providing more historical perspectives on: biology and evolutionary thought, environmentalism, disease classification, and doctor-patient relationships. Title of the talk: **Good Airs and Bad: The History of Air in Medical Theory**

November 30, 2006: Peter Schnall, MD is a clinical professor of medicine at UC-Irvine Center for Occupational and Environmental Health. He is a recognized expert on the role of occupational stress in causing hypertension and cardiovascular disease. His research demonstrated a significant association between psychosocial stress and ambulatory blood pressure and increased cardiac mass. Dr. Schnall directs a non-profit foundation, the Center for Social Epidemiology. One of the principal activities of the Center for Social Epidemiology is the website "The Job Stress Network", located at www.workhealth.org, which has recently developed a section on Occupational Cardiology. Title of the talk: **Work and Cardiovascular Disease**

December 7, 2006: Jerry Markowitz, PhD is Distinguished Professor of History at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. He received his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin. He is the recipient of numerous grants, including the Milbank Memorial Fund, National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Science Foundation. In 2000, he won the Viseltear Prize for Outstanding Work in the History of Public Health from the American Public Health Association. He has authored and edited many articles and books on occupational safety and health, including *Deceit and Denial: The Deadly Politics of Industrial Pollution* which chronicles two extended epics of industrial poisoning in America and *Deadly Dust: Silicosis and the Politics of Industrial Disease in Twentieth Century America* noted as the "Outstanding Academic Book of 1991" by *Choice*. Title of the talk: **The Chemical Industry's Secret History: Plastics and Health in the 1970s and Today**

December 14, 2006: Phil Landrigan, MD, MSc is a pediatrician and the Ethel H. Wise Professor and Chair of the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. From 1970 to 1985, Dr. Landrigan served as a commissioned officer in the United States Public Health Service. He served as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer and then as a medical epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. While with CDC, Dr. Landrigan served for one year as a field epidemiologist in El Salvador and for another year in northern Nigeria. He participated in the Global Eradication of Smallpox. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal of the US Public Health Service. Dr. Landrigan served on the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veteran's Illnesses. In 1997 and 1998, Dr. Landrigan served as Senior Advisor on Children's Health to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Title of the talk: **Children's Health and the Environment - the Problem and the Solution**