

## NEHA NEWS

**Join the UNCOVER EH Effort!**

Understanding the Needs, Challenges, Opportunities, Vision, and Emerging Roles in Environmental Health (UNCOVER EH) is a national initiative between NEHA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Baylor University to learn more about the environmental health profession.

The study, scheduled to begin this year, will consist of an online survey and in-person workshops of environmental health professionals working at health departments. Its purpose is to describe the environmental health workforce, understand the challenges environmental health professionals face to ensure healthy communities, and learn more about the resources and training needed to address current and emerging environmental health issues.

“We are pleased to lead a study that exclusively examines the single largest segment of the public health workforce—environmental health. While many other workforce studies have been conducted over the years, this comprehensive study is the first to be conducted by the environmental health profession for the environmental health profession,” said Dr. David Dyjack, NEHA executive director.

Efforts of environmental health professionals are critical for protecting public health and the environment, yet these efforts often

go unnoticed until problems occur (e.g., foodborne outbreaks, vectorborne diseases, contaminated water supplies, disasters).

A national-level report will provide a foundation for leaders and decision makers to formulate evidence-based decisions regarding workforce capacity and public health safety for their communities. Additionally, this information can serve as a tool to plan future environmental health training needs and to better understand emerging environmental health issues.

Here are five ways in which you can help.

1. Register to receive the e-mail survey that will be launched later this year.
2. Sign up for UNCOVER EH e-mail updates.
3. Give an UNCOVER EH presentation at your staff meeting. Find slides available on our Web site at [www.neha.org/uncover-eh](http://www.neha.org/uncover-eh).
4. Invite us to present information on UNCOVER EH at your affiliate meeting or training.
5. Spread the word to your colleagues and local communities through newsletters, e-mails, Web site links, etc.

Visit [www.neha.org/uncover-eh](http://www.neha.org/uncover-eh) to learn more about UNCOVER EH and help spread the word to ensure that we capture information from as many environmental health professionals as possible. 🐛

## Did You Know?

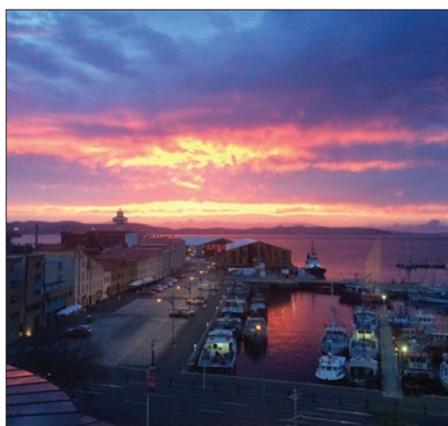
A new training from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and partners emphasizes the use of integrated pest management to address public health pests and vectors that spread diseases, including Zika virus and others. Get started today at <http://lms.southcentralpartnership.org/vcehp.php>!

**DirectTalk**

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In the process, they seem to have effectively stitch the health professions together to create a web of health.

We're not Australia. I'm simply saying that over time we should scan the landscape to identify opportunities to build systems approaches with clinicians in our local, federally-qualified health centers, public hospitals, and health departments. The Practical Playbook ([www.practicalplaybook.org](http://www.practicalplaybook.org)) highlights approaches for doing just that. Encourage your staff to familiarize themselves with its Web site content and share it with their colleagues. Hey, if you are inspired, why not attend a local healthcare executive dinner meeting and listen to their challenges? Get yourself a grand rounds lecture invitation or speak at a local nursing meeting. You'll be delighted by the reception you receive.



*Dawn on Hobart's Derwent River. Photo courtesy of David Dyjack.*

I contend that we need to row upstream. Let's commit to identifying the root causes of environmental health challenges and not limit ourselves to simply measuring and monitoring because they are easier paths. At

the same time, let's discover the next-generation adrenaline rush by delivering value to society through meaningful engagement with the clinical health professions.

The hub of social life in Hobart, Tasmania, is the Derwent River. Its headwaters are found in the center of Tasmania. Regretfully, I won't make it there. You know the drill—there are competing demands, meetings, and phone calls back home. One of those meetings will be to strategize with the Practical Playbook Team on how to strengthen our profession and advance the health of the nation through an environmental health—primary care partnership. This conversation is long overdue.

Best from Down Under. 🐛

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