



Physicians for Social Responsibility  
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Philadelphia, PA 19130

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# A D V I S O R

A NEWSLETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

704 N. 23rd Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19130

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Fall  
2005

*"There is no mystery what will help our children grow and develop without resorting to violence. We need to provide them encouragement, education, love and the opportunity to learn and live in safe environments."*

-Larry Cohen, Executive Director of the Prevention Institute, Berkely, CA

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**6TH ANNUAL SOUL OF MEDICINE BRUNCH**  
Sunday October 23rd • 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

**Featured speaker:** Kevin Fosnocht, MD - University of Pennsylvania  
**Program:** *"Responding to emotionally charged/difficult situations Encountered with patients, attending staff and fellow students. How does one, as a student, cope with feelings of 'powerless' for perhaps the first time in one's life?"*

*Informal discussions will follow. There is no charge for the brunch.*

College of Physicians  
19 South 22nd Street • Philadelphia, PA 19103

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## DINNER UPDATE

Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>



**Congressman Chaka Fattah**, our honoree, will be acknowledged for his continuing commitment to improving the lives of children through educational reform, more stringent gun legislation and alternatives to sentencing and prosecuting juveniles.



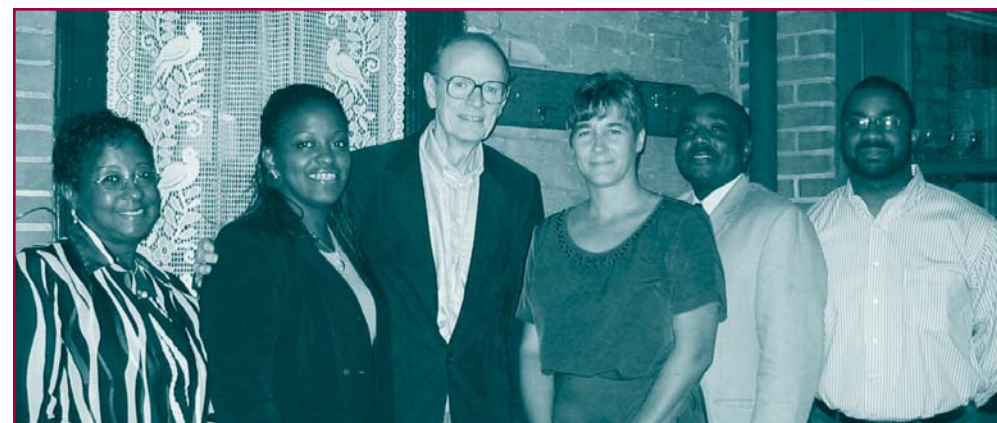
**Calvin Johnson, MD**, PA Secretary of Health, will address youth violence from a public health perspective.

*Highlighting Philadelphia's talented youth musicians will be the jazz trio, The CLEF CLUB Junior Ensemble and the vibrant gospel group, P.J. Owens & Beyond Prayze.*

*The photo exhibit wounded in America is a first-hand account of gun violence survivors photographed at the site of the shooting incident. The accompanying narrative tells their stories . . . true stories which are a humanitarian call to action to end gun violence now. Selected children and their stories " are presented as narrated to writer, Stephanie Arena, and photographed by Robert Drea. This exhibit was sponsored in part by Chicago PSR, Pike's Peak Community Foundation and the University of Wisconsin.*

*If you have not already registered for the dinner, call Sabra Mazzaferro at 215-765-8703 or register on-line at [psrphila.org](http://psrphila.org)*

## "Urbanized" Bullying Prevention Program Presented at the 14th World Congress of Criminology at Penn



Elsie Woodson (PSR- Bullying Prevention Program Coordinator), Ericka Jackson (PSR- Bullying Prevention Program Director and Certified Olweus Trainer), Dr. Dan Olweus (Olweus Bullying Prevention), Dr. Sara Ann Black (St. Joseph's University, Program Evaluator), Vernard Trent (School District of Philadelphia, Director of School Climate and Safety), Shariff El-Mekki (School District of Philadelphia, Middle School Principal)

Representatives from Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) were featured in the Congress' Youth Crime Track where their data from their 4 year implementation of an "urbanized" version of the internationally acclaimed Olweus Bullying Prevention Program was presented. PSR in partnership with the School District of Philadelphia has effectively introduced this program in 32, K - 8 public schools serving over 20,000 students and 1,500 staff. The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, considered to be the global gold standard in the prevention of bullying behavior, was developed in Bergen, Norway by Dr. Dan Olweus.. Dr. Dan Olweus who attended the session, responded that, ". . . PSR had indeed been creative in implementing the program in light of the enormous challenges encountered in the schools."

A standing room only audience heard Ericka Jackson, PSR Bullying Prevention Director and a Certified Olweus Trainer, say ". . . the Olweus program provided the chapter headings and PSR had to provide the words and pictures to make the program resonate with our urban audience." Culturally relevant bullying prevention materials were carefully integrated with pre-existing materials and policies of the different educational management organizations in the urban schools. Further she reported "...lunchroom and recess are typically

the 'hotspots' for bullying behavior and that they required creative strategies to develop socialized recess plans and lunchroom activities to keep staff and children productively engaged." Speaking with Ms. Jackson was Dr. Sally Black, an independent evaluator for PSR's school district Bullying Prevention Program. Dr. Black reported that in those schools that implemented the program with fidelity, there was a direct correlation with reduction in reported bullying behavior. She indicated that greater than 79% fidelity to model, yielded over an 8% reduction in bullying. Further, Sharif El-Mekki, a middle school principal, explained that "...administration and staff had to be committed and creative to successfully integrate the program into the existing, rigorous curriculum." He believed however that the benefits to the school environment, students, staff and parents were well worth the effort. Proposals to add another 40 schools have been submitted and are being considered by the district and other stakeholders.

The 14th World Congress of Criminology was held at Penn from August 7 - 11 with participants from over 65 countries.

PSR staff and representatives from the School District of Philadelphia hosted Dr. Olweus at a working lunch the next day.

*"... PSR had indeed been creative in implementing the program..."*

## from the director's desk

For the past 3 years, PSR has embarked on staff field trips. Some trips have been therapeutic, some have been educational - all have been valuable. They started in the wake of a disturbing staff departure. Our first trip was to the National Liberty Museum, a treasure combining art and education to highlight inequality in issues of race, gender and interpersonal violence. The bottom line is that life is fragile, life can be harsh and the human spirit is incredibly resilient.

The second trip was in celebration of the end of the public school year 2004, during which our staff had faced many challenges implementing the bullying prevention program and felt the same exhaustion as their in-school counterparts. Our venue was the movie, "Mean Girls," an accurate depiction of the cruel and cunning bullying behavior of adolescent girls. The scenarios from this film not only became good post - film discussion, but new, visual 'grist' for the mill of our varied training programs.

A month ago, we headed out again in year end celebration to experience the film, "Crash," which is an in your face commentary on racial prejudice and (in)tolerance in our country. It is at once about the fear of strangers, consequences of snap judgments and the good in everyone. "It is witness to our own brand of race and class warfare. It's about intolerance and compassion; about how we all hate to be judged, but see no contradiction in judging others." (Paul Haggis author) No race, gender, age or ethnicity is spared in this exposé of the everyday subtleties of how we rationalize prejudice and experience its ramifications.

On the corner outside of the theater our processing of the film elicited such quotes as, "It is such a stereotypical film." "It is painful, yet very real," "I'm going to need time to think about it," "You can't say that how the 2 black males responded is typical, it depends on how you are raised . . . to engage confrontation or to avoid it." "Wow, the people in this film are PSR's constituents as an organization. The scenarios represent the work that we are asked to do." We as staff experienced a reflective moment and the conversation has continued. The images have become imprinted on our own social consciousness and enriched the texture of our work. It is not something we have chosen to ignore. Because we acknowledge the injustices, we have been able to achieve some successes in our work. Our communication with our constituents - and our staff - is vibrant, we do not have to await a 'crash' in our life to interact.

Pat Harner

## Ted Corbin, MD Receives Prestigious Physician Advocacy Fellowship in Partnership with PSR

"Breaking the cycle of violence requires that we use a trauma-informed approach. The trauma-informed approach takes into account the suffering and pain that people have experienced over the course of their lives" says Dr. Theodore Corbin the young, dynamic Assistant Emergency Medicine Residency Program Director of Jefferson's Department of Emergency Medicine. "This perspective recognizes that trauma feeds the cycle of violence. Over the past few years, ignorance of the effect of trauma has led policymakers to relegate the task of addressing youth violence to the criminal justice system. This has resulted in a fragmented, punitive and socially limited approach to the trauma victim," continues Dr. Corbin in his paper to the Physician Advocacy Fellowship Committee.

Under the Fellowship guidelines, "applicants must apply for the fellowship with the commitment of an advocacy organization prepared to house, mentor and support them throughout fellowship period." PSR will provide an advisory team and support during the 2 year fellowship period. PSR's mission is in part to inspire, motivate and activate health professionals and others who are committed to preventing violence. Pat Harner believes that Dr. Corbin's Fellowship is a wonderful fit for the organization. Together, we will work toward convening community-based groups under the PSR umbrella to develop a collaborative advocacy and organizing agenda around interrupting the cycle of violence that has reached epidemic levels in Philadelphia.

Passionate about his position, deeply disturbed by the growing phenomenon of youth violence, armed with a brilliant mind, research data, first hand knowledge as an emergency doctor and


personal experience growing up a an African American male in the Philadelphia area, Dr. Corbin is determined to take the lead in helping to shift system's; public health, medical and institutional, approach and treatment of violence.



Ted Corbin, MD at recent celebratory reception.

According to Dr. Corbin's fellowship application, his decision to lead this charge came as a result of his recent study around youth violence. He utilized data from Jefferson's Violence Prevention database to which he employed various biostatistical and epidemiological tools and uncovered significant findings. Dr. Corbin indicated that data showed almost 10% of injured youth treated have a plan for retaliation and one in three express concerns

for their safety after the injury. Further, he indicated that many of these youth expressed a need for redirection, whether it is school or job placement or counseling. Dr. Corbin serves on the Philadelphia Youth Fatality Review Team. This team comprised of physicians, public health professionals, social workers, public school administrators, members from the district attorney's office, police officials, and community activists, meets monthly to review youth homicides in Philadelphia. Further, he is also a member of the Health Care Collaborative, which is a group of individuals who represent 5 local emergency departments that collect data on injured youth and use it to improve services for this population. "These affiliations only add to Dr. Corbin's knowledge and suitability to do this work..." says Pat Harner.

In Dr. Corbin paper, his goals for the fellowship are to be able to help Philadelphia recognize the need to change its approach to breaking the cycle of violence. Through his work he believes, "young victims of violence will benefit by having improved access to quality trauma-sensitive care and community members will be engaged as resources for healing from trauma..." Further, he plans to advocate for professional societies and health care organizations to develop training standards in a trauma-informed approach to victims of youth violence; advocate for support of improved data collection and coordination of data sources about youth violence; advocate with elected officials and public health leaders to develop state trauma policies concerning trauma victims of violence and advocate for insurance to cover cost associated with trauma treatment and counseling as a violence prevention strategy. 

### PSR EDUCATIONAL SERIES

As an educational resource for the medical and lay community, PSR can provide talks on a variety of healthcare, behavioral health, interpersonal violence and global security issues. Talks are offered free of charge and can be tailored to your audience. For further information, contact Sabra Mazzaferro at Sabra.psr@verizon.net



Three month old Nathaniel Winters Carr in PSR t-shirt. Congratulations to Sarah Winter and Brendan Carr who are very, very proud parents. T-shirts reading PSR "Creating a Safer Future for Our Children" will be on sale for the first time at our dinner on September 19th.

## Decrease in Fighting Noted as Peaceful Posse Implemented in LACC's Summer Camp




Kay Brennan shares Peaceful Posse concepts with trainers.

After completing the Peaceful Posse Mentoring training in May, the LACC staff contracted with PSR to implement the Peaceful Posse model into their 10 week summer camp program. In the past the LACC struggled with angry and disruptive behavior from campers, a reflection of the surrounding drug infested community. The LACC Peaceful Posse team met with a PSR consultant over the summer and worked very hard to implement this violence prevention model into their camp program. A decision was made to run Peaceful Posse groups for all the campers twice a week. Eight groups based on age were lead by 1 or 2 members of the Peaceful Posse team, the camp counselor and 1 or 2 junior counselors. The goal of each group was to allow the campers to get to know each other, learn to listen and respect one another other and create a sense of community within that group. Both the counselors and junior counselors attended a training to review the main principals of Peaceful Posse: Group Mentoring, Healing and Positive Self Concept Development.

One of the first things the camp staff noticed was a decrease in fighting. After 4 weeks they

observed an increase in campers listening to adults and using adult support to manage their anger. There was also a noticeable decrease in disrespectful behavior toward adults, especially with the boys. The camp staff noticed the campers were easier to discipline, thrived on the positive attention they received during each group and really felt their counselors would "watch their backs" throughout the day. The staff also felt they benefited from this experience by getting to know each of their campers better.

The LACC Peaceful Posse team, the camp counselors and PSR met during the 8th week of camp to get feedback about their experience with Peaceful Posse. Along with some constructive criticism, the group agreed that the kids benefited from their exposure to Peaceful Posse. LACC's goal was to make this year's summer camp a more positive and enriching experience for all their campers. Their staff is to be commended for it's commitment to serving the Latin community in Delaware and by successfully implementing an effective violence prevention model into their summer camp program. 

Kay Brennan

Call 215-765-3771 for Peaceful Posse Training Information

### PHYSICIAN ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE OCTOBER 7, 2005

The Physician Advocacy Fellowship provides support to doctors who want to develop their policy and advocacy skills by partnering with an advocacy organization on project that they design jointly.

#### Fellows will:

- Design and implement an advocacy project to improve health and service delivery;
- Address social issues such as racism, violence, healthcare access, and environmental hazards which adversely affect health and health care delivery;
- Develop or strengthen their advocacy skills through collaboration with a partner advocacy organization.

*The Fellowship supports 50% of a fellow's time for 12 to 24 months, and is open to physicians nationwide.*

Additional information, including a list of past fellows, and application information, is available at [http://www.cmap.columbia.edu/research\\_fellowship.shtml](http://www.cmap.columbia.edu/research_fellowship.shtml). Note the deadline for short proposals is October 7th!