

December 12, 2008

Dear Students:

On behalf of the Association of Schools of Public Health, we write to encourage upcoming graduates to register for the National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) Certification in Public Health exam. The exam, which will be offered for the second time in August 2009, was developed for the purpose of providing a "Certified in Public Health" credential. According to a recent article in the Washington Post,¹ public health is a "hot" field with the number of both undergraduate and graduate schools and graduates increasing substantially.

As interest in public health grows, we are in a unique position to help our field achieve full professional status. We are also at an important time in our history as large numbers of public health professionals are expected to retire in the next few years and it appears we have insufficient numbers of fully qualified people to replace them. This new credential will provide you with a wonderful way to distinguish yourself as a graduate of an accredited school of public health or program, fully prepared to address the many challenges that will face public health in the coming months, years and decades. As the organization representing all of the accredited schools of public health, ASPH is committed to working with employer organizations across the country to help them recognize the value of CPH accredited professionals to their organization. And, as a member of the last health profession without a credential, you can help the field raise its profile by earning the CPH and displaying it proudly.

Our joint commitment to strengthening our field through a CPH credential is vital to its success. This examination is open only to graduates of accredited schools and programs of public health. The exam was offered for the first time in August 2008. Over 700 professionals sat for the first exam and the preliminary data demonstrates that the exam performed very well. More details about the Board and the examination can be found at www.nbphe.org. Study materials for the examination are available and information on how to obtain them can also be found at www.nbphe.org.

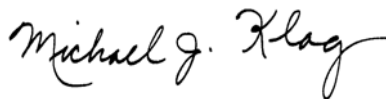
By participating in this examination, you will help improve the quality of the public health workforce and define the future of public health practice.

Thanks for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Linda Rosenstock, MD, MPH
Chair, ASPH Board of Directors
Dean
UCLA School of Public Health



Michael J. Klag, MD, MPH
Chair-Elect, ASPH Board of Directors
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Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

ASPH

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¹ "For a Global Generation, Public Health is a Hot Field." *Washington Post*. 19 September 2008. A01.