



City and County of San Francisco  
Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

## San Francisco Department of Public Health

Barbara A. Garcia, MPA  
Director of Health

### Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of

October 7, 2014

*A current overview of issues affecting the state of public health in San Francisco*

<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

#### **Early Independence Award**

On September 30, 2014, one of the researchers in the Population Health Division (PHD) Center for Public Health Research, Milo Santos, was awarded the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director's Early Independence Award. This is a highly competitive & coveted award that supports exceptional, early career scientists directly following the completion of their Ph.D. (or equivalent) or M.D. (or equivalent) training into an independent academic research position, thereby omitting the traditional post-doctoral training period from their career path.

What identified Milo for the award was the development of a proposal for a grant aimed to expand interventions for binge-drinking men who have sex with men (MSM) at high risk for acquiring or transmitting HIV. In particular, a 5-year study will evaluate the efficacy of taking a medication on an as-needed basis to reduce binge-drinking and alcohol-associated sexual risk behaviors among MSM.

Binge drinking accounts for more than half of the 80,000 annual deaths attributed to excessive alcohol consumption. It is by far the most prevalent exposure attributed to HIV infections among MSM. Thus, effective interventions to reduce binge drinking among MSM may function as an important HIV prevention intervention by reducing alcohol-related sexual risk behaviors.

Per Milo's proposal, oral naltrexone is a low-cost FDA-approved medication for alcohol dependence with few toxicities. The standard daily regimen for oral naltrexone hampers compliance and alternate regimen schedules have been proposed to increase effectiveness of the drug and expand the population that may benefit from this pharmacologic intervention.

This will be the first study to evaluate the efficacy of targeted naltrexone among binge-drinking MSM. It will also be the first trial aimed at reducing associated HIV risk behaviors.

#### **Grant Awarded to Expand Prescribing of Take-Home Naloxone**

The Substance Use Research Unit has been awarded a one-year grant from the California Healthcare Foundation to pilot an intervention to increase the prescription of naloxone for opioid overdose prevention among primary care providers' in San Francisco. The team will be testing

academic detailing, a one-on-one educational approach based on the precepts of pharmaceutical detailing.

### **Nurse Manager for MCAH Field Public Health Nursing**

Aline Armstrong has accepted the position of Interim Nurse Manager in Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH). In this position, Aline will provide leadership and management of the MCAH Field Public Health Nursing (PHN); Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); and Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) programs. Diane Beetham, who has been Nurse Manager of the MCAH Field PHN program, will turn her full attention to managing the Nurse Family Partnership Program and to being SF Director of Public Health Nursing.

Aline Armstrong, RN, MSN, PHN, has a strong background that prepares her for the new position. She is a proven collaborator, having established ties with partners ranging from the Faith-based community to legislators in efforts to support families.

### **Children's Health Center interim Nurse Manager**

Olga Ivanco has been named the Interim Nurse Manager for the SFGH Children's Health Center (CHC). This appointment took effect Monday, September 29, 2014. Ms. Ivanco is currently the nurse manager for the Family Health Center (FHC) and will continue in that role for the duration of this appointment.

As the CHC Interim Nurse Manager, Ms. Ivanco will oversee nursing and front desk operations and personnel management. Please join the Children's Health Center and the SFHN Primary Care Leadership Team in welcoming Olga to her new role.