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**GLOBAL COMPETENCIES FOR HEALTH PROMOTION SPECIALISTS
BEING EXPLORED IN CONSENSUS CONFERENCE**

On June 17-19, 2008, some 40 leaders with expertise in competency-based and accreditation movements in global public health and population health will gather in Galway, Ireland, for a Consensus Conference on core competencies and accreditation in the professional preparation of health promotion and health education specialists.

The conference, the first of its kind, is being chaired by International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) Global Vice-President for Capacity-Building, Education & Training, Margaret Barry (National University of Ireland), and Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) Past President John Allegrante (Columbia University), who co-chaired the U.S. National Task Force on Accreditation in Health Education from 2001-03. It will also address the development and implementation of individual credentialing systems, and will consider the issues and optimal mechanisms for developing individual and institutional-based credentialing across countries and continents.

Both the Conference Proceedings and Consensus Report will be published following the meeting. The series of papers will outline the position of participating experts on core competencies, principles of accreditation, and continuing professional development in health promotion and health education, and recommendations that can be disseminated globally.

This meeting builds on symposia at the 18th and 19th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Education, which showcased significant efforts underway in Australia, Europe and North America to promote quality assurance in the training of health promotion and health education professionals. Despite distinct differences in professional preparation and credentialing of such professionals, these

transcontinental quality-assurance efforts share common goals: 1) to protect the public by establishing and assuring a minimum acceptable standard of quality and performance for professionals working in population health; 2) to improve or strengthen institutions and programs of professional preparation through systems of peer external review; and 3) to promote continued professional development of the workforce.

In addition to IUHPE and SOPHE, participating organizations include the American Association for Health Education, Australian Association for Health Promotion, Council on Education for Public Health, National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Public Health Agency of Canada, and the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health.

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