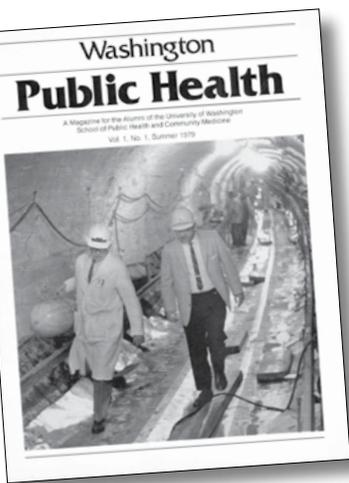


Northwest Public Health at 30: A journal connecting academia & practice

By Katherine J. Hall



First issue of Northwest Public Health, as Washington Public Health, a journal for the School of Public Health alumni, in 1979.

The journal *Northwest Public Health* has been connecting the academic and practice communities since 1979.

In the past decade as a regional, peer-reviewed journal—and two previous decades as *Washington Public Health*, a statewide magazine—the journal has had a distinguished history. It has earned regional and national awards, including the grand award for print magazines and journals in the 2007 APEX awards for publication excellence (for the fall/winter 2006 issue) and a regional award in 2010 from the Society for Technical Communication.

The magazine's original purpose was to communicate the School of Public Health's activities to its alumni, the community, schools of public health throughout the country, and the many groups interested in public health.

Its second issue, in 1980, celebrated the School's new Extended Degree Program, which allowed practicing professionals to continue their jobs while earning their degrees.

In its 1991 issue, the magazine announced the creation of the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice, which would focus on training, both in basic skills and on new technologies and emerging public health topics. In 1993, Washington Public Health became a joint publication of the UW and Washington's new Department of Health.

The 1995 issue celebrated the 25th anniversary of the UW School of Public Health and looked back on "25 Years of Challenges in Public Health." Dean Gil Omenn and State Health Officer Mimi Fields wrote:

During these 25 years, vaccines, antibiotics, sophisticated diagnostic/screening tests, and new technologies and therapies have created unprecedented opportunities not just to treat sick patients, but to conquer diseases and improve the health status of populations.

In 1999, the new dean, Patricia Wahl, unveiled her strategic planning initiative, which included the transition of *Washington Public Health* into a regional journal. It would be published twice a year. Its editorial board expanded to a more diverse representation from the academic and practice communities in the six-state region, and 33 peer reviewers were recruited.

In 2001, a new team of Aaron Katz and Judith Yarrow launched the inaugural issue of *Northwest Public Health*. The theme of the first issue was public health workforce development and used archival public health photos to recognize and honor the traditions and history of public health. The journal also went online with that issue, under the umbrella of the Health Sciences Library's *Healthlinks*.

In 2008, Susan Allan replaced Katz as editor-in-chief and the journal's administrative home moved to the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice. Katherine Hall replaced Yarrow as managing editor. Their first issue focused on climate change, reflecting seven years of new research and policies.

Today, the journal's purpose is defined as:

A biannual forum for practitioners, teachers, researchers, and policy makers in public health to exchange ideas, describe innovations, and discuss current issues.

With the addition of an interactive Web forum, the journal is evolving into a vehicle for two-way communication among the academic and practice communities. ■

Author

Katherine J. Hall, PhD, has been managing editor of *Northwest Public Health* since 2008. Her predecessors, Judith Yarrow and Sandy Marvinney, contributed to this article.

Along bottom, Washington Public Health article about NWCPHP's creation and Northwest Public Health issues from 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010.

