

American School Health Association Update

ASHA is Coming to California!

The annual meeting of the American School Health Association will be held at the Burbank Hilton in Burbank from October 19 - 22, 2005. The theme is Supersize Prevention: Obesity, Diabetes, and Other Critical Health Issues.

On Thursday, morning, Francine R. Kaufman, M.D. an internationally-known authority on diabetes and obesity will present the opening key note address. Dr. Kaufman is the immediate past-president of the American Diabetes Association (2002-2003 term) and is Head of the Center for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism at Children's Hospital Los Angeles plus Professor of Pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California. The author of more than 150 medical articles, she has developed many important clinical innovations and is also a tireless public advocate. She has developed innovative programs for overweight and diabetic children and their families, served for more than twenty years as medical director of a summer camp for diabetic children, and was instrumental in banning the sale of soda in the LA Unified School District. Her many honors include the 2003 Woman of Valor Award from the American Diabetes Association.

Friday's keynote speaker will highlight what schools can do to improve students' health. Dr. Pat Cooper, superintendent of the McComb Mississippi School District. Dr. Cooper is a nationally recognized consultant and lecturer on systemic education reform and comprehensive school health and inclusion issues. Dr. Cooper's initiatives have resulted in documented gains in student attendance, test scores and teacher productivity as well as reducing dropout, suspension and expulsion rates. "Simply providing access to education will not solve anybody's problems if the nation's schools are overwhelmed. We must work together to take action for children's nutrition, fitness and overall health, to create healthy, safe, supportive schools where teachers can teach and children can learn."

ASHA's web site (<http://www.ashaweb.org>) has a generic schedule for the conference, plus registration forms. The site will list individual sessions this summer. If you are interested in school health issues, please plan to join us. If you know of others who might be interested, please let them know of this opportunity. For more information, contact the ASHA national office 800-445-2742; info@ashaweb.org.

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