

# MHCN NETWORK

## news & notes

MOBILE HEALTH CLINICS NETWORK - SUMMER, 2009



*John Brownstein, PhD (left) and Nancy Oriol, MD, both of Harvard University, stand with MHCN Advisory Board Chair Anthony Vavasis, MD, at the MHCN Reception in Las Vegas. Dr. Brownstein is one of the originators of the Google Health Map and Google Mobile Health Map. Drs. Oriol and Vavasis are mainstays on the Mobile Health ROI project. Dressed more formally, the trio made a presentation on the project at the 2009 MHCN Forum (see story, right).*

## 2009 MHCN Forum Hits the Jackpot in Las Vegas

More than 200 representatives from Mobile Health programs across the U.S. traveled to Las Vegas to place their bets on the glittering future of mobile healthcare at the fifth annual Mobile Health Clinics Forum. Held at the Rio Casino and Hotel, April 25-28, the Forum focused on the theme of "The Value of Prevention in Addressing Health Disparities."

Eileen Barsi, Director of Community Benefit at Catholic Healthcare West, was the keynote speaker and provided insight to CHW's mobile programs that outreach to poor and disenfranchised populations. Ms. Barsi is responsible for planning, developing, coordinating, and overseeing community benefit initiatives for CHW, which is based in San Francisco and has forty affiliated hospitals in California, Arizona, and Nevada. Addressing the topic Helping Your Program to Grow: Using Internal & Public Health Data were Barbara Brody, MPH, Director, Center for Community Ophthalmology, UC San Diego and Larry Wolk, MD, Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Youth Clinic. Other featured sessions were presented by the Veterans Administration Office of

Rural Health and the National Association of Community Health Centers. The Forum presented a mini-village of eleven health specialty vehicles and other vendors with allied products and services.

Forum attendees also heard a major announcement from Anthony Vavasis, MD (MHCN Advisory Board Chair) and Nancy Oriol, MD, Dean of Students at Harvard Medical School in Boston, concerning the Mobile Health Map/ROI Calculator Project, a joint partnership of MHCN and HMS, funded by The Boeing Corporation. The goal of this innovative project is to prove the efficacy of mobile healthcare and to (Google) Map all Mobile Health programs throughout the U.S. (See story at right.)

This year's annual Forum co-chairs reflected the nationwide scope of MHCN, and included Linda Hamel, Director, Corporate & Community Outreach, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia; Oscar Arevalo, DDS, ScD, MBA, MS, Chief, Division of Dental Public Health University of Kentucky College of Dentistry, Lexington; Stephen Samuelson, MPA,

*Continued on Page 2.*

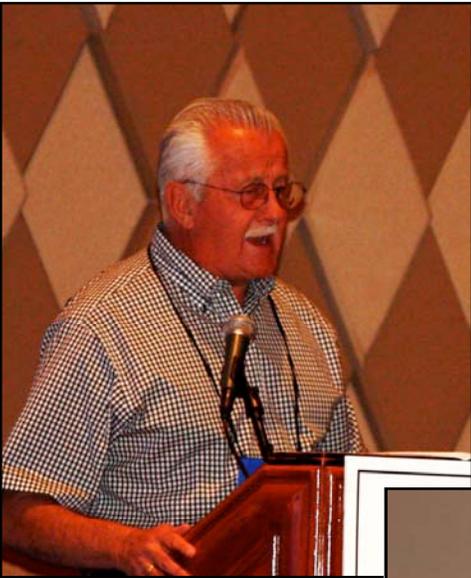
## Launching the Mobile Health (Google) Map & ROI Calculator Project

This ground-breaking project, a joint initiative of MHCN and Harvard Medical School, which took a major step forward earlier this year with funding from The Boeing Corporation, was the subject of a presentation at the 2009 Forum. The project leadership team recently launched the Mobile Health (Google) Map ([www.mobilehealthmap.org](http://www.mobilehealthmap.org)) and are currently beta-testing the corresponding Return on Investment (ROI) Calculator. According to Jennifer Bennet, MHCN Board member and Executive Director of The Family Van in Boston, "soon, members of MHCN will receive an invitation to put their program on the Map." As stated on the website, "More than 2,000 mobile health clinics across the country provide vital preventive health services to some four million visitors each year." A goal of the interactive Mobile Health Map is to identify all Mobile Health programs nationwide (and, in the future, internationally).

The ROI Calculator will demonstrate in a dramatic way the impact that Mobile Health clinics have on local communities and on the nation's health care system. Eventually, through the Map website, mobile clinics will be able to enter information about the services they provide and their operational costs, and calculate the value of their programs in the health care continuum. Preliminary results from the ROI Calculator show that Mobile Health programs provide millions of dollars in savings to the health care system through cost-effective provision of preventive care services. Saving lives while saving money: that's the power of prevention." If you would like to participate as a program beta-tester for the ROI Calculator, contact MHCN at (814) 899-8163; or email [mmaneyMHCN@yahoo.com](mailto:mmaneyMHCN@yahoo.com).

**MHCN RIDDLE:** What's the official sitcom of our organization? MASH (Mobile Armv Suraical Hospital). of course!

# SIGHTS OF LAS VEGAS



*LEFT: The 2009 MHCN Forum may have been in Las Vegas, but rolling the dice on safety was still considered a bad risk. Gary Lewis of RV Basic Training gave an illuminating talk on the safe operating procedures for mobile units. After the session, one participant was heard to remark, "If we had spent the time to have our drivers trained, I bet we'd still have three undented, fully operating health vans on the road, instead of just two."*



*ABOVE: Attendees in Las Vegas were happy to see reliable George Hayes of the Scripps Institute as one of the speakers; and George (along with every other speaker) was happy to have the help of newcomer Melissa Maney (see story, page 3), who skillfully blended in with the MHCN All-Stars to make this Forum a resounding success.*

*RIGHT: Darien DeLorenzo, MHCN CEO, talks with Niel Nathason, MPH, Assistant Dean of the University of Southern California School of Dentistry. Dean Nathason and Susan Nyanzi, DrPH, of the LA Department of Public Health conducted a session on American Dental Schools and mobile units at the 2009 Forum in Las Vegas.*



*Important partners at every MHCN Forum are our exhibitors. On left are Donna Gomez, Ana Guzman-Rojas, MD, and Abby Guiver of the Arizona Foundation for Eye Health in front of their van with Darien DeLorenzo; on right are Melissa Thum and Larry Thum of Thum Insurance Agency. We thank all our exhibitors for their great support of mobile health.*



## MHCNetwork news & notes

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## MOBILE BITS & PIECES

**August** is National Immunization Awareness Month & National Oral Health Month

For a list of important summer meetings, go to:  
<http://mobilehealthclinicsnetwork.org/meetings.html>

### Want to join a local Mobile Health coalition affiliated with MHCN?

Mobile Health Providers Coalition of Chicago

Contact: Steve Samuelson at (773)254-4030; [ssamuelson@mobilecarefoundation.org](mailto:ssamuelson@mobilecarefoundation.org)

Mobile Health Coalition of Greater New Orleans

Contact : Leah Berger at (504) 988-4732; [lberger@tulane.edu](mailto:lberger@tulane.edu)

Mobile Health Coalition of Greater San Diego

Contact : Ernest Saenz at (619) 422-8226; [ernestsaez@trinity.org](mailto:ernestsaez@trinity.org)

Mobile Health Coalition of Northern California

Contact : Darien DeLorenzo (MHCN) at (415) 863-2032; [mobilehealthcare@aol.com](mailto:mobilehealthcare@aol.com)

### Purchasing a health specialty vehicle?

Consider a pre-owned vehicle from an MHCN member. Recent buyers have said:

*"When I started thinking about this I had no idea how to start the process. Working with MHCN made all the difference."* (Brady Reynolds, The Ohio State University)

*"MHCN's help has been invaluable!!"* (Alfreda Turner, Charter Oak Health Center)

*"Those (used) AmeriGroup vans were a God-send; the difference between serving or not; we are thrilled."* (Ed Bartolini, Mobile Medical Ministries)

Check out a current listing of vehicles for sale on the MHCN website at  
<http://mobilehealthclinicsnetwork.org/forsale.html>

### Need vehicle insurance?

Contact: Melissa, Thum Insurance Agency at (616) 957-2400; [melissa@thuminsurance.com](mailto:melissa@thuminsurance.com)

### Funding Resources

**Wal-Mart Foundation:** Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. has three "Giving Programs" for which Mobile Health programs may qualify for funding: Local grants, State/Employee grants, and National grants that are given to national organizations with a strong local, multi-faceted presence on a community level. To learn more, go to: <http://walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving/203.aspx>

**The Safeway Foundation:** Safeway provides funding for local community organizations. They are currently supporting five mobile mammography programs reaching women in rural and under-served areas. To learn more, go to: <http://www.safewayfoundation.org/LLetter.html>

**PG&E Grantmaking Program:** PG&E awards grants from \$1K-25K for environmental and energy sustainability including green efficiency programs and projects to reduce air pollution and increase clean air transportation options. For MHCN members wanting to operate "green friendly" vehicles this may be an opportunity (think alternative fuel options and roof-top solar panels). The deadline is October 2, 2009. To learn more, go to <http://www.pge.com/about/community/contributions/>

## 2010 Forum in Fall

The 2010 Annual Forum is moving to the Fall next year, at a site to be determined. "We are leaning toward New Orleans, St. Louis, or Indianapolis," said MHCN Executive Director, Darien DeLorenzo. "By hosting the Forum in the middle segment of the country we will make the Forum accessible to many more programs and vendors who wish to participate," says Darien. Information will soon be emailed to all MHCN members and posted on the website [www.mobilehealthclinicsnetwork.org](http://www.mobilehealthclinicsnetwork.org)

## Las Vegas Forum

*Continued from Page 1* Executive Director, Mobile C.A.R.E. Foundation, Chicago; and Kathy Ficco, RN, Executive Director, St. Joseph Community Health Clinics & Programs, Santa Rosa, CA. Jorge Valdez-Garcia, General Director, Health Planning & Development, Health Ministry of Mexico served as the International Co-Chair.

Nevada's two U.S. Senators, Harry Reid (D) and John Ensign (R), sent representatives to attend the Forum and learn about the issues of Mobile Health in America, showing how interested many politicians are in this vital service. MHCN presented its annual Healthcare Leadership awards to both Senators in recognition of their support for increasing access to healthcare through mobile clinics.

## MHCN Adds Two Staffers



The rapid growth of MHCN and plans for expanded services to meet the needs of association members has caused the Network to expand our staff. At the 2009 Forum, Melissa Maney (see photo, left) provided expert executive assistance, but her value was shown earlier, in the planning process. As Melissa proved to be so resourceful and competent, she will continue as MHCN Program Manager including overseeing logistics for the Annual Forum and interfacing with MHCN members involved with the Mobile Health Map/ROI Project. Ms. Maney previously worked in southwest Arizona for the Yuma County Superintendent's Office, and in Massachusetts for the Department of Economics at MIT. A well traveled woman, Melissa is obviously meant for the Mobile Health Clinics Network staff! She can be reached at (814) 899-8163 or [mmaneyMHCN@yahoo.com](mailto:mmaneyMHCN@yahoo.com)

Our second new staff member is Brian Quinn, MA, (see photo, right) formerly the Vice-President of the NY-based Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, and a frequent speaker at MHCN Forums. Brian, who also teaches writing at St. John's University, will become the MHCN Director of Education and Communications on January 1, 2010. Currently, Brian is graciously volunteering his time to coordinate the creation of the MHCN Manual for Starting-Up a Mobile Program ("Mobile Health for Smarties," he calls it), expand MHCN advocacy efforts, participate on the Map/ROI project, and oversee the strategic development of new member benefits (including serving as Editor of the new MHCNetwork News). Brian can be reached at (516) 536-5596, (516) 503-7062 (cell), or [brianquinnMHCN@gmail.com](mailto:brianquinnMHCN@gmail.com). Feel free to send him ideas for the newsletter or the manual.

