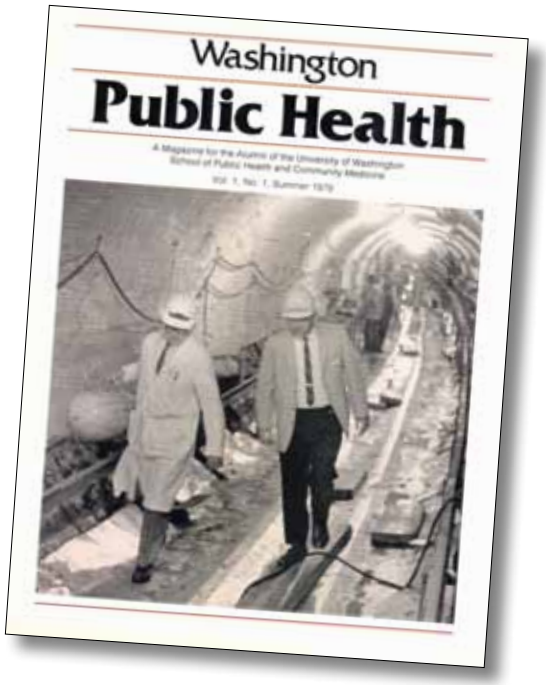
Northwest Public Health at 30:

A journal connecting academia and practice



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* is new to the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice (NWCPHP), but it has been connecting the academic and practice communities since 1979.

NWCPHP took on responsibility for producing *Northwest Public Health*, the journal of the University of Washington School of Public Health, in 2008. The journal has had a distinguished history in the past decade as a peer-reviewed journal – and two previous decades as *Washington Public Health*. It has earned regional and national awards, including the grand award for print magazines and journals in the 2007 APEX awards for publication excellence, a 2009 APEX Award of Excellence, and a distinguished award in the 2009 regional publication competition from the Society for Technical Communication.

The publication's original purpose was to communicate the School's activities to alumni, the community, schools of public health, and the many groups interested in public health.

Its content mirrors the evolution of the field. In 1990, Mark Oberle, assistant dean for public health practice, wrote about increased linkages between the practice and academic communities:

"Despite limited financial resources, the future of public health lies in our ability to bring together the academic and practice communities to prepare the next generation of public health leaders."

In its 1991 issue, the magazine announced the creation of NWCPHP, which would focus on training. 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 at "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 SPH dean, Patricia Wahl, celebrated the School's 30th anniversary and unveiled her strategic planning initiative. Part of that initiative was the transition of *Washington Public Health* into a regional journal, 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, Aaron Katz became editor-in-chief and Judith Yarrow becane managing editor, launching the inaugural issue of *Northwest Public Health*. The journal also went online, under the umbrella of the Health Sciences Library's Healthlinks.

In 2008, Susan Allan replaced Katz and the journal's administrative home moved to NWCPHP. Katherine Hall replaced Yarrow. Today, the journal is a biannual forum for practitioners, teachers, researchers, and policy makers in public health to exchange ideas, describe innovations, and discuss current issues.

2009 Awards:

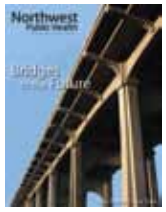
Fall/Winter 2008 issue:

APEX Award of Excellence

"Distinguished" in the 2009 Society for Technical Communications regional publication competition

Fall/Winter 2009 issue:

"Distinguished" in the 2009 Society for Technical Communications regional publication competition



At far left, *Washington Public Health* article about NWCPHP's creation; at left, 1995 issue of *Washington Public Health* celebrating SPH's 25th Anniversary; above, Fall/Winter 2008 and Fall/Winter 2009 issues of *Northwest Public Health* - the first two issues produced by NWCPHP.