

Cultivate

Newsletter of the National Farm Medicine Center

Summer 2006

Our Mission

"To conduct high quality research addressing human health and safety associated with rural and agricultural work, life and environments."



History book published

Marshfield Clinic Physician Joseph Mazza, M.D., MACP, authored a text titled, "Promoting Agriculture Health and Safety: A History of the National Farm Medicine Center." The hardcover book includes more than 50 color photographs. It provides insight into the NFMC, including events leading up to its creation in 1981. Copies are available by contacting the NFMC at 800-662-6900 or nfmcsh@mcrf.mfldclin.edu. There is a suggested donation of \$10 to benefit the Dean A. Emanuel Chair for Agricultural Research.

NFMC celebrates 25 years

Anniversary activities mark quarter-century as one of the nation's most successful agricultural health and safety research centers



Orion Samuelson, a National Radio Hall of Fame broadcaster, congratulated the National Farm Medicine Center on its 25-year anniversary during the celebration on April 27 at Marshfield Clinic. Samuelson taped the message at the studio of his weekly television show, "This Week in Agribusiness."

The National Farm Medicine Center (NFMC) this year celebrates 25 years of addressing human health and safety associated with agricultural work, life and environments.

More than 200 people attended the centerpiece event of the year-long celebration, on April 27, 2006, at Marshfield Clinic. Past and present NFMC administrators and staff, members of the agricultural community, community and government leadership, and Marshfield Clinic physicians, scientists and staff, gathered to pay tribute and renew acquaintances.

NFMC Medical Director Steve Kirkhorn, M.D., M.P.H., acknowledged the audience for its "vision and dedication in helping to establish and grow the National Farm Medicine Center over the past 25 years."

Special recognition was paid to Dean Emanuel, M.D., NFMC director emeritus, whose research in farmer's lung disease laid the groundwork for the NFMC.

Keynote speaker Orion Samuelson, a National Radio Hall of Fame broadcaster and longtime friend of the NFMC, shared remarks via videotape. Samuelson noted the changes that have affected agriculture and delivery of health care in rural America: "Thank you for expending the time, and the dollars, because it

 National Farm Medicine Center.


MARSHFIELD CLINIC.
Research Foundation

Continued on page 4


NFMC timeline

1959 First federal grant awarded to Marshfield Clinic from National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study farmer's lung disease



1960s Work continues on farmer's lung disease; research expands into new areas including organic dust toxic syndrome and maple bark disease

1972 Awarded National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant for Marshfield's Specialized Center of Research (SCOR) to study pulmonary response to organic dust exposures; this multi-year grant would be renewed three times, until 1992



1979-1980 Task force formed to review agriculture-related medical problems as seen by Marshfield Clinic physicians, leading to a feasibility study committee and formal recommendations to establish a farm medicine center

1981 National Farm Medicine Center is formed as a program of Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation

Farm accident rescue training programs are initiated



1982 First Auction of Champions fundraising event generates \$11,000 for NFMC

1983 NFMC begins health screenings at annual Wisconsin Farm Progress Days

Ag Day, a television education program featuring 22 health topics, is developed and distributed to 70 national TV networks

1984 *AgriHealth*, a five-part video education curriculum, is developed and disseminated nationally to high school agriculture teachers

1985 *Today's Farm Health* radio series, with promotion statements by actor Eddie Albert, is broadcasted by more than 200 radio networks nationwide



1987 Emergency room-based farm injury surveillance and noise exposure in agriculture pilot study initiated

NFMC receives National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) contracts to develop data collection tools for farm injuries and farm chemical exposure

1988 *The Country Doctor* medical advice column is featured in monthly farm magazines

First NFMC environmental health project is funded by Amoco Corporation to address leaking underground fuel storage on farms

1989 NFMC receives funding from NIOSH for comprehensive, population-based farm injury surveillance

NFMC hosts Midwest Conference for Farmers with Disabilities in Stevens Point, Wisconsin


1990 NFMC is awarded NIOSH grant for Wisconsin Farmers Cancer Control Program

NFMC releases *A Guide to Tractor Roll Bars and Other Rollover Protective Structures*

1991 NFMC is designated a NIOSH Center for Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, Education, and Prevention, involving many projects and external collaborations

Farmers Caps and Hats research leads to national media coverage for Marshfield Clinic

1992 National Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Symposium convenes in Marshfield, Wisconsin



NFMC is named one of 10 Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian Cancer Screening Centers funded by National Cancer Institute (NCI)

NFMC is funded by Federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau as a Children's Safety Network-Rural Center.

1993 Environmental Health Laboratory established, with research emphasis on pathogen virulence and infectious disease



1994 NFMC receives funding from NIOSH for Upper Midwest Health Study



1995 NFMC hosts Midwest Seminar for Health Care Providers: Common Rural and Agricultural Health Problems, Madison, Wisconsin

1996 NFMC leads national committee that develops *National Action Plan for Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention*, adopted and funded by the U.S. Congress



1997 NFMC is designated by NIOSH as National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, involving multiple projects and external collaborations

Reproductive Toxicology Lab established, with emphasis on determining adverse effects of agricultural chemical exposures on human reproduction

1998 NFMC receives NIOSH grant to study children's agricultural work guidelines for relevance, applicability and effectiveness



1999 North American Guidelines for Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT) are disseminated nationally, including on a dedicated Web site

NFMC receives funding from NCI to research the molecular epidemiology of prostate carcinogenesis.

2000 NFMC leads the National Adolescent Farmworker Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee and publishes recommendations in 2001

NFMC is awarded a NIOSH grant to assess potential injury prevention impact of NAGCAT using a case series design

2001 NFMC hosts National Summit on Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention and publishes results in 2002



2002 NFMC is funded by NIOSH to study whether a modification of federal child labor laws could reduce injuries to children on family farms



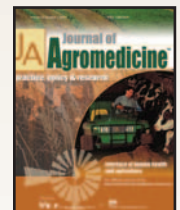
2003 NFMC publishes *Creating Safe Play Areas on Farms*, the first comprehensive guidelines for designing and building a play area in a farm setting

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awards NFMC a STAR grant to estimate the burden of acute childhood illnesses attributable to drinking water

2004 NFMC releases *Benchmarking Report: Hiring and Safety Practices for Adolescent Workers in Agriculture*

First national Journalists Workshop convenes to expand and enhance media reporting of agricultural health and safety issues

2005 NFMC assumes editorship of the *Journal of Agromedicine*, a peer-reviewed, National Library of Medicine-indexed quarterly journal



2006 NFMC hosts annual National Institute for Farm Safety conference in Sheboygan, Wisconsin



NFMC celebrates 25 years (continued)

takes both, the technology and research, to build an organization that is now recognized nationally as the headquarters for dealing with farm medical problems."

NFMC Director Barbara Lee, Ph.D., highlighted NFMC's history, recognizing past NFMC medical directors Edward Horvath, M.D.; Dr. Emanuel; the late Dean Stueland, M.D., M.P.H.; and Dr. Kirkhorn. She also acknowledged past NFMC directors, including Robert Intress, Ph.D.; Paul Gunderson, Ph.D.; and Steve Olenchock, Ph.D.

"We can't help but be impressed with the foresight and commitment of the trailblazers who helped establish the National Farm Medicine Center," Dr. Lee said. "We're extremely proud of our heritage and we hope to continue to meet the challenges and expectations set forth for us all 25 years ago."

The event featured 11 video testimonials from farmers, Auction of Champions supporters, farm rescue personnel, and leaders and clinicians from Marshfield Clinic. In addition, Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey and United States Senator Herb Kohl extended their congratulations via video.

"I can only express my profound gratitude to those who were involved in the establishment of this remarkable institution: Thomas Swenson, William Schorr, Einard Haniuk, Richard Sautter, Mary Treuhart, and Dean Emanuel. It is tribute to their vision and their humanity that the National Farm Medicine Center is what it is today."

– **Edward Horvath**, first NFMC medical director (1981-1985); staff physician, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio.

"The NFMC, part of Marshfield Clinic and its research foundation, this year is celebrating 25 years of work toward improving rural health and safety. It's time to thank the center's staff and those who had the foresight to see a need for the center's work. People across the countryside can best celebrate the NFMC staff's work by taking safety issues seriously and then putting to work the safety recommendations so often coming out of the NFMC."

– **Scott Schultz**, managing editor, "The Country Today."

Faces in the crowd - anniversary celebration, April 27, 2006



NFMC Director Barbara Lee, Ph.D., thanked local farm families and businesses that support NFMC projects.



Dean Emanuel, M.D., whose research on farmer's lung disease laid the foundation for the Farm Center during the 1960s, spoke at the event.



Bob Intress, Ph.D., former NFMC administrative director (1986-1991), described early initiatives.

Marlene Stueland presented Paul Gunderson, Ph.D., with the 2006 Stueland Scholar award. Dr. Gunderson, former director of the NFMC and Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, gave a lecture in the afternoon prior to the April 27 celebration.



NFMC Medical Director Steve Kirkhorn, M.D., M.P.H., acknowledged the NFMC founders' vision.