
Dr. Fryhofer has served on various committees and panels for the CDC, Institute of Medicine (IOM), and other organizations, addressing topics such as breast and cervical cancer screening, STD guidelines, folic acid, racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare, challenges facing the uninsured, women’s health issues, and obesity. She is a member of the ACP Adult Immunization Advisory Board and has testified and lectured about vaccines, including the new cervical cancer vaccine, the new shingles vaccine, as well as flu vaccine concerns. She has been a member of the Woman’s Day Magazine Health and Fitness Advisory Board since 1998 and wrote a weekly health blog for Woman’s Day website called “ON CALL with Dr. Sandy” from June 2007 to March 2009. She currently has videoblog and podcast series featured on WebMD’s Medscape called “Medicine Matters.”

One of Dr. Fryhofer’s most impressive achievements is her 2000 to 2001 tenure as president of the American College of Physicians, the nation’s largest medical specialty society. She was only the second woman to be elected president and was the youngest president, male or female, in the college’s 85-year history. During her tenure on the ACP Board of Regents, she chaired the Committee on Women’s Health and was an active member of the Education Committee. She was national spokesperson for the Doctors for Adults Public Education Campaign. Additionally, she is a current member of the ACP Delegation to the American Medical Association and serves on the AMA Council on Science and Public Health.

To Dr. Fryhofer, her professional and community commitments are simply an extension of what it means to be a doctor. A simple statement on her web site characterizes her philosophy best: “Our medical practice is all about you and your well-being...because your health matters.” She says that her patient practice focuses on prevention. “I encourage healthy lifestyles and I personally practice what I preach. My children have followed my example. Their strong athletic interests are proof of their interest in exercise.”

Throughout her remarkable career, Dr. Fryhofer has also been a star in the role of wife and mother. She and her husband George William Fryhofer III, who is an attorney, met while she was in her second year of medical school. The couple married eleven months later, and they are the parents of boy/girl twins. Both children were varsity athletes in high school and are now college athletes. Daughter Sandra Lynne is the starting middle blocker on the Harvard Volleyball team, and son George rowed in the top freshmen lightweight 8-man boat at Harvard.

Living by example and believing in herself are mantras that Dr. Fryhofer has embraced since she first dreamed of being a physician. Overcoming obstacles both imagined and real have made her an inspirational leader in the medical community and to the countless people she has reached through public engagements, television, and the Internet.

---

PhD Student Kate Cerully Selected for NASA Summer Program in Airborne Science

Most children have dreamed of traveling into outer space. Adults and children alike tour NASA every year, and thousands of enthusiasts gather to watch shuttle launches. Although everyone is familiar with the space program, many do not realize the additional areas in which NASA conducts research. One of those areas includes collecting data on Earth’s oceans, climate, and other features. As part of NASA’s Earth science research division, NASA sponsors the Student Airborne Research Program designed to immerse students in NASA’s Earth science research through the use of ground measurements, aircraft, and satellite-data collection.

Kate Cerully, a second-year PhD student, had the opportunity of a lifetime this past summer when she was selected as one of 29 participants in the 2009 program. Kate is working towards a doctoral degree in chemical engineering with a minor in earth and atmospheric sciences (EAS), so her research meshes perfectly with the program. Her advisor is professor Athanasios Nenes, who shares a joint appointment in ChBE and EAS.

The program began with lectures at the University of California, Irvine, given by university faculty members, research institutions, and NASA scientists. Among those who spoke was Sherwood Rowland of the University of California, Irvine, a Nobel Laureate in chemistry and a long-time user of NASA’s DC-8 airborne laboratory’s capabilities for his research on atmospheric chemistry.

Using the DC-8 flying laboratory based at NASA’s Dryden Aircraft Operations Facility in Palmdale, Calif., Kate, along with the other undergraduate and graduate students, received a rare behind-the-scene look at instrument integration, flight planning, and payload testing that is the basis of every successful Earth science airborne campaign carried out by NASA. These airborne research campaigns play a pivotal role in the calibration and validation of NASA’s space-borne Earth observations, remote sensing measurements, and high-resolution imagery for Earth system science.

Kate, who grew up in Altoona, Pennsylvania, received her undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. She selected Georgia Tech primarily for the variety of research conducted in ChBE. She has a strong interest in sustainability and is concerned about “making a positive impact on the way we deal with the natural elements around us.” When she found Dr. Nenes, she knew that his research program “fit her to a T.” Kate’s research focuses on investigating and characterizing the link between aerosol volatility, cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) activity, and droplet growth kinetics. Her research will provide much-needed constraints for global modeling studies of aerosol-cloud interactions, which is necessary to better understand the indirect effects of aerosols on climate change.

The program is one of NASA’s tools that can assist with the development and testing of new instruments and future satellite mission concepts. The program’s goal is to stimulate interest in NASA’s Earth science research and aid in recruitment of the next generation of engineers and scientists. The Student Airborne Research Program is managed through the National Suborbital Education and Research Center (NSERC) at the University of North Dakota, with funding and support from NASA’s Airborne Science Program. The NSERC was established through a cooperative agreement between the University of North Dakota and NASA.