

Paul Ambrose, MD, MPH

On September 11, 2001 the medical community lost Paul Ambrose, MD, MPH, a young leader in the field of preventive medicine and public health. At the time of his death, Dr. Ambrose was the APTR (formerly the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine)/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) L. Terry Senior Fellow. This position is among the highest honors bestowed by APTR, and one befitting of the intelligence, commitment, and energy he brought to it. The position was established to provide ODPHP with clinical research and technical expertise in order to support the Department's preventive services goals. This fellowship provides a critical link between ODPHP and the medical community and offers a valuable experience for clinicians in health policy development.



While Paul was a remarkable achiever who accomplished many things, what distinguished him was the joyful ride he took others on in the course of his projects and efforts. In his quest to make meaningful things happen, Paul didn't just get results—he forged relationships, touched people deeply and built a wide community. He leaves a powerful and far-reaching legacy as a consequence.

During his Luther Terry Fellowship, Paul worked closely with Dr. David Satcher, then U.S. Surgeon General on the Surgeon General's Call to Action on Overweight and Obesity and the Surgeon General's Public Health Leadership Symposium. Paul was one of the principle authors of the Call to Action, where he combined information from recent overweight and obesity activities and identified high-yield areas of activity for the development of a National Action Plan on Overweight and Obesity. Paul also co-authored several articles. An article describing the public health importance of achieving the Healthy People 2010 targets of the Leading Health Indicators was published as an editorial in the March 2001 issues of *Postgraduate Medicine*. An article on the Leading Health Indicators was prepared for publication in *MS-JAMA*, the medical student section of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Paul also worked on preparation of a general article about the true health status of Americans as compared with the commonly held perceptions about health in the United States and was in the midst of preparing an article examining the utility of the Leading Health Indicators in managed care settings.

Dr. Ambrose received his undergraduate degree from Marshall University and his medical degree from Marshall University's School of Medicine in 1995. During medical school, Paul participated in the Washington Health Policy Fellowship Program offered by the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), which brings 15 students to Capitol Hill each summer to work on policy issues. During this fellowship, Paul spent a year in Spain examining the differences between U.S. and Spanish primary health care systems.

During Paul's fourth year of medical school, he accepted a one year position with the national office of AMSA as the Legislative Affairs Director.

Paul started his residency at Dartmouth University in family practice during which he was appointed a three-year term in 1996 on the Council on Graduate Medical Education (COGME), an advisory council to the U.S. Congress on residency training and physician workforce needs. At the conclusion of his residency, Paul studied health policy and public health at Harvard University where he received his MPH.