

## The APHA Task Force on Aging

October 2003

In 2001 the APHA Executive Board mandated the establishment of a Task Force on Aging. This Task Force will guide the Association's efforts to develop a strategic and coordinated public health approach to individual and population aging, which can serve as the basis for a healthy aging policy for the Nation. Aims of the Task Force on Aging are to:

- 1) Raise awareness and promote education about aging within the American Public Health Association and in the public health community.
- 2) Recommend ways to improve the public health infrastructure in the context of aging.
- 3) Develop and advocate for public policies that will improve the health and well being of the aging population throughout the world.

Gerontological Health Section members on the APHA Task Force on Aging include Richard Fortinsky (Co-Chair), Allan Goldman, Nancy Persily, and Terrie Wetle. Faye Wong, Past President of APHA, is the other Co-Chair of this Task Force.

During 2002, the Task Force on Aging developed the attached document, "Scope of Public Health and Aging." This document organizes a number of important issues regarding public health and aging that the Task Force on Aging plans to address in the coming years. Task Force members welcome your feedback to this document in any of the following forms:

- Provide scientific evidence to support or modify any specific issue included in this document, based on your own professional work or your knowledge of published evidence;
- Volunteer to assist the Task Force in the assembly of scientific evidence, advocacy, or other forms of social action in support of any specific issue;
- Provide constructive advice on how the Task Force might address any specific issue in this document, either as an APHA-only initiative, or in collaboration with other organizations actively involved in promoting a healthy aging population.

Please send your feedback to Richard Fortinsky, Ph.D., via e-mail at: [Fortinsky@nsol.uchc.edu](mailto:Fortinsky@nsol.uchc.edu).

Thank you for your participation in this exciting initiative.