The Alzheimer’s Association will have a booth at the largest national gathering of public health professionals, the APHA Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held in the Washington DC Convention Center, from October 29th to November 2nd. If you are attending, please drop by our booth! We will feature information for physicians, public health professionals, and those interested in Alzheimer’s policy. Look for us in the Exhibition Hall, booth 4130, just before you reach the poster session. See you there!

Alzheimer’s Association Presentations at APHA

The APHA meeting also serves as a venue to highlight the work and research conducted by Alzheimer’s Association staff and collaborators.

Liz Shwarte, a partner from the California Alzheimer’s State Plan Task Force, will discuss the experience of the Task Force in creating and implementing the state's plan for addressing Alzheimer’s disease from a public health perspective. The three year project involved extensive public input, financial planning, advocacy, and coordination of policy advisors and legislators. Their efforts were successful with the passage of the California State Plan for Alzheimer’s Disease, a 10-year policy roadmap released in March 2011. The presentation will offer strategies for building the necessary support for and funding of viable state plans that address the needs of the Alzheimer’s community. (APHA #247847)

Eighteen other states have joined California in enacting
state Alzheimer's plans, many with specific public health recommendations. Staff from the Alzheimer's Association public policy office will present an analysis of the key trends emerging in recent state actions and policies. Using specific states as case studies, this presentation will summarize states’ priorities and specifically focus on the level and extent of authority, process, use of data, and outcomes in the state plans. The analysis aims to improve future state plan development, as well as to aid Alzheimer’s related public health campaigns and activities. (APHA #247294)

Erin Bouldin, a research collaborator from the University of Florida, will present a study on the characteristics of Alzheimer’s caregivers. Using data from the Caregiving Module of the 2009 Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey conducted by state health entities in coordination with the CDC, this presentation examines the caregiving experiences, demographic factors, and health behaviors of those who provide Alzheimer's or dementia care. Consistent with previous findings, this study shows that Alzheimer's caregivers experience a higher caregiving burden than other types of caregivers. Recommendations from this study include increased use of the BRFSS Caregiving Module to fully assess the needs of Alzheimer's caregivers, which may help develop targeted interventions to reduce stress and prevent health problems. (APHA #247277)