

# NEWS

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## **World Water Day Marks the Start of New Partnership on Water and Health**

### **American Public Health Association and Institute for Public Health and Water Research Forge Alliance**

*Washington, D.C., March 20, 2009* – The American Public Health Association (APHA) and the Institute for Public Health and Water Research (IPWR) today announced a new partnership focused on water and its importance to protecting health, in time for World Water Day on March 22.

Through the partnership, APHA and IPWR pledge to mutually support each other's efforts on the critical issue of water and its impact on and relationship to public health in the United States and throughout the world. APHA and IPWR also plan to find resources to enable the appointment of a joint Washington, D.C.-based water policy fellow, who will provide a dedicated public policy focus on the issue of water and health.

"Central to IPWR's efforts has been the push for widespread adoption of the idea that water, human health and environmental health are all very closely intertwined," said Jennie Ward-Robinson, Ph.D., executive director of IPWR. "By joining forces with APHA, we will be reaching a broad and diverse community of public health professionals to elevate the conceptual link between water and public health, promote advocacy for quality drinking water and advance health as a factor in regulatory decisions globally."

"APHA is very excited to enter into this partnership," said Georges Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (E), executive director of APHA. "With this year's upcoming APHA Annual Meeting themed "water and public health," we see great synergy between our efforts and those of IPWR. Together we can strengthen efforts to educate the public about water and health as well as elevate the caliber of research on this critical issue."

IPWR ([www.ipwr.org](http://www.ipwr.org)) is a not-for-profit, independent science and education organization, and seeks to improve public health through the consumption of quality drinking water. APHA ([www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org)) is the oldest and largest organization of health professionals in the world and has been working to improve public health since 1872.

World Water Day ([www.worldwaterday.org](http://www.worldwaterday.org)), which grew out of the 1992 U.N. Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, has as its 2009 theme "transboundary waters: sharing water and sharing opportunities."

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