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**New Staff at the Tobacco
Dependence Program**

The Tobacco Dependence Program would like to recognize our research assistants who work in the background assisting the program with many tasks.

Jyoti Dasika has worked with the program since February of this year and assists with the Youth Quit 2 WIN program. Jyoti's role is helping to monitor the progress of the high schools that are implementing the youth cessation program. Jyoti holds a B.S. degree from Rutgers University (2001) where she dual-majored in Public Health and Political Science, and is close to finishing her MPH at UMDNJ SPH in Health Systems and Policy.

Eugene Han has been with the program since May, and assists the Tobacco Dependence Clinic in monitoring the progress of smokers treated in our clinic for tobacco dependence. Eugene is currently pursuing a n MPH, Health Policy at UMDNJ SPH and is due to graduate in May 2006. He has a BA in Biology from Johns Hopkins University (2002).

Thank you Jyoti and Eugene – we wouldn't be able to be as productive if it weren't for your contributions at the TDP!

**Website Review:
Association for Treatment
of Tobacco Use and
Dependence (ATTUD)**

by Patricia Repetto, M.Ed.



This edition of the Nicotine Challenger would like to review the website of a new organization, ATTUD, created to advance the promotion of and increased access to evidence-based treatment for tobacco dependence. The website is www.attud.org.

This website is an essential resource for any health professional who currently treats clients for tobacco dependence (or trains clinicians on how to do so) and wants to stay abreast of this emerging field. The website provides information on developments related to training and education opportunities, certification of tobacco treatment specialists and reimbursement for treatment services. Visitors to the website can download quarterly newsletters dedicated to the issue of tobacco dependence or view PowerPoint presentations given by ATTUD members at the annual tobacco conferences. A new service, expected to be available later this summer, will be the addition of tobacco dependence treatment case studies. Of great interest to viewers is the availability of the Training Standards for Tobacco Dependence Treatment Providers. This set of core competencies defines the minimum knowledge and skills required of specialists who conduct brief, moderate or intensive treatment with smokers. The Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) is currently reviewing this set of standards as they look to define the training prerequisites of professionals to be reimbursed for cessation counseling under the new Medicare ruling.

For those who are interested in joining ATTUD, an application is available on the website which can be sent electronically to the membership contact. Membership costs \$75 per year and benefits include access to a members-only listserv of tobacco treatment specialists internationally. This should definitely be a bookmark on your browser toolbar!

The **Tobacco Dependence Program** is dedicated to reducing the harm to health caused by tobacco use. We do this through education, treatment, research and advocacy.

The **Tobacco Dependence Program**, UMDNJ-School of Public Health, helps programs, organizations and clinicians deal with tobacco issues and nicotine dependence.

Products and services include:

- ◆ consultation
- ◆ education and training
- ◆ policy & program development
- ◆ treatment planning
- ◆ staff recovery workshops
- ◆ tobacco dependence treatment



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