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(October 9, 2010) Leigh Rich, assistant professor of health sciences at Armstrong Atlantic State University and co-director of the Center for Public Health Media and Research (publichealthmedia.org), has been selected as a Brocher Foundation visiting researcher for the summer of 2011. She will spend three months—July through September—at the Brocher Centre in Switzerland.

Rich, who teaches courses in managerial and biomedical ethics, health communication, and theory in health education, will join other researchers from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and other corners of the world to study and research topics related to the ethical, legal and social implications of recent medical research and new medical technologies.

Rich, who also serves as the practicum coordinator for the master of public health program, joined Armstrong in 2005. Her research interests include the legal issues surrounding bioethics and biotechnology; health communication; the media's influence on health and health behavior; and the ethics of treating the body as property.

The Brocher Foundation is a nonprofit, private, Swiss law foundation focused on issues related to public interest. Its main task is to offer a place for researchers to work and hold meetings. This place, the Brocher Centre, was inaugurated in May 2007 and is located on the shores of Lake Geneva in Hermance, close to Geneva. Since then the Brocher Centre has hosted more than 30 junior and senior researchers from around the world for stays that usually range from one to six months. The Brocher Foundation also has organized several international symposia and workshops in its conference room and, in 2009, implemented an annual Brocher Summer School.