Department of Family Medicine & Public Health
Undergraduate & Graduate Awards and
Graduation Recognition Ceremony

Celebrating Excellence

Saturday, June 9th, 2018 from 11:30-2:30pm
Medical Education and Telemedicine Building 141 – 145
and Lower Auditorium and Courtyard at MET
AGENDA

11:30 – 12:10pm: Capstone Poster Session
   - Located in MET 141 - 145

12:15 – 12:35pm: Honors Practicum Presentations
   - Located in MET Lower Auditorium

12:45 – 1:30pm: Undergraduate & Graduate Awards and Graduation Recognition Ceremony
   - Located in MET Lower Auditorium

Welcome and Introductions
Cheryl Anderson, PhD, MPH, MS
Interim Chair, Department of Family Medicine and Public Health, UCSD

Remarks and Faculty Awards
Dennis Trinidad, PhD, MPH
Director of the Bachelor’s Program in Public Health, UCSD
David Strong, PhD
Director of the Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health, UCSD

Student Awards
Dennis Trinidad, PhD, MPH
Director of the Bachelor’s Program in Public Health, UCSD
David Strong, PhD
Director of the Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health, UCSD

Student Recognitions
Dennis Trinidad, PhD, MPH
Director of the Bachelor’s Program in Public Health, UCSD
David Strong, PhD
Director of the Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health, UCSD
Nancy Binkin, MD, MPH
Director of the Honors Practicum Program, UCSD

End Remarks
Cheryl Anderson, PhD, MPH, MS
Interim Chair, Department of Family Medicine and Public Health, UCSD

1:30 – 2:30pm: Social and Refreshments
   - Located in MET 141-145
CONGRATULATIONS

The Department of Family Medicine and Public Health would like to recognize all of our graduating students from both our Bachelor of Science in Public Health Program and our UCSD-SDSU Joint Doctoral Public Health Program. The department is proud of the hard work all of you have put forward in your studies, and looks forward to seeing the great work you will do in promoting healthy lives and communities in your future endeavors.

AWARDS

Golden Apple Excellence in Teaching Award

The department of Family Medicine and Public Health has created the Golden Apple Excellence in Teaching Award to recognize faculty for their outstanding work as instructors, both for the BSPH and for the JDP. Nominees were solicited from BSPH and JDP students, and award recipients were selected based on the content of student nominations. Nominations for the recipients testified to their excellence in classroom instruction and their passion for public health education.

- Dr. Tarik Benmarhnia – Dr. Benmarhnia is a climate change epidemiologist with a joint-appointment at the University of California San Diego’s Scripps institution of Oceanography and School of Medicine. He led efforts to develop and teach two separate special topics courses for doctoral students: Reproducibility Lab with Dr. Heather Pines in Winter 2018, and Advanced Epidemiological Methods/Causal Inference with Dr. Caroline Thompson in Spring 2018. His students describe him as a patient and knowledgeable instructor, offering a supportive environment to explore statistical topics in a creative and interactive fashion.

- Dr. Becky Marquez – Dr. Marquez led FMPH 110, “Health Behavior and Chronic Disease,” this academic year, as she has for the past 5 years. This course is a vital part of the Bachelor of Science in Public Health curriculum, and Dr. Marquez has made the course come alive for her students. In nominating Dr. Marquez, her students described her as, “engaging”, “incredible”, “a wonderful communicator”, and “a role model.” Dr. Becky Marquez epitomizes the best of Public Health, and the UCSD program is fortunate to have her share her passion with the next generation of Public Health professionals!
Excellence in Teaching in the BSPH Award

Our programs reflect university-wide values for academic excellence in teaching, research, and service. In honoring our students’ achievements, we want to recognize individuals who have made exceptional contributions in each of these three pillars of academic excellence. We would like to start by awarding an outstanding teaching assistant who has exhibited extraordinary performance. She has provided high-quality support to instructors and students, which has greatly contributed to the success of each course she has been assigned to. To recognize her excellent work, we now will present the following Teaching Assistant with the award for TA of the Year.

- **Jessica Hawks** – Jessica has been a Teaching Assistant for 11 consecutive quarters for the BSPH. She is being honored with this award for her exemplary instructional support for five FMPH courses, including FMPH 50, “Primary Care and Public Health” and FMPH 120, “Health Policies for Healthy Lifestyles.” Jessica is described by students as knowledgeable, and patient, working well with a variety of learning styles. Course instructors also noted that Jennifer is a true team player, consistently going above and beyond to help undergraduate students understand complex course materials and topics, and showing great motivation and enthusiasm for the coursework.

Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award in the BS Public Health Major

The students receiving this award have displayed academic excellence in their coursework within and outside the Public Health major. Each of them has a major GPA of 3.85 or higher, and a UC San Diego GPA of a 3.5 or higher.

- Sarralane Amon, Christopher Badalof, Huey Yih Cheng, Tara Edrisavi, Farwa Feroze, Dilian Guardado, Madeline Juskie, Jisoo Lee, Brianna Lotze, Michalyn Marzocco, Quang Nguyen, Ifunanyachukwu Okwuosa, Tong Qi, Yessenia Reyna, Haley Sawamura, Lauren Snell

Excellence in Research Award

Generating and disseminating knowledge is a critical component in preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting public health. We would like to award a student whose innovative research activities during her graduate studies have made significant and well-recognized contributions to the improvement of public health.

- **Maggie Crawford** – Maggie has proven her ability to make substantial contributions in a challenging research environment repeatedly since joining the Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health. She has been extremely active in leading her own projects, particularly within the area of health behaviors relating to type 1 diabetes (T1D). Not having an in-house faculty member who specializes in this area, as a T1D patient herself, she contacted many of the top researchers in the field and was persuasive enough to get permission to use a data-set obtained from a randomized trial that involved 6 months of continuous glucose monitoring. She is using these data to study the frequency and severity of both hypo- and hyper- glycemic, and investigating how health behaviors are related to controlling the severity of any given event. This will be an excellent addition to the current literature.
Independent Study in Public Health Research

Students are given the opportunity to do independent study projects with faculty members for academic credit. This student was selected out of many who were nominated by their faculty for his exceptional research project.

- **Hunter Green** – Hunter worked with Dr. Tarik Benmarhnia during both the spring and summer quarters. He conducted a systematic literature review on the impact of ambient temperature and heat waves on health outcomes in low- and middle-income countries. He then summarized findings into a manuscript, and led its preparation and submission to a top environmental journal as the first author. Hunter exhibited both initiative and enthusiasm for the research process, and performed all tasks and duties without haste. He was described by Dr. Benmarhnia as an exceptional young researcher—bright, energetic, and highly motivated.

Excellence in Public Health Community Engagement

To develop the well-being of communities, public health professionals work collaboratively through groups of people to mobilize resources, influence systems, and provide a catalyst for change. We would like to award two graduate students who have displayed excellence in community engagement for public health. These individuals have made significant and well-recognized contributions by illustrating a range of approaches that can be used to engage communities around both traditional and emerging public health issues.

- **Claudia Rafful Loera** – Claudia successfully completed her doctorate in September 2017 as a student in the Global Health track of the UCSD/SDSU Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health. Throughout her studies, she has been dedicated to engaging with highly marginalized populations and community organizations with the aim of improving conditions for people who inject drugs. Under the guidance of Dr. Steffanie Strathdee, in her dissertation research she approached involuntary drug treatment in Tijuana, Mexico as a public health, human rights and public policy concern. She explored how involuntary treatment may be related to negative health outcomes, such as overdose and HIV risk behaviors. This research is key in Mexico, but also other settings where drug users are legally mandated into treatment. In Tijuana alone, over 2000 people were physically removed from the Tijuana river canal in 2015 and forced to enter drug rehabilitation. Claudia has been volunteering for 3 years with this population at a wound clinic, and meets monthly with non-governmental organizations in Tijuana assisting people who inject drugs to develop community recommendations related to drug policy and access to voluntary drug treatment. Since 2016, Claudia has also served on the UC-Mexico Policy Analysis of Youth Violence Working Group and serves on the editorial board of the International Journal of Drug Policy. During her doctoral studies, she was awarded a Fogarty AIDS International Training Program (AITRP) Fellowship (2013-2016), a UC MEXUS dissertation grant (2016-2017), the International Research Training Institute Fellowship (2016-2017), and became a member of the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society (2017). To sum, Claudia has excelled not only in her scholarly work but also in serving and engaging community stakeholders to translate research findings into policy and inform public health interventions to improve the lives of populations most at risk.
Marissa Salazar – Marissa recently completed her doctorate in the Global Health track of the UCSD/SDSU Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health. Marissa has demonstrated a strong interest in and has dedicated her research to understanding ways to reduce gender-based violence, including partner violence and sexual harassment among adolescents. While a doctoral student, she was responsible for overseeing the implementation of a research study focused on gender-based violence and sexual health outcomes among adolescent girls in National City, CA. During this time, she volunteered her time to projects to give back to the community, including supporting community events as well as facilitating workshops (e.g. financial literacy trainings) for girls who were part of after-school programs at the Y2Y Teen Center in National City, CA. As part of her dissertation, using data collected from this research study among girls, she studied cyber sexual harassment, a topic area that is receiving increasing attention in the field. Her dissertation paper will be the first in the field to describe how experiences of cyber sexual harassment increase girls’ vulnerability for sexual victimization in-person. As a doctoral student, Marissa received the prestigious Inamori Fellowship award in 2014 and for her dissertation research, she received a Global Health Fellowship through UCSD, and was also a Frontiers of Innovation Scholar. Overall, Marissa has outstanding skills, talents, dedication, and great promise as a researcher whose work has and will continue to lead new directions in reducing gender-based violence against women and girls.

Public Health Community Service Award

The community service award is based on dedicated service to others as well as breadth, quality, and time committed to community service. Activities must be performed without receiving pay or academic credit. Each of the two recipients of this award received strong and enthusiastic recommendations from their organizations, who spoke highly of their maturity, devotion, and compassion for others.

John Nelson – As a Navy veteran, John performed hundreds of hours of volunteer service with VeteransRespond. Within this program, John was responsible for fundraising, first aid training, and health education for multiple Native American communities. He also led a VeteransRespond team that supported underserved victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas. This mission included firefighting, search-and-rescue, and medical aid. His VeteransRespond colleagues describe John as caring, and thorough, a one-of-a-kind leader whom they would follow into any mission any time.

Tong Qi – Tong performed more than 70 hours of volunteer service at the Linda Vista Health Care Center this academic year. He served as a diabetes life coach – a position that challenged him to learn a detailed curriculum, coordinate, recruit, and lead classes in lifestyle changes for diabetic patients. Tong’s mentors described him as self-motivated, dedicated, and extremely valuable. His class participants described him as “life-changing”! This volunteer experience was life-changing for Tong, as well; he will be pursuing this work full-time after graduation from UCSD this summer.
Defending Students

There are two significant milestones in the journey to fulfill requirements of the doctoral degree in public health: the Advancement to Candidacy for the doctoral degree and the successful defense of the quality of research in their graduate thesis. We would first like to congratulate the following individuals who successfully completed this academic path, have defended their dissertation research, and therefore will be awarded the Doctorate of Philosophy in Public Health. These scholars have made significant contributions to public health in topic areas ranging from the prevention of infectious disease to developing new ways to reduce the risk for cancer.

- **Ericha Anthony** – “Effect of Paraoxonase Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms on the Association of Race with Cardiovascular Disease”
- **Anthony Davis** – “Factors Associated with HIV Infection and Condom Use in the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo”
- **Kelsie Full** – “24-Hours of Heart Health: An Analysis of Sleep Duration and Cardiovascular Disease in the OPACH Cohort”
- **Kyle Gutzmer** – “So, you’re a lean guy”: Care Provider, Parent, and Child Communication about Weight, Diet, and Physical Activity
- **Claudia Rafful Loera** – “The impact of involuntary drug treatment on overdose, subsequent drug use and drug use treatment-seeking among people who inject drugs in Tijuana, Mexico”
- **Marissa Salazar** – “Social and Economic Determinants of Sexual Violence and Related Health Outcomes.”

Advancing to Candidacy

After undergoing rigorous challenges and evaluations by a committee of scholars, students who successfully propose a novel line of research pass their first major milestone in the Joint Doctoral Program and become candidates for the doctoral degree.

- **Lara Kusnezov, Maggie Crawford, Teresita Rocha Jimenez**
Research Awards

Congratulate the following students who have received individual fellowships, research training, and research service awards from the following groups and agencies: Fogarty, NIH: NCI, NIDA, NINR, AHA, UC MEXUS/CONACYT, USMEX, FISP, Chancellor’s Interdisciplinary Collaboratory Fellowship, and GloCal.

- Nathan Alamillo, Pietro Baker, Haley Ciborowski, Maggie Crawford, Erin Delker, Cristina Espinosa da Silva, Ruvani Fonseka, Kelsie Full, Sindana Ilango, Lara Kusnezov, Zachary Madewell, Amanda Miller, Lorena Pacheco, Rudy Patrick, Teresita Rocha Jimenez, Marissa Salazar, Carlos Rivera Saldana

Completion of the Honors Practicum Program

These sixteen students successfully completed a year-long intensive applied public health experience. They applied public health principles to real world settings and completed a public health evaluation from beginning to end that demonstrated the power of public health higher education and community-academic partnerships.

- Christopher Badalof, Huey Yih Cheng, Jenna Dern, Cynthia Frausto, Hunter Green, Debbie Gunawan, Crystal Im, Brittney Lu, Ashley Moore, Amanda Moreno, Tong Qi, Divya Raman, Monique Sim, Madeline Simon, Grace Tran, Selina Villaneda

Completion of the Public Health Capstone Sequence

These forty-eight students successfully completed a two-quarter applied Public Health Capstone sequence where they had the opportunity to integrate, synthesize, and apply their knowledge through cumulative and experiential public health activities.

- Elisa Acosta, Elham Ahmadi, Amin Alayleh, Maryam Ali, Alexia Anavim, Omar Ariss, Sirvard Ayrapetyan, Kristine Babayan, Salma Beylouni, Cayla Carter, Salvador Cerriteno, Alexis Chavez Escobedo, Chakrapot Chhunpen, Haley Dang, Teni Danoukh, Parth Desai, Kevin Doan, Maurine Fadlalla, Michelle Garmel, Alice Ghai, Kevin Glaza, Abdul-Raheem Habib, Rita Hedo, Usha Keerthipati, Pei Yi Lin, Luis Mandujano, Yonathan Mewail, Micaela Midtling, Melody Moaddab, Kashti Nayem, Jessica Nguyen, Alicia Okimura, Ifunanyachukwu Okwuosa, Lauren Olson, Rie Osaka, Annemarie Perez, Christine Pham, Elise Proctor, Jessica Robles, Mozhan Sattar, Nakeisha Seymore, Rubia Sohail, Carly Stillman, Nicole Tanzer, Agazit Tesfai, Anthony Trejo, Gina Wahdat, Rebecca Yarbrough
UCSD Public Health Club Leadership

The Public Health Club provides valuable opportunities for students interested in public health to get to know each other, support one another in their academic pursuits, and participate in community outreach. These students served in crucial leadership capacities within the club.

- Jessica Lu – Public Health Club Leadership: President
- Shelby Cyr – Public Health Club Leadership: Community Service Officer
- Rita Hedo – Public Health Club Leadership: Community Service Officer
- Avery Anderson – Public Health Club Leadership: External Affairs Officer
- Sallie Lu – Public Health Club Leadership: External Affairs Officer
- Josalyn Cao – Public Health Club Leadership: External Affairs Officer
- Lauren Collin – Public Health Club Leadership: Financial Officer
- Amanda Moreno – Public Health Club Leadership: Financial Officer
- Aina Guatno – Public Health Club Leadership: Health Promotion Officer
- Kyle Underwood – Public Health Club Leadership: Publicity Officer

THANK YOU

to all of our faculty, staff, and students!