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

Celebrating Excellence

Friday, June 10th, 2016 from 5:30-7:30pm
Lower Auditorium and Courtyard at MET
AGENDA

5:40pm – Welcome and Introductions
Richard Armenta, PhD, MPH
BSPH Steering Committee Member and Assistant Adjunct Professor, UCSD

5:45pm – Remarks and Faculty Acknowledgement
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

5:50pm – 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

6:05pm – 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

Sara McMenamin, PhD
Assistant Director of the Advanced Practicum Program, UCSD

6:15pm – End Remarks
Richard Armenta, PhD, MPH
BSPH Steering Committee Member and Assistant Adjunct Professor, UCSD

6:20–7:30pm – Social and Refreshments
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 look forward to seeing the great work you will do in promoting healthy lives and communities in your future endeavors.

AWARDS

BSPH Commitment to Teaching Award

The Bachelors of Science Public Health Program has been privileged to have a highly gifted and committed group of faculty members. This year the department wanted to honor those who participated in the development of our core courses and have taught at least one course every year since their course was first offered.

- Dr. Cheryl Anderson, Dr. Michelle Johnson, Dr. Leslie Lewis, Dr. Becky Marquez, Dr. Megan Ryan, Dr. Yuyan Shi

Excellence in Teaching in the BSPH Award for 2015 and 2016

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 two outstanding teaching assistants whom have exhibited extraordinary performance. They have both given support to the instructors and students which greatly contribute to the success of each course they have been assigned to. Receiving unanimous nominations from their instructors let us thank the following Teaching Assistants by presenting them with the award for TA of the Year.

- **2015: Asher Santos** – Asher was a Teaching Assistant for FPMU 130 in both Fall 2014 and Spring 2015. He was instrumental in helping the Instructor, Dr. Ryan, launch the course, in this very first year it was offered. Asher was a very strong, albeit understated, support behind the scenes. Asher’s quiet poise, professionalism, and unwavering positive support were invaluable to the Instructor and the students during this critical first year. Asher’s commitment to the UCSD BSPH program, in this course and others, has greatly contributed to its success!

- **2016: Alyson Cavanaugh** – Alyson has been a Teaching Assistant for four consecutive quarters of the FMPU Epidemiology 101 course. During this time, her skills as an engaging teacher, professionalism, and mastery of Epidemiology have shown through. She is also an extremely professional and patient teaching assistant. Alyson was exceptional in her capacity to articulate and explain complex epidemiology problems and concepts. Instructors have said she is clearly ready to be a professor and instructor herself and they were fortunate to have her as a Teaching Assistant.
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 UCSD GPA of a 3.5 or higher.

- Sandra Amon, Kathryn Bucknell, Sean Dy Juanco, Dimitri Gonzales, Madelyn Gamble Hadley, GaYoung Lee, Soo Lee, Victoria Navarro-Gutierrez, Stephanie Oh, Emma Romberg, Kathy Yang

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 two students whose innovative research activities during their graduate studies have made significant and well-recognized contributions to the improvement of public health.

- Erin Conners – Erin has proven herself to be an exceptionally strong and talented interdisciplinary researcher. What impresses most about Erin are her critical and creative thinking skills, paired with strong quantitative skills. Because of her demonstrated excellence in social determinants and HIV research, she was awarded a position on the competitive NIH T32 fellowship for her final year in the program. Through participation in fieldwork in Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez, Erin became concerned about the issue of client perpetrated violence against female sex workers and independently led an analysis to investigate structural determinants of such risk. For this work, she has one various awards including a UCMEXUS dissertation grant to explore Chagas disease in migrants at the Guatemala/Mexico border. Since 2014, Erin has authored or co-authored 6 papers. Additionally, she is in the process of submitting 3 papers from her dissertation and 2 additional papers. Erin has consistently gone way beyond the requirements of the JDP program to make substantial contributions to public health research.

- Catherine Marinac – Catherine’s dissertation tested the hypothesis that regular, prolonged nightly fasting can improve metabolic health and reduce the risk of cancer. All 3 papers in her dissertation have been published in high quality journals: Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention; PLOS ONE; and JAMA Oncology. These innovative and impactful publications have received considerable attention from the scientific community, the media, and the public. Ms. Marinac’s research activities have focused on projects revolving around a central theme of obesity and metabolism in relation to breast cancer risk and survivorship. She has published 14 peer-reviewed papers. Ms. Marinac successfully competed for an NCI-sponsored Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral Fellows (F31) in 2014. The research project of her F31 is a novel investigation of the impacts of prolonged nightly fasting on metabolic health and breast cancer recurrence and mortality. Finally, she has received numerous recognitions and awards for example: Forbes 30 Under 30 list: Healthcare Category, 2016.
Independent Study in Public Health Research and Health Promotion

Students are given the opportunity to do independent study projects with faculty members for academic credit. These two students were selected out of many who were nominated by their faculty for their exceptional research and service-oriented projects.

- **Erin Deiotte** – Erin worked for two quarters this year with Dr. Deborah Kado on two research projects both related to aging. In one of these studies she not only did a literature review but developed an analysis plan, got approval from a national steering committee, and will be presenting the results at a national meeting this fall. This study is the first to demonstrate an association between a measure of bone architecture and degree of forward curvature of the spine.

- **Karyn Speidel** – Karyn worked two quarters with Dr. Harvey Checkoway and has developed an intergeneration program that will ultimately lead to shared campus housing for undergraduate students and seniors. The project was done on her initiative and involved collaborations across the UCSD campus, with senior centers and with community groups.

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 whom have displayed excellence in community engagement for public health. These individuals who were nominated for the award 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.

- **Jaime Arredondo Sanchez Lira** – Jaime is a fourth-year candidate in the Global Health track of the UCSD/SDSU Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health. A Mexican student of exceptional promise, he has contributed to both academic and extracurricular life on campus. Jaime’s most notable impact has emerged from his tireless efforts to improve the lives of marginalized groups on both sides of the US-Mexico Border. He became engaged in nescient interdisciplinary research projects focused on the role of policing as a structural determinant of health. His experience in Public Safety combined with his profound dedication to social justice proved indispensable in spurring several projects focused on improving the health for people who inject drugs, sex workers, deportees, and other marginalized populations through the criminal justice lens. Jaime negotiated the signing of a collaboration agreement in 2014 between the municipal Police of Tijuana and the Division of Global Public Health. This agreement has spawned an array of research projects, including—the award of an R01 NIDA grant to evaluate a police training initiative designed to harmonize police practices targeting people who inject drugs in Tijuana with public health objectives. Jaime led a team of videographers and educational specialists in 2015 to conceptualize and produce an instructional video that included police officers, community outreach workers, and first-hand accounts of drug users to educate police officers about the physiological fundamentals of addiction, drug treatment, harm reduction programming. In all, his vision and talent have helped advance both the state of the science as well as setting a new bar in research-community partnerships.
Rebeca Espinoza Giacinto – Rebeca has over 15 peer-reviewed scientific publications. She successfully received a competitive pre-doctoral research award to fund her dissertation research, which focused on psychosocial aspects of diabetes control among Hispanic/Latino adults. Since 2012, Rebeca has served as the program evaluator and qualitative expert on community-based research studies where she led training and capacity building assistance to community clinic partners, with a focus on breast and colorectal cancer risk reduction among Latino adults. Rebeca’s traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico for thesis research, where she implemented a community-based research project that examined the relationship between cultural bound beliefs, traditional medicine usage, and diabetes status among adults attending clinics in rural Oaxaca. Having grown up in Baja, Mexico, Rebeca was able to develop the rapport and establish trusted relationships with staff at several clinics. Rebeca has demonstrated her skills as an independent researcher in global health. Furthermore, her emphasis on being grounded in community perspectives during the research process is admirable. Rebeca is an intelligent, humble, sociable, and driven woman. Thus, her passion for community-based public health research and drive to address health disparities has made her an ideal candidate for this award.

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 pay or receiving academic credit. This year any service performed between June 2014 and June 2016 was considered. Each of the three recipients of this award received strong and enthusiastic recommendations from their organizations, who spoke highly of their maturity, devotion, and compassion for others.

Nia Acevedo – Nia logged 200 service hours volunteering with various groups including the Flying Samaritans, Global Medical Training, and the Asian and Pacific Islander UCSD Moore’s Cancer Center’s Outreach Team. Nia said that after transferring to UCSD she felt like an outsider and that volunteering helped her find her place as she learned about herself in the process of helping others.

Sabrina Evans – Sabrina volunteered over 400 hours of her time with Sharp Hospice Care. Having worked at Sharp Hospice Care since High School, Sabrina said her own personal experience with hospice care for her grandmother gave her unique insight which enabled her to show love and care for patients and families in the end of life and grieving process.

Marisol Garcia – Marisol logged 900 service hours volunteering as a floor manager and Spanish interpreter at the UCSD Student Run Free Clinic in Pacific Beach. Marisol’s dedication to medically underserved groups originally stemmed from her own family’s experiences growing up. Witnessing the impact of culturally sensitive and competent care for patients at the clinic has motivated her to pursue a MD/MPH.
DEPARTMENT RECOGNITIONS

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 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.

- **Matthew Brown** – Applied Health Diplomacy: Advancing the Science, Practice, and Tradecraft of Global Health Diplomacy to Facilitate More Effective Global Health Action

- **Erin Conners** – Poverty and Place: Structural Determinants of Infectious Disease Risk in Mexico and Central America

- **Anindita Dasgupta** – Understanding Intimate Partner Violence and Associated Challenges to Family Planning among Married Women in Maharashtra, India

- **Maria DeOcampo** – Maternal Risk Factors for Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy

- **Rebeca Espinoza** – Psychosocial, Sociocultural, and Biobehavioral Correlates of Glycemic Control among Individuals with Diabetes in the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos (HCHS/SOL)

- **Sophia Georghiou** – Molecular Diagnostics for Drug-resistant Tuberculosis: Can Genetic Tests Replace Conventional Diagnostics as Predictors of Drug Resistance and Clinical Outcome?

- **Dong-Jin "Eastern" Kang-Sim** – Interconnectedness of Micronutrient Deficiency and Obesity in Children: Impact of Dual Burden of Nutritional Disorders and Two-hit Nutritional Insult

- **Catherine Marinac** – Prolonged Overnight Fasting as a Novel Intervention Strategy for Reducing Breast Cancer Risk

- **Meredith Meacham** – Polydrug use and risk of HIV and overdose among people who inject drugs in San Diego, California, and Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico

- **Gina Merchant** – With a little help from my friends: How social networks help college students trying to lose weight

- **Molly Moor** – Utilization of a Binational Training Program to Investigate the Prevalence, Correlates, and Etiology of Anemia among Women and Children in Rural Baja California, Mexico

- **Ernesto Ramirez** – Discretionary self-monitoring of physical activity: A mixed-methods study of behavior change technique use and historical physical activity
- **Amanda Rondinelli Ratigan** – Countywide BMI surveillance and community-level approaches to improve access to nutritious food among low-income residents in San Diego, California

- **Asher Santos** – Defining Global Health Diplomacy Taxonomy and Tools: Brazil’s Use of South-South Cooperation as Global Health Diplomacy

- **Emily Schmied** – Predicting Parent Engagement in Family-Based Childhood Obesity Prevention and Control Programs

- **Aladdin Shadyab** – Association of Reproductive Factors, Sedentary Behavior, and Genetic Factors with Aging in Postmenopausal Women: The Women’s Health Initiative

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**Advancing to Candidacy**

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

- **Ericha Anthony, Julie Bergman, Raphael Cuomo, Anthony Davis, Kelsie Full, Eric Leas, Lilian Perez, Claudia Rafful Lorea, Sandra Soto**

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**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.*

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- **Nathan Alamillo, Jaime Arredondo Sanchez Lira, Julie Bergman, Erin Conners, Margaret Crawford, Raphael Cuomo, Kelsie Full, Rebeca Espinoza Giacinto, Catherine Marinac, Lilian Perez, Claudia Rafful Lorea, Teresita Rocha Jimenez, Marissa Salazar, Katy Sileo, Sandra Soto**
Public Health Research Day Poster Awards

On April 6, the UC San Diego Institute for Public Health held the second annual Public Health Research Day. This event brought together more than 300 faculty, staff, post-docs, and students from across campus for a symposium and poster session featuring 100 posters on public health research and public health in action in our communities.

- Jannet Chen – Program Development and Standardization at Hazel Goes Cook Elementary School  
  Third Place – Undergraduate Division
- Serena Dunham – Evaluating the Alzheimer’s San Diego’s Alz Companions Program  
  Second Place – Undergraduate Division
- Susanne Manucharayan – Promoting Healthy Lifestyles at The Preuss School  
  First Place – Public Health in Action
- Emma Romberg – Nutritional, Safe, and Locally Grown: Food Security through Quality Produce Distribution by Coastal Roots Farm and Its Partners  
  Third Place – Public Health in Action
- Nadia Tabatabaeepour – Nutritional, Safe, and Locally Grown: Food Security through Quality Produce Distribution by Coastal Roots Farm and Its Partners  
  Third Place – Public Health in Action

Completion of the Advanced Practicum

These fifteen students successfully completed a year-long intensive applied public health experience. They applied public health principles to real world settings and prepared comprehensive portfolios that demonstrated the power of public health higher education and community-academic partnerships.

- Jannet Chen – UCSD Flourish Program Site Report
- Kendrick Cuero – Linda Vista Health Fair
- Serena Dunham – Evaluation of ALZ Companions Program: Examining Types of Self Care Performed by Alz Companions Caregivers
- Brenda Gutierrez – A Mental Health Workshop for Adolescents: Materials Protocol Development
- Cindy Kim – Review of Practicum Experience: Hazel Goes Cook Elementary School
- Megan Ludington – Training Strategies to Improve Electronic Medical Records at a Free Clinic in Tijuana, Mexico
- Susanne Manucharayan – Promoting Healthy Lifestyles at The Preuss School
o **Saira Mayet** – Comprehensive Risk Reduction Among Adolescents with a Focus on Reproductive Health

o **Emma Romberg** – Nutritional, Safe, and Locally Grown: Food Security through Quality Produce Distribution by Coastal Roots Farm and its Partners

o **Ashlyn Schmitgen** – Linda Vista Health Fair

o **Josephine Sheu** – UC San Diego Student Health Services

o **Nadia Tabatabaeepour** – Nutritional, Safe, and Locally Grown: Food Security through Quality Produce Distribution by Coastal Roots Farm and its Partners

o **Felix Tran** – County of San Diego Health and Human Health Services Agency

o **Andrew Trinidad** – Linda Vista Health Fair

o **Linda Wang** – Is There a Gateway?: An Analysis of Service Utilization at Alzheimer’s San Diego

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**CAMPUS RECOGNITIONS**

**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.

- **Megan Ludington** – Primary Leadership Officer: President
- **Dominique Carrillo** – Primary Leadership Officer: Health Promotion Committee Chair
- **Kristina Chepak** – Primary Leadership Officer: Community Service Committee Chair
- **Omar Sajjad** – Primary Leadership Officer: External Affairs Committee Chair
- **Lauren Collin** – Secondary Leadership Officer: Financial Committee Chair
- **Karyn Speidel** – Secondary Leadership Officer: DEI Coordinator
- **Jasmine Varela Mares** – Secondary Leadership Officer: Peer Mentor
Outstanding Service to UCSD Students with Disabilities

Each year, UCSD’s Office for Students with Disabilities recognizes faculty, staff and teaching assistants across campus who are exceptional in serving students with disabilities by ensuring these students receive adequate accommodations in their classes. The following members of the BSPH community were honored by OSD this year.

- Dr. Florin Vaida – Faculty Outstanding Service to UCSD Students with Disabilities
- Asher Santos – TA Outstanding Service to UCSD Students with Disabilities

2016 UC San Diego Academic Integrity Awards

UCSD’s Academic Integrity Office and the Research Ethics Program annually recognize members of the UCSD community whose work promotes academic or research integrity on campus. Only two awards are given out for faculty and two awards are given out for students across the entire campus. The following members of the BSPH community received awards this year for the UC San Diego Integrity Awards.

- Dr. Camille Nebeker – Academic Integrity Faculty Award
- Karyn Speidel – Academic Integrity Student Award

2016 Blum Summer Field Internship

Since 2014, the UC Office of the President, in collaboration with regent Richard Blum, have sponsored cross-disciplinary summer field internships at UCSD Community Stations, located in underserved sites across the San Diego-Tijuana region. Of those who were selected for these internships, four come from our own Public Health majors.

- Tiffany Chan – Assigned to EarthLab Community Station in Encanto
- Magnolia Garcia – Assigned to Cross-Border Community Station in Laureles, Tijuana
- Cynthia Robles – Assigned to Cross-Border Community Station in San Ysidro
- Cinthia Sanchez – Assigned to Cross-Border Community Station in Laureles, Tijuana

THANK YOU

To all of our faculty, staff, and students