



Director's Message

Recently, the White House announced that our national COVID-19 public health emergency is set to end on May 11. While this announcement may come as welcome news overall, indicative of a decrease in infection and particularly hospitalization rates, it also will spell the end of many of the policies put into place during the pandemic.

As long as supplies last, the federal government has provided vaccines for free (or almost so). However, the stockpile is now diminishing and vaccines are likely to be commercialized soon. A similar story plays out for COVID-19 tests and treatments. While this may not seem like a big issue for those with health coverage (at least those who can afford the copayment), those with short-term policies or no coverage are likely to need pay full out-of-pocket costs or else skip these essential services entirely. It is during these times that it becomes particularly important to continue to work with groups that need COVID-19 (and other) services and care.



In this issue we are proud to be featured as part of the [Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health COVID-19 Storytelling Project](#) showcasing SPH's historic and continuing efforts to maintain equitable population health during the pandemic. We also highlight work that our students and faculty are doing to increase broader health equity, with a focus on indigenous, communities affected by environmental contamination, and HIV-affected populations. The new cross-disciplinary [Center for Tobacco and the Environment](#) will study the non-biodegradable waste from tobacco products that accumulates on streets, flows into storm drains, and ends up on beaches, with a focus on those marginalized communities disproportionately affected by tobacco.

Hoping you are able to stay warm and dry during this unprecedented winter weather!

Eyal Oren, PhD, MS

Director, SDSU School of Public Health



Influencing Indigenous Health Equity in Social Media Research & Medicine

SDSU-UCSD Joint Doctoral Program student Alec Calac tackles health disparities in American Indian and Alaska Native communities as a medical student and Ph.D. candidate.

New SDSU Center for Tobacco and the Environment

Planned research in the new center will study the non-biodegradable waste from tobacco products that accumulates on streets, flows into storm drains, and ends up on beaches.



Faculty Spotlight: Lisa Asmus

In honor of World AIDS Day, the [33rd Annual Dr. A. Brad Traux Award Ceremony](#) presented 18 awards, including two to SDSU's own adjunct assistant professor Lisa Asmus.

Student Spotlight: Joshua Espinoza

Environmental Health MPH candidate Joshua Espinoza begins his fellowship through the [2023 California Sea Grant State Fellowship Program](#) with the [California Department of Transportation \(CalTrans\)](#) this month.





COVID-19 Storytelling

ASPPH featured the [Institute for Public Health](#) and the [School of Public Health's](#) Communities Fighting COVID program in a recent article.

SPH Podcast



Joyce Lee & Sarah Cahlan

Could more lives have been saved in Uvalde? Emergency medical response and planning can benefit from the visual forensic reporting of the Uvalde mass shooting by the Washington Post team. We explore how this tool can provide information for evidence-based policymaking.

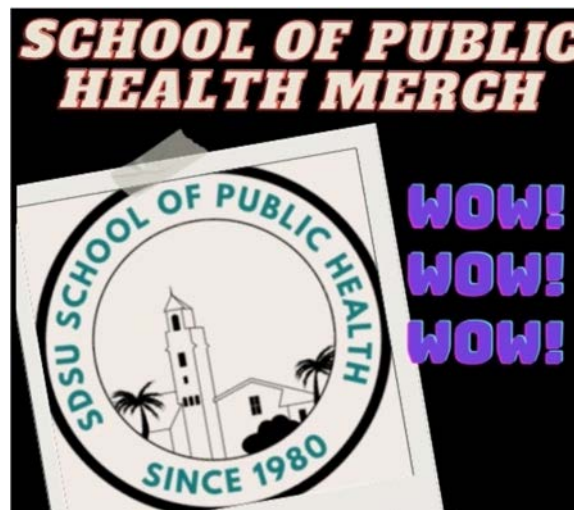
Fall 2023 Volunteers Needed!

Help shape public health locally and nationally, research and disseminate information, meet interesting guests, and more. Familiarity with A/V production helpful but not necessary! Please contact Jenny Munday, Ph.D. MPH at jumday@sdsu.edu.

SPH Student Council

School of Public Health Merch

The Graduate School of Public Health Student Council is excited to announce the launch of our new merch line. By purchasing our merch, you can help support our graduation banquet, while showing off your SPH pride! The deadline to get merch has now been extended to today Friday, March 3rd! You can find more details [here!](#)



Events



The **16th Annual SDSU Student Symposium** will be held in person at the Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union on March 3 and 4, 2023.

The symposium is a two-day event, occurring each Spring semester that is a showcase of SDSU student discovery, innovation, and creativity. The SDSU Student Symposium, or S3, is a public forum where students at all levels have the opportunity to present their research, scholarship, and creative activities to the SDSU and San Diego communities. The SDSU Student Symposium is a great way to learn about all the incredible projects that our undergraduate and graduate students are working on under the direction of their faculty mentors.

[View the Program here](#)

Are you a BIPOC grad student in public health? Check out our new student group!

Come hear stories on navigating academia as a BIPOC in public health in this Zoom lunchtime speaker series, Fridays at 12:00-1:00 PM, featuring:



Dr. TJ Tallie
February 17th



Dr. Vida Henderson
March 3rd



Dr. Alyasah A. Sewell
March 24th



Dr. Catharine Garcia
March 31st



This series is an initiative by a new SPH student group BIPOC Students in Public Health led by three students in the UCSD/SDSU Joint Ph.D. in Public Health program, funded by the Student Success Fee.

[Register Here!](#)

Reproductive Justice	Human Rights	Climate Impacts
		
Marlene Fried, PhD	Rajat Khosla, LLM	Rupa Basu, PhD
March 22nd 2:00-3:30 pm Scripps Cottage	April 4th 7:00-8:00 pm Zoom	April 6th 1:00-2:00 pm Zoom

Join the School of Public Health Graduate Student Council for a 3-part presentation funded by the Student Success Fee highlighting various health disparities impacting our nation to kickstart National Public Health Week.

[Register Here!](#)



[DONATE TO THE SDSU SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH](#)

For SDSU SPH updates and our events, please check our website and our online calendar, our Alumni LinkedIn Pages, and make sure you update your information in our [alumni database](#).

Thoughts or suggestions? Contact us with any stories you would like to share!

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