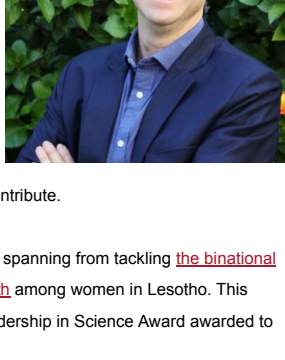




Director's Message

Dear Friends,

These are challenging times for science and public health. With the federal government shutdown, the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children running out of funds, and a changing vaccine landscape, it is imperative that we continue to advocate for public health priorities.



In this issue of the newsletter we highlight that even during turbulent times, there is good work coming out of our School of Public Health, and encourage you all to find ways to meaningfully contribute.

Our faculty continue to inspire, with internationally oriented research spanning from tackling [the binational polluted waters](#) of the Tijuana river to [examining education and health](#) among women in Lesotho. This recognition has also resulted in awards, such as the Pioneering Leadership in Science Award awarded to Dr. Storholm!

We also highlight a story on our collaborative faculty work in [AI in healthcare](#), as well as the newly refunded [Prevention Research Center!](#)

It is not only the faculty, however. Our staff recently presented at a [system-wide discussion on budgeting](#) based on public health needs at the CSU Academic Resources Conference. And our students and alumni are picking up accolades left and right. Alumni Andrew Hennings was awarded a [prestigious fellowship](#) at the Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles Medical Center. Joint Doctoral Program student Giovanni Appolon [received two awards](#) in one week for his tobacco-related research!

We have many exciting events coming up this month including our School of Public Health [alumni mixer](#) and presence at events at the annual [American Public Health Association](#) meeting.

In this month's award-winning SPH podcast, [If I Could Change One Thing](#), Dr. Brittnie Bloom speaks with Brynn Carrigan, Director of Public Health for Kern County around pressing health challenges in California.

If you are no longer at SDSU, please continue to stay in touch with us! For updates on the SPH and our events, please check our website and online calendar, our LinkedIn Alumni pages, and make sure you update your information in our alumni database: <https://publichealth.sdsu.edu/alumni/update-form>.

"There is a harmony in autumn, and a lustre in its sky, which through the summer is not heard or seen..."
– John Donne

Eyal Oren, PhD, MS

Director, SDSU School of Public Health

Faculty Spotlight



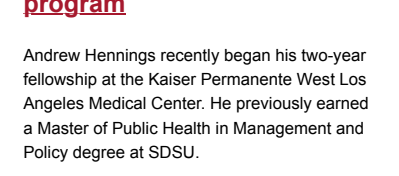
[Tijuana River's toxic water pollutes the air](#)

Associate professor of environmental health, Paula Stigler Granados, helped lead a study on air pollution near the Tijuana River. The study found that the river releases large quantities of hydrogen sulfide, exceeding air quality standards.



[SDSU study links girls' education to lifesaving cancer screenings in Africa](#)

Jan-Walter De Neve, Doctor of Public Health Program director, led a study on the correlation between education and health among women in Lesotho. He found that additional years of education increased women's likelihood for cervical cancer screenings.



[SDSU public health expert awarded a Fulbright to investigate AI in health care](#)

Susan Kiene is a professor of epidemiology and biostatistics with SDSU's School of Public Health. She is joining colleagues at the Universidad de Alcalá in Spain to study how artificial intelligence can improve health care.

Student Spotlight

[Joint Doctoral Program scholar receives two awards for his tobacco-related research](#)

Two separate organizations recognized JDP student Giovanni Appolon for his work in tobacco research. The Tobacco Related Disease Research Program awarded him Outstanding Policy Research; The American College of Epidemiology awarded him Best Oral Presentation.



Alumni Spotlight

[SDSU School of Public Health alumnus selected to Kaiser Permanente's Administrative Fellowship program](#)

Andrew Hennings recently began his two-year fellowship at the Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles Medical Center. He previously earned a Master of Public Health in Management and Policy degree at SDSU.



Staff Spotlight

[SDSU School of Public Health staff presents at this year's CSU Academic Resources Conference](#)

Erika Johnston, the administrative coordinator for SDSU's School of Public Health, gave a presentation titled "From Report to Report-Out: A Practical Guide to Budget Tracking, Reconciliation, and Presentation." The presentation educated CSU professionals on the SPH budgeting processes and provided them with budgeting resources.



Awards



[School of Public Health professor receives award from California HIV/AIDS Research Program](#)

Professor Erik Storholm received the "Pioneering Leadership in Science Award" from the California HIV/AIDS Research Program. This award recognizes his leadership, integrity and dedication to advancing an inclusive future for HIV research.

From the Center for HIV Identification, Prevention and Treatment Services:
"We want to recognize one of our Core Scientists, Dr. Erik Storholm for receiving the Pioneering Leadership in Science Award at the California HIV/AIDS Research Program Grantee Meeting! Dr. Storholm received this award for his leadership, integrity, and dedication to HIV research."

School News

[SDSU awarded \\$5 million federal grant to combat extreme heat in Imperial Valley](#)

The award designates SDSU as just one of just 20 Prevention Research Centers in the United States. The grant is funding the project "Taking on the Heat," which is designed to support nearly 180,000 residents living or working in Imperial County.



Events

[School of Public Health alumni mixer](#)

The alumni mixer will take place Tuesday, Oct. 21, at Novo Brazil Brewing in Mission Valley. The event is open to all alumni, faculty, staff, and students. We hope to see you there! Please RSVP [here](#).

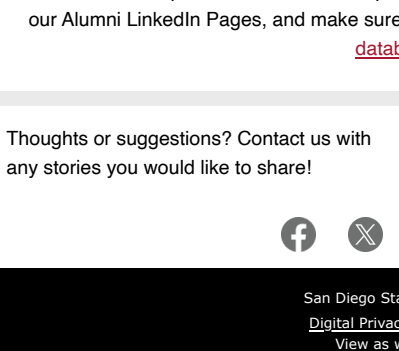
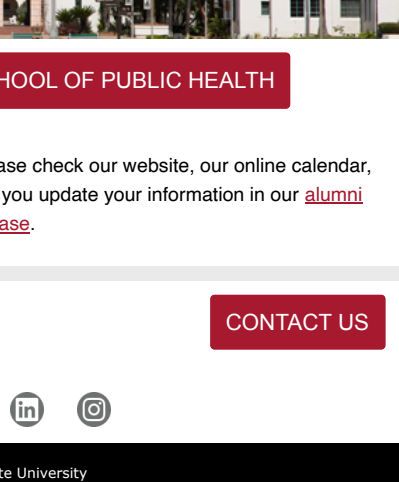


[APHA Annual Meeting 2025](#)

Every year, the American Public Health Association brings together thousands of public health professionals to network and collaborate. This year's meeting will be in Washington, D.C., from Nov. 2-5. Let us know if you will be attending or presenting by filling out our form [here](#).

[Re:Border Conference](#)

The seventh annual binational conference will bring together industry professionals to improve research, education, and public-private relationships on both sides of the border. The conference will take place at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California campus in Mexicali, Mexico with many SPH faculty and students presenting. Register for the event [here](#).



[Live Well Advance San Diego Conference](#)

Connect with thousands of partners and colleagues committed to the collective impact movement at the Live Well Advance Conference and School Summit on Oct. 22 at the San Diego Convention Center. RSVP for the conference [here](#).

Podcast

[Season 11, Episode 1](#)

Dr. Brittnie Bloom speaks with Brynn Carrigan, Director of Public Health for Kern County, California. Carrigan, who stepped into the Director role in 2021 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, has spearheaded community-driven initiatives to address Kern County's most pressing health challenges, which include education attainment, diabetes and other chronic health conditions, and access to care.

[Tune in](#) to hear how her unique personal and professional experiences have shaped her mission to build a healthier future for all – only on If I Could Change One Thing, San Diego State University's School of Public Health Podcast.

Reading Corner

[As farmworkers face longer, hotter harvest seasons, their risk of heat-related illness grows](#)

Check out this [new article](#) featuring [Nicolás López-Gálvez!](#)

Send us your ideas for stories or newsletter contributions!

DONATE TO THE SDSU SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

For SDSU SPH updates and our events, please check our website, 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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