



## Director's Message

Dear Friends,

We end the semester and look forward to the new year celebrating our many achievements.

In our final 2025 edition, we highlight the work of our accomplished students, highlighting the work of Joint Doctoral Program students [Vanessa Davila Conn](#) and [Lucia Canul](#), and the newly formed [Doctorate in Public Health \(DrPH\) student association!](#)



Dr. Eunha Hoh's [transformative work](#) continues to highlight contaminant impacts on human and wildlife health. Our [health management faculty](#), are about to study the fiscal impacts of expanding Medi-Cal coverage and Covered California for undocumented immigrants. Our faculty also receive important accolades, most recently [Mary Lessard](#) receiving the American College of Health Executives' Southern California Faculty Award.

A few weeks ago, the annual [RE: BORDER conference](#) was held in Mexicali, Mexico, bringing together various professionals and experts working on border issues, with strong representation from public health faculty and students.

We continue to stay busy with a new edition of our [podcast](#), featuring a discussion with scholar, filmmaker, and public health advocate Dr. Megan Ebor to explore her work in the intersection of race, aging, and sexual health.

For students, this is admissions season! Please attend one of our informational sessions and visit our [website](#) for more information regarding our various exciting degree programs. See below for more details!

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>

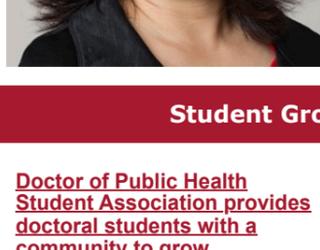
I hope you use this time to rest, rejuvenate, and enjoy the holidays and new year!

Warmly,

Eyal Oren, PhD, MS

Director, SDSU School of Public Health

## Faculty Spotlight



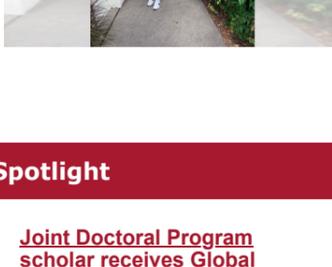
### [Tracking down the hidden pollutants that make wildlife sick](#)

Knowable Magazine's article features School of Public Health professor Eunha Hoh, highlighting her research into pollutants' impact on wildlife. Her work has helped reveal newly found chemicals contaminating alligators, sea lions, and condors.

## Student Group Spotlight

### [Doctor of Public Health Student Association provides doctoral students with a community to grow academically and professionally.](#)

The organization, introduced in August 2025, is completing its full first semester. It has allowed members like Alicia Espinoza, the events and outreach chair, to develop their skills while sharing their experience with new cohorts of doctoral students.



## Student Spotlight



### [Joint Doctoral Program scholar receives Global Grant Scholarship from Rotary Club](#)

The Rotary Club of Del Mar awarded Vanessa Davila Conn with a scholarship to support her research into HIV, Hepatitis C, and other infectious diseases. Davila Conn previously worked at an HIV research center in Mexico City, where she has spent much of her career as a physician.

### [Lucia Canul, a Joint Doctoral Program scholar, awarded University Graduate Fellowship by SDSU](#)

Canul is a dietician in the global health track of the JDP whose research investigates food insecurity, migration, and cultural influences on dietary intake in Oaxaca, Mexico. The fellowship will support her dissertation and help her complete her degree.



## Awards



### [Mary Lessard receives American College of Healthcare Executives Regent's \(ACHE\) "Faculty" Award](#)

Mary Lessard is a lecturer in SDSU's School of Public Health Global Health Management & Policy program. Lessard received the Southern California Faculty Award, recognizing her contribution to healthcare leadership.

## School News

### [Insurance commissioner selects SDSU School of Public Health for study on Medi-Cal and Covered California impacts](#)

The study will analyze the fiscal and economic impacts of expanding Medi-Cal coverage and Covered California for undocumented immigrants.



## Events

### [Re:Border Conference](#)

In October, the School of Public Health participated in the RE: BORDER Conference in Mexicali, Mexico. The conference brought together professionals from SDSU and the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California.

Congratulations to public health professor Linda Laura Jacobo, who, alongside UABC professor Jose Roman Chavez Mendez, received a prize for a Binational Laboratory for Infectious Diseases.



## Upcoming Event

All are invited to attend!



**Associations of Ambient Temperature and Air Pollutants With Emergency Department Visits Among Older Adults: A Multi-Exposure Time-Stratified Case-Crossover Study in San Diego County, 2012–2024**

Presented by:

**Michelle Pfaff, MPH, Epidemiology**

Committee Members:

**Eyal Oren, Ph.D., M.S., Chair**  
Department of Public Health, SDSU

**Christopher Coyne, MD, MPH**  
Department of Emergency Medicine, UCSD

**Edward Castillo, Ph.D., MPH**  
Department of Emergency Medicine, UCSD

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025 8:00AM**

**ZOOM**

**HTTPS://SDSU.ZOOM.US/J/2076100741**

## San Diego State University School of Public Health MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS INFO SESSION

ON-CAMPUS AND  
ONLINE PROGRAMS

**Zoom Session:**  
**Tuesday, Jan. 13**  
**4 - 5 p.m. PST**



**REGISTER HERE:**  
[tinyurl.com/4u4kzsv7](https://tinyurl.com/4u4kzsv7)

Apply to our on-campus MPH/MS programs by February 1, 2026 and online MPH program by May 1, 2026



## SDSU | School of Public Health

# Applications Now Open

FOR SDSU'S MASTERS AND DOCTORAL  
PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

APPLY BY FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO:](https://publichealth.sdsu.edu/admissions)

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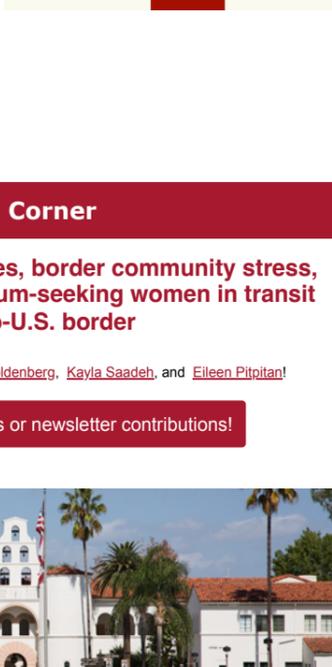
## Podcast

### [Season 11, Episode 3](#)

In this episode of the If I Could Change One Thing podcast, Dr. Brittanie Bloom and her cohost Sophia Valdez speak with scholar, filmmaker, and public health advocate Dr. Megan Ebor to explore her work in the intersection of race, aging, and sexual health.

Dr. Ebor shares her own creative journey from her beginnings in the music industry to academia and filmmaking as a tool for advocacy and change.

Together, they discuss taboos around sexual health and aging, the power of storytelling, and the importance of leading with compassion and humanity in both research and teaching.

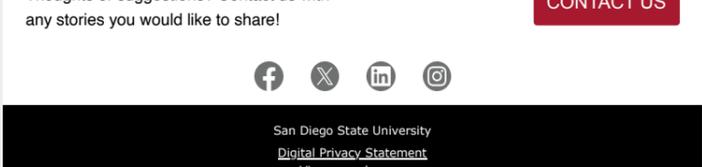


## Reading Corner

### [Adverse migration experiences, border community stress, and the mental health of asylum-seeking women in transit at the Mexico-U.S. border](#)

Check out this [new article](#) featuring [Shira M. Goldenberg](#), [Kayla Saadeh](#), and [Eileen Pitipitan!](#)

**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!

**CONTACT US**

