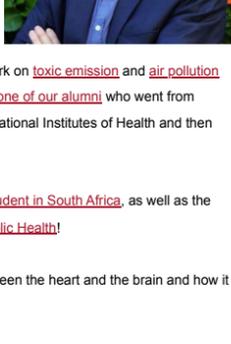




Director's Message

Dear Friends,

When February rolls round the corner, we know the semester is in full swing. In addition to campus-wide events taking place, such as the [SDSU Cancer Research Symposium](#), we have many upcoming opportunities for engagement, including our annual [Public Health Career Fair](#), the [Spring Research Speaker Series](#), [SDSU Student Symposium](#) and a [summer public health training program](#) for high schoolers!



Two of our faculty members are included here for their influential work on [toxic emission](#) and [air pollution exposure characterization](#). We also include the [remarkable story of one of our alumni](#) who went from working as a pathologist to completing her MPH degree, on to the National Institutes of Health and then becoming a nun.

Finally, we are excited to celebrate the work of an [undergraduate student in South Africa](#), as well as the incredible impact of the [Joint SDSU-UCSD Doctoral Program in Public Health!](#)

In this month's [podcast episode](#), we hear about the connection between the heart and the brain and how it can affect our physical and mental health.

Please consider donating to SPH during the [SDSU Annual Day of Giving](#) March 10 (details below).

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>

Where the spring comes
in the summer,
The summer comes in
the fall,
The fall comes in the
wintertime,
And winter don't
come at all.
[Not attributed, written in the 1920's as the official poem of San Diego]

Warmly,

Eyal Oren, PhD, MS
Director, SDSU School of Public Health

Faculty Spotlight



National Science Foundation awards grant to SDSU public health and engineering professors

The grant is for Klepeis' contribution to the project "After the Flames in Post-Fire WUI Homes: Characterization of Toxic Emissions, Environmental Concentrations, and Exposures." The project examines the aftermath of wildfires in Los Angeles and how burnt plastics, electronics, and building materials contribute to air and surface pollution in the area.

Air Pollution Increases Risk of Childhood High Blood Pressure

SDSU public health professor Yu Ni serves as lead researcher on a new study about the impacts of air pollution exposure on children before and after birth. The study found that exposure to smog increases the child's chance of having higher blood pressure between the ages 5 and 12.



Alumni Spotlight



SDSU alumna's journey from pathologist to public health leader to Catholic nun

School of Public Health alumna Sister Maria Lourdes Fernandez Reyes spent her career as a leader in science and public health at local, state, and national levels. She is now a Eudist Servant of the 11th Hour, continuing a lifetime commitment towards serving others.

Student Spotlight



Lessons of global citizenship, delivered on location

Molly Hendricks is a senior public health undergraduate and recipient of the Mundt Peace fellowship. She and other fellows spent several weeks in Cape Town, South Africa last summer, interning with non-governmental organizations.

Program Spotlight



School of Public Health highlights Joint Doctoral Program with UCSD

The Public Health Joint Doctoral Program has concentrations in epidemiology, health behavior, and global health. The joint structure benefits students by providing additional resources, faculty expertise, and course options, helping them prepare for careers in public health research, practice, and education.

Events



Student Symposium

SDSU is hosting a student symposium where students will present their various projects and research. Many students from the School of Public Health will be presenting during the showcase on Feb. 27 at the Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union. More information about the symposium can be found [here](#).



Cancer Research Symposium

In January, SDSU hosted a Cancer Research Symposium, which brought together cancer research scientists, students, advocates, and community partners to collaborate and discuss the future of cancer research.

The symposium featured presentations from School of Public Health master's students Tania Valdez (pictured left, photo by Andre Young, SDSU) and Kayla Saadeh (pictured right, photo by Andre Young, SDSU).

SPH Welcomes

Kevin M. De Cock, MD

talk title:
Deployed: A Physician on the Front Lines of Global Health

Kevin M. De Cock, M.D., F.R.C.P. (UK), D.T.M. & H., is a global health leader who has held senior roles at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). He served as CDC Country Director in Kenya, led the CDC Ebola response in Liberia, and was Director of the CDC Center for Global Health and the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Surveillance, and Epidemiology. From 2006–2009, he directed WHO's Department of HIV/AIDS, overseeing global HIV/AIDS initiatives in low- and middle-income countries. Dr. De Cock is a former Professor of Medicine and International Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and author of *Deployed: A Physician on the Front Lines of Global Health*. In 2023, he co-authored *Dispatches from the AIDS Pandemic: A Public Health Story*.

An engaging presentation and discussion with Dr. DeCock on his newest book and a lifetime of leadership in global health

DATE: 03/02/2026
TIME: 12:00PM PT
LOCATION: Aztec Student Union - Templo Mayor
Pizza provided!

RSVP LINK
(Required)

RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

School of Public Health

P2PH-Empower: Pathways to Public Health Summer Workshop

SDSU School of Public Health

Join the SDSU School of Public Health for a Summer Workshop

Open to students:

- Currently in 9th, 10th, and 11th grade
- Interested in exploring the multidisciplinary field of public health
- Committed to making a difference in their community!

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- What public health is and why it matters
- Hands-on activities: data analysis, case studies, and field trips
- Hear from current SDSU School of Public Health undergraduate students and Public Health Professionals

Join us for a **free** workshop
JUNE 15-18, 2026
San Diego State University

Please visit our website for more information!

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT: [HTTPS://P2PH-EMPOWER.SDSU.EDU](https://p2ph-empower.sdsu.edu)

@SDSU_SPH_UNDERGRAD

2026 PUBLIC HEALTH CAREER FAIR

March 23, 2026, 12:00 - 2:00 PM
Templo Mayor | Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union

Explore your future in Public Health!
Register on Handshake:

SDSU Career Services

SDSU School of Public Health

Podcast

Season 11, Episode 6

If I Could Change One Thing host Dr. Brittnie Bloom and co-host Lesley Lopez welcome Robert Browning and Sheva Carr to the podcast for a conversation on heart intelligence, healing, and human caring.

As Co-Directors of HeartMath and Senior Master Trainers at HeartMath, Robert and Sheva bring more than three decades of experience working in healthcare, education, public policy, and global peacebuilding. Their work spans major health systems including Kaiser Permanente, Stanford, and the VA, as well as global initiatives with the United Nations and the World Health Organization.

SDSU SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRESENTS:

If I Could Change One Thing

Episode 6: The Heart of Healing: How HeartMath Builds Resilience and Hope

With special guests:
Sheva Carr & Robert Browning

Dr. Browning is HeartMath's Director of Healthcare and Organizational Partnerships, with 20+ years of experience building resilience in major health systems worldwide & Sheva Carr is HeartMath's Co-Director of Healthcare and the founding CEO of Heart Ambassadors® and The Pura Foundation

Together, they explore how heart-based practices can strengthen resilience, prevent burnout, support trauma-sensitive care, and cultivate sustainable leadership in times of crisis and change. From healthcare systems to global policy reform, they share how cultivating physiological coherence and heart-centered awareness can transform individual well-being as well as institutions and communities.

This conversation covers how emotional regulation, hope, and leadership can reshape healthcare, mental health, and public health systems. Whether you're a student, clinician, policymaker, or even someone who is just seeking steadiness in uncertain times, this episode offers practical tools and insight into caring for ourselves while caring for others.

To access resources mentioned in this episode check out the following websites:

- <https://www.heartmath.com/>
- <https://www.heartmath.org/>
- heartambassadors.com
- <https://www.tyera.org/team/>

Reading Corner

Women's self-help group participation and discussion of reproductive coercion: Associations with past experiences of violence among family planning clients in Kenya

Check out this [new article](#) featuring [Elizabeth Reed!](#)

Send us your ideas for stories or newsletter contributions!

DONATE TO THE SDSU SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Please consider supporting our School of Public Health through the annual **SDSU Day of Giving, March 10, 2026**. Every contribution adds to our collective impact.

Our funding priorities for the Day of Giving, with associated funding links are:

School of Public Health General Scholarship

This fund provides our students critical financial support and scholarships.

Doctorate in Public Health (DrPH) Fund

Supports our professional DrPH students in advancing careers, financing education and support for summer coursework.

Don't forget to bookmark the [Day of Giving link](#) and help us make a public health impact!

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

