



## Director's Message

I was recently fortunate enough to go to in Washington DC to engage with policymakers and congress staff, to share some of the amazing work we do at the School of Public Health, and to explain the great needs we have in the field—from infrastructure to workforce development, largely exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was great to have an understanding and receptive audience with California representatives! However, there is much work to be done, and with [National Public Health Week](#) upon us, please consider [taking action](#) on public health with your local elected leaders.



This month's newsletter features faculty spotlights of Dr. Aceves' work on indigenous health inequities, and new Imperial Valley faculty member Dr. Cheng's studies on indoor air pollution. We also feature a variety of exciting programs put on by our student organizations through Student Success Fee funds, and a number of events and awards as part of National Public Health Week. This week in particular provides an opportunity for us to celebrate the joyful and varied approaches we can take to improve population health.

*Eyal Oren, Ph.D, MS*

Director, SDSU School of Public Health

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### **Student Spotlight: Jonathen Vazquez Ramirez**

Undergraduate research assistant Jonathen Vazquez Ramirez presented on the mixed-methods community-based project "Examining Community Perspectives on Equitable Public Restroom Access and Quality in San Diego" at the SDSU Student Symposium.

### **New SDSU IV Faculty Establishes Environmental Health Infrastructure**

FUERTE faculty member Dr. Kai-Chung Cheng aims to improve environmental health research resources at San Diego State University's Imperial Valley campus.



### **Faculty Advocates for Paradigm Shift Regarding Indigenous Health**

FUERTE faculty member Benjamín Aceves, whose mixed-methods research primarily focuses on interventions which aim to address multi-level factors that cause health disparities among Latina/Latine/Latinx/Latino communities, was recently [published in The Lancet Global Health](#).

## **Awards**



### **Four School of Public Health Student Groups Awarded Grant Funding**

Four undergraduate, masters, and doctoral student groups in the School of Public Health were awarded grants from the San Diego State University Student Success Fee (SSF).

**2023 SDSU Student Symposium Another Success**

More than 370 undergraduate, master, and doctoral students presented their research, scholarship, and creative projects. Seven students from the School of Public Health were presented awards for their work.

**Antoinette Dunlap**

Research Award for Diversity, Inclusion and  
Social Justice

**Alana Lopez and Rosa Cobian Aguilar**

Research Award for Diversity, Inclusion and  
Social Justice

**Sydney Niesen**

Undergraduate Research Excellence Award

**Nasim Kasiri**

Provost's Award: Health & Human Services

**Giovanna Zampa**

President's Award

**Sara Rodrigue**

President's Award

Check out all the awards [here!](#)

## Podcast

### 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](mailto:jumday@sdsu.edu).




## Events

# SPH NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Join us for our National Public Health Week events!

**APRIL 3** **Reveal Alumni Award** 

Join us in recognizing the achievements of TWO SPH Alumni!  
Reveal at 1:30 PM

**APRIL 4** **SPH Student Council Speaker Series** 

Register for Rajat Khosla's Human Rights Presentation.  
On Zoom from 7-8 PM

**APRIL 5** **Reveal Public Health Practice Impact Award** 

Join us in recognizing the recipient of the Public Health Practice Impact Award!  
Reveal at 1:30 PM

**APRIL 6** **SPH Student Council Speaker Series** 

Register for Dr. Rupa Basu's Climate Impacts Presentation.  
On Zoom from 1-2 PM

**APRIL 7** **SPH Faculty Research Talk Series** 

Join us for Pizza!

Register for Dr. Emily Schmied's "Promoting Mental Health in Military Settings" presentation.  
At Storm Hall 101 and Zoom from 12:15-1:15 PM



*The Brazilian Consulate General in Los Angeles & San Diego State University are pleased to invite you to the*

## **World Chagas Disease Day Seminar 2023**

***Time to integrate Chagas disease into primary healthcare***

Friday, April 14, 2023 at 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM PDT  
SDSU PARMA PAYNE GOODALL  
ALUMNI CENTER BALLROOM  
5491 AZTEC WALK, SAN DIEGO, CA 92182

In 2020, the World Health Organization declared World Chagas Day to bring more attention to this neglected disease. Join us to learn about the advances and remaining challenges for Chagas disease and the many people it impacts throughout the world. Light refreshments will be served in-person.

For more information on Chagas Disease, check out the organizers' [About Chagas Disease page](#) or [this article](#) written by our own Dr. Stigler Granados.

**Registration Link:** <https://bit.ly/WorldChagasDay2023>

Special Thanks to:



UFRJ

UC San Diego  
SKAGGS SCHOOL OF PHARMACY  
AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES



## 2023 Epidemiology Research Exchange

### SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, April 27, 2023

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

County Operations Center

5520 Overland Ave., Suite 210

San Diego, CA 92123

The Epidemiology Research Exchange is an annual conference first established by Dr. Elizabeth Barrett-Connor and Dr. Frank Garland in 1985. The “Epi Exchange” as it has come to be known, gives local researchers and students a stage to present current research and emerging methodologies.

### Sponsored by:

SDSU School of Public Health

UCSD Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science

Naval Health Research Center

San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency

Bud Benenson Foundation

[Register Here!](#)



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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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