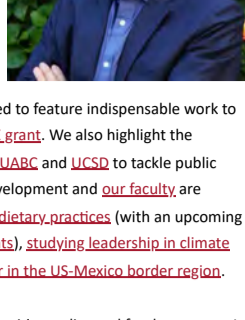


Director's Message

Dear Friends,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is [shifting](#) its COVID-19 isolation guidance this spring even as respiratory viruses are still surging across the country. Unfortunately, approximately 1500 Americans are still dying from COVID-19 every week, speaking to the continued need for better access and utilization to treatment, vaccination and continued awareness of the need to be vigilant of exposure.



In this issue, as we celebrate Black History Month, we are excited to feature indispensable work to improve underrepresentation in medicine through the [CHANGE grant](#). We also highlight the longstanding binational ["VIDAII" program](#), which partners with [UABC](#) and [UCSD](#) to tackle public health issues. [Our alumna](#) is working locally in research and development and [our faculty](#) are working on cutting-edge problems: these include [transforming dietary practices](#) (with an upcoming highest research distinction to [celebrate Dr. Ayala's achievements](#)), [studying leadership in climate change in Antarctica](#) and [examining contaminated water and air in the US-Mexico border region](#).

In a new edition of our podcast, [Dr. Wendi Gosliner](#) discusses nutrition policy and food programs. In the coming weeks, we will have our [17th Annual SDSU Student Symposium](#) on campus, and nearby in Los Angeles, SPH will be participating in the [Consortium of Universities for Public Health's \(CUGH\) Annual Conference](#).

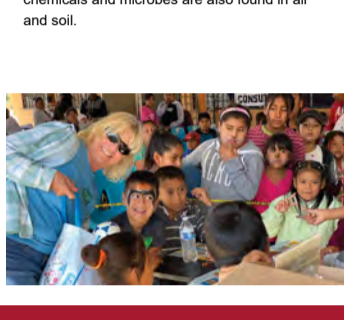
If you are no longer at SDSU, please continue to stay in touch with us! For updates on the SPH and our events, please check our website and online calendar, our LinkedIn Alumni pages, and make sure you update your information in our alumni database: <https://publichealth.sdsu.edu/gsph-alumni/alumni-update-form/>

Hoping you are all staying dry and safe this winter! I look forward to working with you to support our diverse students and communities.

Warmly,

Eyal Oren, Ph.D., MS
Director, SDSU School of Public Health

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



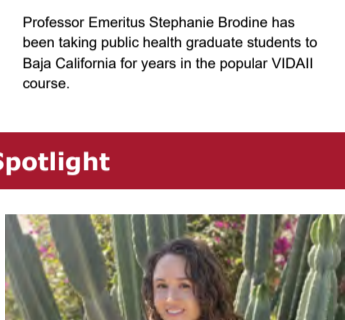
A Need for CHANGE: Dr. Aaron Briggs Works to Improve Underrepresentation in Medicine

"Inequity in health and disease is as American as apple pie," says Dr. Aaron Briggs. "But that can change."

School News

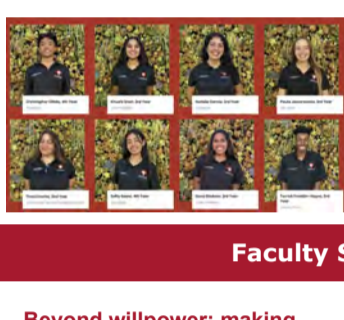
New report: Public health crisis unfolds as Tijuana river sewage contamination escalates

[This new report](#) by eight SDSU SPH faculty shows that the public health impact may extend far further than beach closures, as toxic chemicals and microbes are also found in air and soil.



SDSU binational programs, research bring U.S. and Mexico together

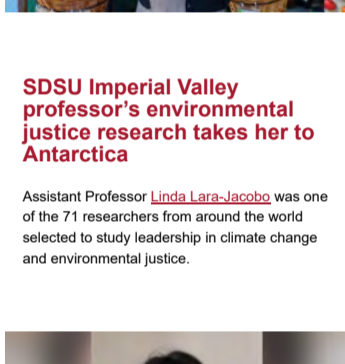
Professor Emeritus Stephanie Brodine has been taking public health graduate students to Baja California for years in the popular VIDAII course.



Alumni Spotlight

Where Are They Now? SPH Alumna Chelsea Basirico Shares Experience as Senior EHS Engineer

Environmental Health MPH alumna, Chelsea Basirico, is a Senior Environmental, Health, & Safety (EHS) Engineer at [Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine's \(J&J\)](#) research and development facility in La Jolla.



Student Spotlight



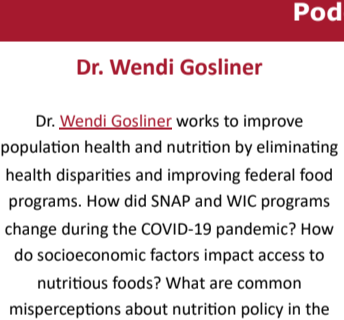
S4PH Students Prepare for Trip to Honduras

Undergraduate student group [Students 4 Public Health \(S4PH\)](#) obtained funding for their upcoming Global Public Health Brigade Spring Break trip to Honduras.

Faculty Spotlight

Beyond willpower: making healthy eating habits irresistible

SDSU researcher [Guadalupe X. 'Suchi' Ayala's](#) innovative strategies and cultural insight transformed dietary practices in underserved communities and beyond. [Join us](#) in celebrating her achievement!



SDSU Imperial Valley professor's environmental justice research takes her to Antarctica

Assistant Professor [Linda Lara-Jacobo](#) was one of the 71 researchers from around the world selected to study leadership in climate change and environmental justice.

'You can taste it': El Paso residents fear air pollution will worsen after border crossing upgrade

"Heavy duty trucks spew out much more pollution than passenger vehicles, and it tends to be very toxic pollution," [Dr. Quintana](#) explained in her interview with [The Guardian](#).



The New COVID JN.1 Variant Symptoms to Watch For, According to Experts

Check out [Dr. Eyal Oren's](#) interview in [Good Housekeeping](#) on the newest COVID-19 variant.

Awards

Congratulations to our faculty!

Women and Queers in STEM

Benjamin Aceves

Virtual colloquium featuring sexual and gender minorities (SGM) in STEM fields

Student Training in Air Quality Monitoring in Imperial County

Zohir Chowdhury

Undergraduate and graduate student training in air quality monitoring methods

CSU Health Policy Conference

Jennifer Felner

Student attendance at 2024 Health Policy Conference in Sacramento, CA

Water Quality Lab

Paula Stigler-Granados

Graduate student training in water quality analysis

Click here to learn more about Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) funding!

Podcast

Dr. Wendi Gosliner

Dr. [Wendi Gosliner](#) works to improve population health and nutrition by eliminating health disparities and improving federal food programs. How did SNAP and WIC programs change during the COVID-19 pandemic? How do socioeconomic factors impact access to nutritious foods? What are common misperceptions about nutrition policy in the US? Find out, on this episode of *If I Could Change One Thing*, the Health Policy Podcast of San Diego State University.

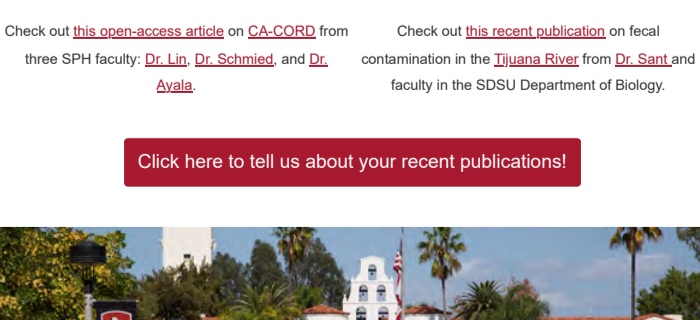


Volunteers Needed!

Help shape public health locally and nationally, research and disseminate information, meet interesting guests, and more. Familiarity with A/V production is helpful but not necessary!

Please contact James Romine at jkrumine@sdsu.edu to apply.

Events

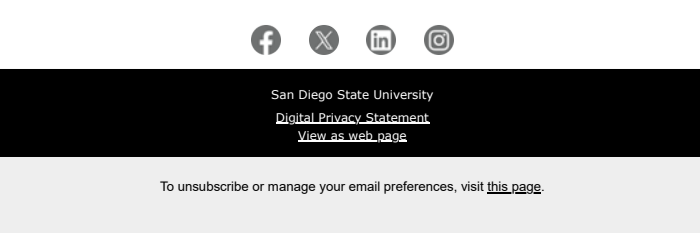


17th Annual SDSU Student Symposium

The SDSU Student Symposium (S3) is a public forum where students at all levels have the opportunity to present their research, scholarship, and creative activities to all the SDSU and San Diego communities. Come learn about all the incredible projects that our undergraduate and graduate students are working on under the direction of their faculty mentors.

March 1-2, 2024

Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union



CUGH 2024: CUGH's 15th Annual Conference

Come join us at the [Consortium of Universities for Public Health's \(CUGH\)](#) Annual Conference!

March 7-10, 2024

Los Angeles, CA

Albert W. Johnson University Research Lectureship

Come join us in celebrating [Dr. Ayala's](#) recognition!

The recipient delivers a public lecture during the spring semester and is named a Distinguished Professor in their discipline for the remainder of their tenure and retirement at SDSU. This Lectureship is awarded to faculty working at the very top of their discipline and who are recognized as a preeminent leader in their field of study.

[RSVP Here!](#)

Join Student Council for the Faculty Speaker Series!

Michelle Grifka
March 14

Vikki Lowe
March 21

Dr. Donna Nelson
March 28

12:00 - 1:30 pm

Parks Boulevard Room

Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union

Zoom links to come!

Join S4PH for Public Health Futures: Discovering Your Career Adventure in Healthcare!

March 19

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Templo Mayor

Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union

Student Opportunities

Graduate Student Travel Fund

[The Graduate Student Travel Fund \(GSTF\)](#) supports travel associated with scholarly research and creative activities. The maximum award is \$1,000.

Applications close on **March 3, 2024, at 11:59 pm.**

Student Success Fee

[The Student Success Fee \(SSF\)](#) supports Academic Related Programs (ARPs), including student colloquia, lecture series, seminars, and student projects.

Applications close on **March 5, 2024, at 5:00 pm.**

Reading Corner

The Effects of a Multisector, Multilevel Intervention on Child Dietary Intake: California Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration Study

Check out [this open-access article](#) on [CA-CORD](#) from three SPH faculty: [Dr. Lin](#), [Dr. Schmied](#), and [Dr. Ayala](#).

Metagenomic analysis of microbial communities and antibiotic resistant genes in the Tijuana river, and potential sources

Check out [this recent publication](#) on fecal contamination in the [Tijuana River](#) from [Dr. Sant](#) and faculty in the SDSU Department of Biology.

[Click here to tell us about your recent publications!](#)

[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](#)

San Diego State University

[Digital Privacy Statement](#)

[View as web page](#)

To unsubscribe or manage your email preferences, visit [this page](#).