

PUBLIC HEALTH

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As Director, I am most impressed by the ethos of the GSPH community and the interest of its members; faculty, staff, students and alumni in making positive differences all around. This year, one meaningful way to collectively create change for the greater good is to increase voter registration and turnout particularly among young people. I have always had a strong sense of responsibility associated with our right to vote and believe that we must not take this right for granted. I hope you will join me in pledging to vote and engage 5 other individuals to register to vote and turn out in the 2018 midterm elections.

Hala Madanat, PhD
Director | SDSU Graduate School of Public Health

[HTTP://CAMPAIGN.SDSU.EDU/PUBLICHEALTH](http://campaign.sdsu.edu/publichealth)

GIVING

Improving the Health of Children Through Policy Research

State and local tobacco control efforts have largely been regarded as a public health success. However, there has been concern that one particular policy, smoke-free laws applicable to non-residential indoor venues such as workplaces, restaurants and bars, could have unintended harmful effects on infant and child health. If these laws shift smoking from banned locations to the home where pregnant women and children are present, second-hand smoke exposure could increase among certain groups of children. A new collaborative study published in the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Working Paper series, “Impact of Comprehensive Smoking Bans on the Health of Infants and Children” addresses this question. Brandy Lipton, Assistant Professor of Health Management and Policy, co-authored the study alongside fellow researchers Kerry Anne McGeary (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), Dhaval Dave (Bentley University) and Timothy Roeper (New York University).

The research team examined the effects of state and local 100% smoke-free laws on the health of infants and children, as well as the likelihood of adults smoking at home. Findings suggested that the most stringent 100% smoke-free laws were associated with increased birth weight among infants and reductions in the likelihood of respiratory symptoms, ear infections, and emergency room visits among children. These results were concentrated among infants and children of low-educated mothers, which may be because these mothers are both more likely to be smokers and also more likely to live in areas where they are exposed to secondhand smoke. The study did not find any evidence that adult smokers were more likely to smoke at home in states and localities with the most stringent smoke-free laws. Since only about 58% of the US population is currently covered by 100% smoke-free laws in all major indoor venues, these findings may inform the decision of whether to implement these policies.

In addition to the recently published NBER article, Dr. Lipton has received funding from the William T. Grant Foundation for calendar year 2018 to study the effects of improving access to dental care among parents on dental visits and related outcomes among children. This analysis will leverage state-level changes to Medicaid adult dental coverage policies over time, which previous research implies are associated adult dental care use. Similar to other types of health care, dental care exhibits large socioeconomic disparities among children. Parental dental coverage through Medicaid may present a new mechanism for reducing these disparities. Further, findings could inform policies that affect low-income children and their families by helping to establish a direct connection between parental and child health behaviors.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Jerel P. Calzo, PhD, MPH
Associate Professor-HPBS

Dr. Calzo's research focuses on studying and preventing gender and sexual orientation health inequities in adolescence and young adulthood. One key area of his work is advancing research on boys and men with eating disorders. A second area focuses on utilizing community-based participatory research approaches to promote the health of sexual and gender minority youth. Dr. Calzo recently received a UGP award to partner with community-based organizations to study how homeless, transitional-aged youth of diverse sexual orientations experienced the '17-'18 San Diego Hepatitis A Emergency.



Caroline A. Thompson, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor-Epidemiology

Dr. Thompson is a cancer epidemiologist. Her research is concerned with two main themes: 1) improving the early detection of cancer, and 2) describing cancer burden across people, places, and time. Her research is unique because she utilizes sources of data that were not originally collected for research (e.g., electronic health records). Tangentially, she also develops novel methodology for research using such “big data”. Specifically, she is interested in methods for describing and controlling bias due to missing data.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



WHY SDSU PUBLIC HEALTH?

I wanted to further my education and pursue a graduate degree that would enable me to promote environmental justice and ensure that our future generations have access to an unpolluted and safe environment. After speaking to alumni from the MPH program at SDSU and learning more about the rewarding careers they enjoyed and how the GSPH helped them get there, I knew the GSPH was the right program for me. Through the knowledge I've gained, I have been able to become involved in air quality projects that help our city and its residents at the local level

— *Josefina Villavicencio, 2nd Year*
MPH Program, Environmental Health



I find public health very interesting and important because it focuses more on prevention, rather than treatment, which has a great impact on the health of not only individuals but also populations. I decided to pursue the field of public health as an undergraduate not only because I found it important, but also because I knew it would give me the tools and insight to further my education and career in the field. San Diego State University also offers many opportunities for education, research, and community involvement that serves to advance knowledge and improve the health of many.

— *Lydia Alcala, 3rd Year*
BS Public Health

PUBLIC HEALTH EVENTS

VISIT WWW.PUBLICHEALTH.SDSU.EDU FOR EXTENSIVE INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS & MORE

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

5:30PM-9:00PM | PUBLIC HEALTH ALUMNI MIXER
Rough Draft Brewing Company. RSVP

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

6:30 PM | ADDICTION SERIES · DR. CLARK & DR. HOWLETT
SDSU Alumni Center | Fowler Family Ballroom

THURSDAY, APRIL 5

6:30 PM | HUMBERTO MONGE & RIGO VARGAS · PH SPEAKERS
SDSU Student Union Council Chambers

MONDAY, MARCH 5

4:00PM-6:00PM | PREVENTING CERVICAL CANCER · DR. AGÉNOR
Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center Ballroom

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

7:00PM-8:30PM | SOY TRANS Y QUE? · BAMBY SALCEDO
SDSU Student Union-Theater

TUESDAY, APRIL 17

7:00-9:00PM | "SUBJECTIFIED" SCREENING AND DISCUSSION
SDSU Student Union Theater

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

7:00PM-9:00PM | SCOUTING THE UNKNOWN · RYAN SALLANS
SDSU Student Union Theater

TUESDAY, MARCH 20

6:30-9:30PM | FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH PANEL
Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

7:00-9:00PM | "I ♥ FEMALE ORGASM" PROGRAM
SDSU Student Union Montezuma Hall

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Jillian Barber, MPH-Manager, Community Benefit and Health Improvement Sharp Health Care

Jillian Barber graduated from SDSU's MPH Health Policy and Management Program (formerly Health Services Administration) in 2010. Prior to enrolling in the program Barber had worked in public health for several years. However, Barber's experience at SDSU GSPH was a critical component to her career in health care as she began working with Sharp HealthCare's Strategic Planning department as an SDSU MPH intern. "I found the program's academic structure, focus on collaboration, and commitment of faculty to connect MPH students to San Diego's health care sector incredibly valuable," said Barber.

Over the past nearly nine years Barber has grown within Sharp from intern to a Manager in Community Benefit and Health Improvement; working on programs and partnerships with San Diego organizations to measurably improve the health of the San Diego community.

In her role at Sharp, Barber leads the process of identifying community health needs and the development of programs to address those identified needs for the communities served by Sharp. She leads community health needs assessment and implementation strategy development for the Sharp system, development of Sharp's annual community benefit report, and holds a key role in partnership development and program management and implementation to address community health needs.

Barber has spoken locally and nationally on the intersection of food insecurity/ social determinants, health outcomes and health care utilization, and has led the development of multiple outcomes-oriented community collaborations at Sharp to address this intersection. Her commitment to the impact of social factors on health outcomes was recognized with her receipt of 2-1-1 San Diego's first-ever Bill Trumpfheller Awareness Ambassador Award in 2017.



Dr. Julie Croff, Associate Professor-School of Community Health Sciences, Counseling and Counseling Psychology (HCCP) in the Oklahoma State University College of Education, Health and Aviation



Dr. Julie Croff graduated with a Ph.D. in Public Health from the SDSU/UCSD Joint Doctoral Program in 2010, with an emphasis in Health Behavior. In the joint Ph.D. program, Dr. Croff was able to work on projects with Dr. John Clapp (and SDSU faculty Dr. Mark Reed & Dr. James Lange), on NIH-funded projects, which included primary data collection and publication opportunities. Teaching and writing opportunities at SDSU were critical components of her ability to secure a tenure-track position.

Immediately upon graduation Dr. Croff joined the Oklahoma State University (OSU) faculty and is now an Associate Professor in the School of Community Health Sciences, Counseling and Counseling Psychology (HCCP) in the OSU College of Education, Health and Aviation. Her research has focused on the epidemiology and prevention of alcohol and other drug use, health behaviors, person-environment interactions and particularly among underserved populations.

In her role at OSU Dr. Croff enjoys interacting with students and having the opportunity to work with them and guide them on their public health journey. She also enjoys service-opportunities that allow her to disseminate research information with people in practice- "shortening the process from research to practice."

Recently Dr. Croff has been selected as the recipient of the 2018 President's Fellows Faculty Research Award at OSU for her research on measuring health behaviors among adolescent girls; a prestigious award that will also provide funding to continue her work. With award funding Dr. Croff will be collecting and analyzing sleep measurements of alcohol-using adolescent by using a wearable device to help examine the interactions of three behaviors: alcohol use, diet, and sleep. The study will be one of the first to look at the environment of alcohol-using adolescents where the behaviors are not controlled.