The School of Public Health – the only top 10 school of public health between Chicago and Seattle – advances excellence in research, education, and outreach for the protection, restoration, and promotion of health, equity, wellbeing, security, and safety.

As one of the premier schools of public health in the world, we prepare some of the most influential leaders in the field, and provide the knowledge health departments, communities, and policymakers need to make the best decisions about population health.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1944, the School of Public Health (SPH) was founded as the seventh school of public health in the U.S. and is currently ranked in the top 10 among 67 fully accredited schools and more than 135 accredited programs.

ACADEMIC DIVISIONS
Our academic divisions offer a wide range of master’s and doctoral degree programs, and house national and internationally recognized centers that provide high-caliber research, outreach, and training.

- Biostatistics (Joe Koopmeiners, Head)
- Environmental Health Sciences (Craig Hedberg, Interim Head)
- Epidemiology & Community Health (Dianne Neumark-Sztainer, Head)
- Health Policy & Management (Timothy Beebe, Head)

FAST FACTS
Established: 1944
Dean: John R. Finnegan Jr. (2005-)
Students: 1,327
Alumni: 11,800+
Faculty: 118
Staff: 437
Degree Programs: 19 (15 master’s, 4 doctoral)
Research Centers: 22
Rankings (U.S. News & World Report):
#10 school of public health
#2 Master of Healthcare Administration
#7 biostatistics program

FY2020 REVENUE

Grants & Contracts (64%)
$22.6M
Tuition & Fees (22%)
$7.6M
State, UMN Allocation (7%)
$7.8M
Other Income (7%)
$7.6M
$105M

On the Front Cover: Working with Community Partners for Change
Members of Street Voices of Change and Upstream Health Innovations, along with SPH students, gather outside of Envision Community’s tiny home prototype in 2019. The students used the MHA problem-solving method to help the organization fine tune decision making around its bold initiative — to create an intentional community of “tiny homes” to provide stability and better health for people who do not have a place to live.
BY THE NUMBERS

ENROLLMENT: FALL 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>MHA</th>
<th>MPH</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>PhD</th>
<th>Certificate</th>
<th>Countries Represented</th>
<th>% Students of Color</th>
<th>% Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,327</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>794</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INCOMING STUDENTS: FALL 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>MHA</th>
<th>MPH</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>PhD</th>
<th>Certificate</th>
<th>Countries Represented</th>
<th>% Students of Color</th>
<th>% Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>466</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEGREES GRANTED: 2019-20 Academic Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Master’s</th>
<th>Doctoral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>385</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

Public health certificate students: 71
Undergraduate public health minors: 492 (spring 2021 enrollment)
Rothenberger Institute: undergraduate wellness courses (more than 50,000 students since 2002)

ALUMNI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment (within 12 mos of graduation)</th>
<th>Graduates Staying in Minnesota</th>
<th>Total Living Alumni</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>11,816</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FACULTY & STAFF HEADCOUNC: FALL 2020 (faculty); FALL 2019 (staff)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% American Indians and People of Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliate and Adjunct Faculty</td>
<td>214</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Assistants</td>
<td>196</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>869</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TENURED/TENURE-TRACK FACULTY BY RANK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full</th>
<th>Associate</th>
<th>Assistant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SPH KEY INITIATIVES IN 2021

The School of Public Health improves the health and wellbeing of populations around the world through excellence in research and education, and by advancing policies and practices that sustain health equity for all. This mission is enhanced by strategic initiatives that provide support and infrastructure necessary for the school’s future.

COVID-19 IMPACT AND POST-PANDEMIC PLANS
(page 5)

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION
(page 6)

DRIVEN: SHAPING A FUTURE OF HEALTH CAMPAIGN
(page 7)

LEADERSHIP + STRATEGY SETTING
Two important searches are underway for transformative leadership positions at SPH: Dean, SPH, and Head, SPH Division of Environmental Health Sciences.

The events of the past year have made it clear that academic public health must think far into the future to advance health and wellbeing and to meet the needs of a changing world. SPH is a school where questioning, rethinking, and redesigning is welcome and expected, and strategic planning, continuous quality improvement, and innovation must be embedded into our education, research, and engagement in an ongoing and real way.
RESPONDING TO COVID-19

In 2020, our students, faculty, and staff came together in a year that was marked with tragedy, imperatives, and hope. The pandemic changed the way we conduct our learning, operations, research, education, outreach, and communications.

COVID-19 SCIENCE & RESEARCH

During this pandemic, SPH works side-by-side with the Minnesota Department of Health, health systems, tribal nations, policymakers, and other University of Minnesota colleagues. We have confronted the pandemic from many angles by bringing hard facts, rapid innovation, and insights about this novel disease and its impacts. Read more about our COVID-19 Science & Research.

E-LEARNING TAKES CENTER STAGE

In spring 2020, the school built on its solid online learning infrastructure to transfer more than 90 courses from the in-person to the virtual classroom in less than two weeks. Fall 2020 and spring 2021 saw a continuation of this virtual classroom model.

WORKING REMOTELY

In March 2020, SPH moved to a remote work environment, pausing projects that could not be performed remotely. We used technology and our guiding principles of creativity, flexibility, and resilience to retain/build relationships with co-workers, advance innovation, drive projects forward, and connect via more than 400 school events.

Michael Osterholm
Regents Professor, Director of CIDRAP
Osterholm has been internationally sought out for his infectious disease experience, expertise, and guidance during the pandemic, and was selected to President Biden’s Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board.

35,500
(represents a 570% increase from 2019!)

Media Mentions in 2020

SPH experts have been critical to the public’s understanding of COVID, covering topics such as aerosol science, clinical trials, environment, food, rural health, health equity, mental health, transmission, misinformation, vaccines, and aging.
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION STRATEGIC PLAN

Through the SPH strategic plan for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), we build on our core values to drive transformational culture change and make DEI central to our operations and mission with a clearly defined set of goals, actions, and tactics that will guide our efforts over the next five years (2021-2026).

STRATEGIC PLAN FRAMEWORK

KEY MILESTONES

- **Spring 2020**: Begin planning
- **Fall 2020**: Conduct climate assessment
- **Spring 2021**: Draft plan review
- **Summer 2021**: Launch
- **2021-2026**: Implement plan with accountability checks (View strategic plan website.)

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

The SPH Strategic Planning Committee for DEI is charged with developing a robust and imaginative strategic plan focused on re-imagining how the school can establish itself as a leader and powerful advocate for equity and racial justice on our campus, in higher education, and in our communities across the country. The committee is led by Lauren Eldridge, SPH director of DEI (pictured at left), with an outside consultant and a 16-member planning committee of SPH faculty, staff, students, and alumni.
PHILANTHROPY

Philanthropic support at SPH — Minnesota’s only school of public health — provides student scholarships, fuels innovative research, and advances our efforts to work relentlessly for every Minnesotan and the billions of people all over the world in need of better health and wellbeing.

The following figures summarize philanthropic investment in SPH during the Driven: Shaping a Future of Health campaign (July 2011 through June 2021). The school announced its public campaign phase in April 2018, and is expected to conclude by June 2021.

CAMPAIGN GOALS

CAMPAIGN PROGRESS
(as of March 22, 2021)

• Overall: $39.2M (98%)
• Investment in Student Success: $9.7M
• Investment in World-Class Faculty: $4.9M
• Investment in Pioneering Research: $24.6M

2021 CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHT

SPH Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity
In 2021, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota made a $5 million philanthropic gift to SPH to establish the Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity. Rachel Hardeman, associate professor and Blue Cross Endowed Professor of Health and Racial Equity, created the vision for the center and will serve as its founding director. This is the largest gift to the school’s Driven: Shaping a Future of Health campaign. Funding for diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives is a key SPH philanthropic priority and increases our opportunities and ability to combat racism’s threat to health and enact lasting change.
RESEARCH

Public health is a field at the nexus of the health sciences and is collaborative by nature. Our researchers work across disciplines to bring innovative thinking and concrete action to emerging and persistent challenges.

DRIVING UMN EXCELLENCE

SPH faculty members advance opportunities for health and wellbeing as they raise the University’s profile as a first-class research institution.

Recent Examples (below are two examples of SPH faculty who significantly contribute to the University’s prominence through high-profile awards and prominent University positions):

**Jim Neaton**
Professor, Director of the Coordinating Centers for Biometric Research
Received funding from the National Institutes of Health for COVID-19 clinical trials, representing one of the largest awards in UMN history.

**Michael Oakes**
Professor, UMN Associate Vice President for Research
Will assume the role of interim UMN Vice President for Research in June 2021.

KEY RESEARCH FUNDERS

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Walton Family Foundation
- Bentson Foundation
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- CDC National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
- Leidos Biomedical Research, Inc.

A RESEARCH POWERHOUSE

SPH research is far-reaching and impactful and is vital to the University of Minnesota’s current and future institutional excellence.

22
Research Centers

$67M
Grants and Contracts in FY2020

#4
Largest research portfolio among schools and colleges at the University

33%
Of SPH faculty are members of the Masonic Cancer Center

29%
Of SPH faculty are members of the Minnesota Population Center

$568,000
Average grant funding per faculty member
SPH experts shape the way public health is practiced around the globe. We understand that addressing health at the population level cannot be done in a vacuum. Conducting our research with community partners and faculty across the University and the world gives our work depth and relevance. Partnerships at the state, national, and global levels amplify our work and place the school at the center of big challenges and big questions.
UNIVERSITY COLLABORATIONS 2020-21

SPH experts are primed for research that crosses disciplines. The University of Minnesota is one of only a handful of universities in the country with schools of engineering, medicine and veterinary medicine, law, and agriculture on a single campus. Our faculty members are driven to innovate and generate deep impact to population health with their University colleagues.

UMN COLLABORATIONS, 2020-2021
DRIVEN TO DISCOVER RESEARCH FACILITY

School of Public Health Professor Ellen Demerath joined with Medical School Professor Logan Spector, director of the Epidemiology and Clinical Research Division, to create the Driven to Discover (D2D) Research Facility at the Minnesota State Fair. More than two million people visit the fair each year from across the state making it a great place to connect with people and engage them in exciting, innovative projects from a wide variety of disciplines.

At the building, researchers across the U can reach a more diverse group of potential participants, meeting a study’s recruitment goals in a matter of hours or days.

Demerath’s work focuses on the role genes play in the developmental origins of chronic disease. Specifically, she researches obesity, body composition, genetic epidemiology, and cardiovascular disease risk factors in infancy and childhood with the goal to help prevent chronic disease.

REDUCING SUICIDE RISK

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among U.S. adolescents and is often preceded by bouts of depression. To understand this connection, School of Public Health Assistant Professor Mark Fiecas teamed up with the Medical School’s Associate Professor Kathryn Cullen in a major study of the adolescent brain.

By mapping data from functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) with health data of the participants, they hope to better understand the development of depression and suicide risk.

A biostatistician, Fiecas specializes in collecting high-dimensional time-series data (a very large collection of variables that are observed over time) to understand the relationship between brain function and clinical manifestations of disease, with a special focus on improving outcomes for adolescents grappling with mental illness.
TAKING CARE OF THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

Associate Professor Ryan Demmer usually investigates the human microbiome, but when the pandemic hit, he and School of Nursing Professor Jayne Fulkerson began studying a topic that needed urgent attention: COVID-19 infections among healthcare workers and the stress they are suffering due to the pandemic.

Their findings will have national implications for maintaining a resilient healthcare workforce and they are also providing tailored data to the M Health Fairview system to benefit its staff.

(Demmer also collaborates with colleagues at Columbia University on a large national study of over 50,000 U.S. adults to identify causes and consequences of “long-COVID.”)

Demmer is an epidemiologist who investigates what leads to cardiometabolic diseases — including diabetes, atherosclerotic vascular disease, and congestive heart failure — and how to reduce risk.

DETECTING AIRBORNE VIRUSES — A CRITICAL NEED

Detecting viruses, such as SARS-CoV-2, in the air can show how far they travel, how deeply they penetrate the respiratory tract, and how to limit exposures to them. SPH Professor Pete Raynor and College of Veterinary Medicine colleagues found a two-system approach works best: one that finds the virus and another that measures concentration, a combination vital for use in animal agriculture settings, human healthcare facilities, and mass transit, as well as for future disease outbreaks and pandemics.

Raynor devotes his work to making sure people and animals have clean air to breathe. He serves on the work group for Clean Air Minnesota, directs the SPH industrial hygiene program, and leads the Midwest Consortium for Hazardous Waste Worker Training and the Midwest Emerging Technologies Public Health and Safety Training program.
MINNESOTA’S PUBLIC HEALTH RESOURCE

As a top 10 U.S. school, the School of Public Health is a trusted source of health research and education, making us an invaluable resource to Minnesota communities, leaders, and policymakers.

TACKLING MINNESOTA’S COMPLEX HEALTH ISSUES

• Healthcare availability and access
• Resilience in aging populations
• Stronger family systems
• Affordable, safe food
• Rural and immigrant health
• Obesity prevention
• Disease and injury prevention
• Healthier environments

PARTNERSHIPS AMPLIFY OUR IMPACT

Minnesota is currently 7th in U.S. state health rankings, and SPH is a significant part of what puts Minnesota in that top tier. Through strategic investments; extensive partnerships with Mayo Clinic, Minnesota hospitals, communities, organizations, and Fortune 500 companies; and a long and close relationship with the state health department, SPH makes Minnesota’s public health system one of the best in the nation.

While Minnesota ranks high in state health rankings, it simultaneously ranks among the worst places to live for Black Americans. In 2021, SPH launched the Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity — led by Associate Professor Rachel Hardeman — that will help our state close the quality of life gap and ensure that all people have the support and resources needed to reach their full health potential. As a distinguishing factor, the center will foster authentic community engagement by convening researchers, practitioners, and community members to address the root causes of racial health inequities and drive real action for change.

BUILDING MINNESOTA’S PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE

SPH trains the next generation of public health professionals who will advance our understanding of how to live a healthier life.

The majority of our graduates stay in Minnesota and become:

• hospital administrators
• community health workers
• health policy experts
• research scientists
• health data scientists
• water safety specialists
• epidemiologists
• health industry consultants
• clinicians trained in population health
• legislative staffers

11,800+ Graduates (living today)

71% Graduates Staying in Minnesota (2017-20 avg.)
MINNESOTA IMPACT EXAMPLES

CHAMPION FOR OLDER ADULTS

Until recently, Minnesota was the only state in the country that didn’t require licensing for assisted living communities. That finally changed in part because of the work of Associate Professor Tetyana Shippee. Shippee focuses on improving quality of life (QOL) and addressing racial equity for people using long-term care. Working with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, she is helping develop the state’s first report card on assisted living quality that includes QOL so that older adults and families can make wise decisions.

Shippee, a champion for older, institutionalized adults, found that quality of life is just as important to them as their medical care. She is also breaking new ground in exploring the role of race and culture in QOL measures. Shippee is associate director of research at the SPH Center for Healthy Aging and Innovation.

USING RAPID INNOVATION TO MODERNIZE PATIENT CARE

Medical knowledge doubles about every 73 days and the traditional research process is not flexible enough to meet this changing landscape. CEOs, administrators, and clinicians need answers to their most pressing questions now in order to stay in step with the needs of their patients and communities and a rapidly changing world.

Historically in the U.S., researchers study healthcare delivery and, when the study is published, it often takes years before the findings are translated into practice to benefit individuals, communities, and populations.

Minnesota Learning Health Systems flips that model by having researchers study in healthcare delivery settings. This level of proximity brings scientific evidence into practice much quicker, creating better outcomes for everyone.

Professor Tim Beebe developed Minnesota Learning Health Systems, a partnership that brings together three of Minnesota’s most important health research, education, and care delivery organizations (UMN School of Public Health, Mayo Clinic, and Hennepin Healthcare) to train experts in a game-changing approach to healthcare.
MAKING COVID-19 TESTING SITES MORE ACCESSIBLE

Testing is a critical component of a public health response to an infectious disease outbreak, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. It leads to faster treatment and better informed personal decisions, and helps contain spread. The problem is testing isn’t always accessible to everyone, including those who are already disproportionately affected by health inequity.

Using firsthand experience, Hadija Steen Mills, SPH master of public health student, created a low barrier, community-informed testing site in Minneapolis that could better serve under-resourced communities by being conscious of the traumas people have suffered and centering the communities often pushed to the margins.

Hadija Steen Mills is a Maternal and Child Health MPH student at SPH. Mills’ work centers around creating more equitable futures where community care elicits health.

STAYING RESILIENT IN FARM COUNTRY

Farming is among Minnesota’s important industries, ranking 5th in income across the U.S. Yet, as an occupation, farming is one of the most dangerous and difficult jobs in the nation. Fluctuating commodity prices, production costs, and the uncertainties created by extreme weather events and climate change take their toll on physical and mental health in farm country year over year. More than ever, Greater Minnesota needs support and resiliency.

It’s estimated that farmers and farm workers take their own lives at a rate that is three-to-five times higher than any other workers in the country. And, according to a study in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 65% of rural counties don’t have a psychiatrist, 47% lack a psychologist, and 81% have no psychiatric nurse practitioners.

Professor Jeff Bender guides the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center and forges relationships among rural organizations and the communities they serve to increase health and well-being for farmers, farm families, and farm workers, including the large population of immigrant workers.
OUR PLACE IN THE NATION

SPH is one of 67 accredited schools of public health in the nation (in addition to the more than 135 programs housed in other health sciences schools).

TOP RANKED IN THE U.S.

• #10 school of public health in the nation, U.S. News & World Report
• #2 Master of Healthcare Administration program, U.S. News & World Report
• #7 biostatistics program, U.S. News & World Report
• Top 20 most highly NIH-funded researchers in the nation at a school of public health, Professor Jim Neaton, Biostatistics
• Longest running mentor program, connecting public health students to SPH alumni and other public health professionals

The University of Minnesota is one of the most esteemed public research universities in the nation. The Twin Cities campus — the home of SPH — is one of only five university campuses in the U.S. with an engineering school, medical school, law school, veterinary medicine school, and agricultural school all on one campus.

NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Although we compete with our peer schools for top talent, we work in partnership with them to shape a future of health for all.
EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL IMPACT

THE PUZZLE AND DAMAGE OF COLORISM

The discriminating practice of colorism traditionally assigns privilege to lighter skin tones and disadvantages to darker skin tones. But in a recent study of preterm births among Black mothers, Assistant Professor Jaime Slaughter-Acey discovered that for women in Generation X, lighter skin tone was associated with lower preterm birth rates, but for Millennial Black women, darker skin tone was associated with lower rates. More answers are needed in this new field of research that has nationwide implications for maternal and child health.

Black mothers and babies die at disproportionate rates and it is urgent to find out why. Slaughter-Acey explores the interlocking systems of racism and colorism to help policymakers and practitioners increase the quality and effectiveness of maternal and child care for women of color.

ADVOCATING FOR RURAL RESIDENTS AND THEIR BABIES

Access to obstetric care in rural communities is critical to ensuring good maternal and child health outcomes. Eighteen million reproductive-age women live in America’s rural counties, but more than half of these counties have no hospital where pregnant patients can give birth. The past decade has been marked by a decline in maternity care access as hospitals and obstetric units across rural America shutter their doors.

Professor Katy Backes Kozhimannil directs the SPH Rural Health Research Center and has helped lead the national conversation around rural health equity, rural maternity care, and obstetric unit closures. Kozhimannil also studied the consequences of these closures and how they put rural residents and their babies at increased risk of preterm delivery and emergency room births.
INFORMING STATE AND NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY

National and state-level measures related to health and healthcare are housed at SPH in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded **State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC)**. SHADAC helps states understand factors associated with health and healthcare and bridge the gap between data and the policy-making process.

**SHADAC**, under the leadership of Professor **Lynn Blewett**, produces health policy research with a focus on deriving lessons from state variations in policy and outcomes in the national context.

**EXPOSING HIDDEN HUNGER**

Before Professor **Melissa Laska’s** pioneering research, no one thought much about food insecurity among college students. When Laska conducted the first longitudinal study on the subject, she found that an estimated 1 in 3 college students fear they will run out of food, findings that helped establish food pantries on college campuses. In research published this year, she found nearly **1 in 4** college students are food insecure, with Black, transgender, and first-generation students reporting high rates of insecurity.

**Laska** has devoted her career to helping create policies and programs that foster healthy food environments and food access for all people.
GLOBAL REACH

Whether it’s collaborating with the Somali community in Minneapolis or working with people across the globe, our school’s unique relationship with local immigrant populations, as well as schools and organizations around the world, provides important opportunities for SPH to learn from and partner with the global community.

GLOBAL COLLABORATIONS
SPH faculty collaborations on the country level from July 1, 2018-June 30, 2020.
GLOBAL IMPACT EXAMPLES

JOINING THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

It’s extraordinarily difficult to transfer cancer research findings from one country to another, but doing so could save millions of lives. To that end, Professor Irina Stepanov founded the Institute for Global Cancer Prevention Research that has initial funding from SPH, the Medical School, and the Masonic Cancer Center. By growing partnerships and research capacity, and translating findings into prevention practices and policies, the institute aims to stop cancer before it starts.

Stepanov’s lab focuses on the link between tobacco products and cancer by tracing harmful chemicals in tobacco products to their transformations in the human body. Her discovery that a chemical that can cause cancer is able to form in an e-cigarette user’s body changed attitudes toward what some believed to be a harmless product.

A CLINICAL TRIAL POWERHOUSE

Global clinical trials take immense amounts of detailed planning and no place is better at their design and management than SPH’s Coordinating Centers for Biometric Research (CCBR). The group has tackled the most stubborn health challenges, including cardiovascular disease, influenza, Ebola, and HIV/AIDS, for which it changed treatment protocols and saved millions of lives. In 2020, CCBR collaborated on the development of a master protocol with multiple clinical trial networks to evaluate the safety and efficacy of investigational agents for the treatment of COVID-19.

CCBR director and Professor Jim Neaton (left) is considered one of the world’s experts on clinical trials. Neaton, along with associate director and Professor Cavan Reilly (right) and their dedicated team, keeps drug and treatment trials focused on discerning the best public health impact.
ADVOCATING FOR HER PEOPLE

Minnesota is home to the nation’s largest Somali community. Many Somalis choose Minnesota because of its numerous refugee resettlement and social support organizations or to be reunited with family members who settled here before them.

While in school, Amira Adawe, MPH ’15, identified and addressed a number of issues threatening the health of Somalis, including the use of dangerous skin-lightening creams by many Somali and African women.

Adawe’s work on skin-lightening practices and chemical exposure in the immigrant and refugee communities has since attracted national attention. She continues to raise awareness of the dangers of skin-lightening creams, from harmful ingredients, such as mercury, to their negative impact on women’s self-esteem. Amira hosts a weekly radio show in Somali that reaches 80,000 people worldwide, and her personal outreach and connections have made her a valuable consultant for cities across the U.S.

PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Many Latin American cultures encourage children to obey and respect their elders, but that may set them up for sexual abuse. PhD student Gabriela Bustamante studied a school-based program for 7-12 year-olds in Ecuador that teaches children about personal boundaries, anatomy, appropriate touching/behavior, and more. A key element of the course is how to say “no” to an adult. Bustamante found that the program is educating and empowering children to stand up for themselves.

Bustamante, an Ecuadorian native, believes the program’s approach to concepts of obedience and the rights of the child could also benefit children in other South and Latin American countries and hispanic groups in the U.S.