



SPH2030: MEETING THE NEEDS OF A CHANGING WORLD

The University of Minnesota School of Public Health confronts the persistent and evolving problems that face people around the world in our mission to shape healthier populations and a healthier planet.

SPH2030 is the strategy that focuses our research priorities, recognizing that the public health issues that plague our world today will present new challenges in the not-so-distant future.

SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

SPH2030 ACADEMIC PRIORITIES:

POPULATIONS OF SPECIAL CONCERN

Aging: To our strong legacy in aging research, we are adding new areas of investigation to keep people as healthy and as independent as possible as they age. By working across research disciplines, we tackle aging in a comprehensive way that explores its integral relationship with such areas as economics and policy, mental health and cognition, and equity and long-term care.

Health Equity: We believe that health is a human right and assuring that right for everyone drives our research, our teaching, and our partnerships with the communities around us. Social determinants of health can fuel inequities that are unacceptably out of proportion for some populations and underrepresented groups. We are determined to pave the way for crucial social change that will give all people the chance for a healthy life.

Mothers, Children, and Families: Our school has had a deep commitment to mothers, children, and families for nearly 75 years. As we near 2030, we cannot predict what will happen to rates of discrimination against women or the impacts on families of violence, war, and displacement, but our school-wide, collaborative, and unified research is devoted to increasing every opportunity for them to survive and thrive.

RISK FACTORS

Food and Nutrition: The School of Public Health covers food in a more comprehensive way than anywhere else in the U.S. Our prominent work is shifting the way policymakers make decisions around food access and nutrition; obesity; eating patterns; and food safety. How we eat, why we eat, what we eat, and the consequences of these decisions are factors we investigate to lead our country toward a healthier future.

Environment and Exposures: Our school has protected populations from damaging exposures through major legislative actions and discoveries, like tobacco-use bans, outlawing the use of tanning beds by minors, and associating iron ore mining with mesothelioma. Our faculty are advancing research into the effects of climate change on zoonotic diseases, tick-borne illnesses, and air quality, as well as remediation of polluted water and land.

Genomics: Our faculty is exploring a wide range of topics related to the genome from alcohol- and tobacco-induced DNA damage in the mouth and throat to the genome's relation to frailty as we age. Our genomic research is challenging such issues as the rise of diabetes, obesity, and even opiate abuse to pave the way toward the real possibility of a healthy life for all people.



HEALTH CHALLENGES

Chronic Diseases: Chronic diseases can be killers and they are expensive, but their impact is not only measured by deaths and costs — they can also significantly reduce quality of life and the ability of people to make a living. Faculty from nearly every corner of our school build on our solid research foundation to make exciting new breakthroughs in understanding, preventing, and managing chronic diseases to forge a better future for all people.

Infectious Diseases: At the School of Public Health, we work hard to reduce the impact of infectious diseases, or stop them all together. By 2030, the world will be warmer, cities will be larger, and travel among towns and countries will be easier. Each of these factors will add to the risk of infectious disease transmission. Through our research and community engagement, we use novel methods to explore infection causes, track disease spread, and craft interventions to protect people now and in the decades ahead.

Injuries: Our school has a distinguished history of injury research, including its pioneering study of sports-related concussions in the 1980s. Injuries and violence are the leading causes of death for people aged 1-44 and, while we continue our research into unintentional injuries, we are expanding into new territory to explore things that result in physical or psychological injury, like intimate partner violence, bullying, substance use, and gun violence.

Mental Health and Cognition: At the School of Public Health, we push the boundaries of what we know about the brain and what we need to discover. To bring relief and hope to the many Americans who suffer from mental challenges, we explore mental health and cognition from all angles, including the role of genes and environments, mental health care and its costs, brain function, and associations between mental and physical health, and we identify people at risk and help shape interventions.

SPECIAL TOOLS

Management and Economics: At the School of Public Health, we are using our expertise to create a more effective and just health care system for all populations through a major focus on health care management, delivery, access, and costs. Our research has had direct implications and we are helping create beneficial policies around emerging issues like migrant health rights and rural health care.

Innovative Methods: Advanced and creative methods drive our work forward and allow us to break new ground. Our school is among the earliest users of population health care “big data” and we are utilizing social media to promote self-care and disease prevention. By combining experience in running large trials with cutting-edge mathematical modeling, our adaptive clinical trial methodology has led to worldwide advances in HIV treatment, new pharmaceuticals awaiting FDA approval, and a vital Ebola vaccine study in West Africa.

LEARN MORE: SPH.UMN.EDU

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Faculty

\$67M

Research grants and contracts
(FY 2020)

#4 LARGEST

Research portfolio among schools and colleges at the University of Minnesota

DIVERSIFIED FUNDING

In 2020, our researchers received more National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding than any other school of public health at a public university. In addition to NIH, we receive funding from sponsors such as:

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Centers for Disease Control
- Department of Defense

GLOBAL PRESENCE

- Resesarch activities in Thailand, Vietnam, India, Sub-saharan Africa, Caribbean, Malawi, Kenya, Eastern Europe, Chile, Ecuador, Brazil, Mexico, etc.
- Global Health Institute, Thailand
- Student Field Experiences, worldwide
- Student Programs in India
- Immigrant Research and Collaboration, Minnesota



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