



2022 COMMENCEMENT

May 16, 2022

ORDER OF CEREMONIES

Processional	“Pomp and Circumstance” <i>School of Public Health Faculty & Class of 2022</i> <i>Performed by University Avenue Brass Band</i>
National Anthem	Kate Lamb <i>Midwest Soprano</i>
Welcome Remarks	Timothy Beebe, PhD <i>Interim Dean & Mayo Professor</i>
Commencement Address	Nathan T. Chomilo, MD, FAAP, FACP <i>Medical Director for the State of Minnesota’s Medicaid and MinnesotaCare Programs</i> <i>Senior Equity Advisor to Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm</i> <i>Pediatrician with Park Nicollet Health Services/Health Partners</i> <i>Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota Medical School</i>
Class of 2022 Remarks	Delaine Anderson <i>Candidate for Maternal & Child Health MPH</i>
Presentation of Candidates for Degrees	Joseph Koopmeiners, PhD <i>Professor and Division Head, Division of Biostatistics</i>
Public Health Professionals Pledge	Cailynn Aumock <i>SPH Student Senate President</i>
Greetings from the SPH Alumni Society	Karen Wick, MPH ’94 <i>Past President, SPH Alumni Society Board of Directors</i>
Conferral of Degrees	Ruth E. Johnson <i>University of Minnesota Board of Regents</i>
Closing and Minnesota Rouser	Timothy Beebe, PhD
Recessional	University Avenue Brass Band

Taking pictures during commencement? [f @UMNSPH](#) [t @PUBLICHEALTHUMN](#) [in @UMNSPH](#)

Please remain seated until the recessional has ended. All guests are welcome to enjoy a reception immediately following the ceremony in the Northrop Lobby.

2022 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



NATHAN T. CHOMILO, MD, FAAP, FACP

Medical Director for the State of Minnesota's Medicaid and MinnesotaCare Programs

Senior Equity Advisor to Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm

Pediatrician with Park Nicollet Health Services/Health Partners

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota Medical School

Dr. **Nathan T. Chomilo** is medical director for the State of Minnesota's Medicaid and MinnesotaCare programs and practices as a general pediatrician with Park Nicollet Health Services/HealthPartners. He also served as the State of Minnesota's COVID-19 vaccine equity director and is currently a senior advisor on equity to the Minnesota Commissioner of Health. Chomilo received a zoology degree from Miami University (Oxford, OH) and graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School. He completed his combined residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at the University of Minnesota and was the pediatric chief resident at the University of Minnesota Children's Hospital.

Dr. Chomilo's advocacy work has included promoting the impact early childhood intervention and healthcare access have on the long-term prospects of our children, and how physicians and health systems can address racial and health equity. He is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Early Childhood and the Section on Minority Health, Equity and Inclusion (SOMHEI), serving on SOMHEI's Executive Committee, and is also one of the Early Childhood Champions for the MN chapter of the AAP, where he also serves on the board of directors.

Dr. Chomilo is an adjunct assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Minnesota Medical School where he has taught medical students and residents. He has also been a guest lecturer at the University's Humphrey School of Public Affairs, School of Social Work, and School of Public Health.

Dr. Chomilo co-founded the organization Minnesota Doctors for Health Equity; serves on the board of directors of Reach Out and Read Minnesota and National; was formerly appointed to the Minnesota Governor's Early Learning Council; and serves on the steering committee of the Minnesota Perinatal Quality Collaborative. His work has been recognized by Reach Out and Read National, which awarded him the 2018 Medical Champion Achievement Award; the City of Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights, which recognized him as a 2019 History Maker at Home recipient; Minnesota Physician, which named him one of the 100 most influential health care leaders in 2020; and the Minnesota Medical Association, which awarded him the President's Award in 2021.

Dr. Chomilo lives in Minneapolis with his wife and son.

2022 COMMENCEMENT PARTICIPANTS



CLASS OF 2022 SPEAKER

DELAINE ANDERSON

MPH Candidate in Maternal & Child Health

Delaine Anderson was born and raised in sunny southern California before moving across the country to attend the University of Alabama. There, Anderson received a BS in human performance and exercise science with concentrations in nutrition and pre-professional development and a minor in women's studies. Delaine became involved in the reproductive justice movement as an abortion clinic escort in Alabama; her experiences with fellow volunteers and patients directly informed her passion for access to health services and community-led solutions. This led Anderson to attend the University of Minnesota, where she could pursue her intersecting passions for rural health, health communications, and qualitative research in maternal and child health. From the beginning, Anderson has been extraordinarily involved in professional roles and community-building efforts. She has worked on the Minnesota Department of Health's Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System team during her degree. Furthermore, Anderson has completed award-winning independent quantitative and qualitative research projects and performed community based participatory research for the non-profit 100 Rural Women via a Center for Urban and Regional Affairs graduate assistantship. Outside of class, she is the director of the Rural Health Interest Group and has been a student leader of the Maternal and Child Health Interest Group, Diversity Network, and the Public Health Review. In the larger Minnesota community, Anderson serves as a membership and communications co-chair for the Minnesota Public Health Association and as a media content coordinator for the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis. For all this and more, she was awarded the American Public Health Association Council of Affiliates Outstanding Student of the Year award and the University of Minnesota President's Student Leadership and Service Award. After graduating, Anderson will begin medical school this fall at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to become a rural physician and fierce public health community advocate.



SPH ALUMNI SOCIETY SPEAKER

KAREN WICK, MPH '94

Past President, SPH Alumni Society Board of Directors

Karen Wick is the president and owner since 1994 of Stephan Research, Inc, a clinical research consulting company which fulfills the research needs of companies in both the pharmaceutical and medical device industries. Wick has 35 years of experience in the medical research field and has been involved in multiple areas of the clinical research development process including project management, program development, protocol design, and regulatory submission preparation. Wick possesses specific pharmaceutical expertise in the areas of drug delivery technologies and medical device experience that includes bradycardia, tachycardia, heart failure, and neurological systems. Wick enjoys the challenge of identifying the best path forward for success of a new product in the medical research development process. Wick received her pharmacy degree from the University of Minnesota in 1983 and her master's degree in public health in 1994. Wick worked two years as pharmacist-in-charge for a treatment center in addition to her research duties to help support treatment efforts in this affected patient population.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH TRADITIONS

2022 SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH MACE BEARER



GREG HART

Greg Hart received his MHA degree from the University of Minnesota in 1976. Hart is a principal with the firm of CliftonLarsonAllen, and has been with the firm for more than 25 years. He is a past leader of CliftonLarsonAllen's healthcare practice and past chairman of the firm's board of directors. Hart's background encompasses more than 45 years of healthcare leadership, management, and consulting experience.

Before joining CliftonLarsonAllen in 1995, Hart worked at the University of Minnesota Hospitals for 20 years, including serving as CEO of the University of Minnesota Hospital and Health System. His consulting practice has focused on healthcare mergers, affiliations, and strategic capital planning.

Hart is an exemplary alumnus who has taught extensively in the MHA Program, and is a senior fellow in the School of Public Health. He has served as a past president and board member of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association/Foundation for the Program in Healthcare Administration. The Greg Hart Distinguished Alumni Service Award was created in 2018 to recognize extraordinary alumni for their sustained and exemplary commitment to the MHA Program, its students, and alumni community.

THE UNIVERSITY MACE

The University's first official mace made its debut in 1961 at the inauguration of President O. Meredith Wilson, 110 years after the University was founded and eight centuries after the mace's warlike image faded and it became a symbol of peaceful leadership. Art professor Philip Morton designed the University's mace, choosing a star as its crowning feature. The University machine shop made the mace with a solid aluminum handle set with the regents' seal and a 4-inch crystal sphere surmounted by the aluminum "Star of the North."

ACADEMIC REGALIA

GOWN

The bachelor's gown is untrimmed, with long pointed sleeves, and is worn closed. The master's gown has long crescent-shaped sleeves and may be worn open or closed. The doctor's gown has velvet facing down the front and three velvet bars on the bell-shaped sleeves. The velvet is either black or the color of the major field of study. Historically, most gowns were black, but in the past two decades some American institutions have followed the British use of red or college colors.

HOOD

The hood is the most important and distinctive feature. It was originally intended as a head cover and shoulder cape. The color of the trim (edging) indicates the degree field, and the length of the hood and width of the trim indicate the degree earned, with the doctor's hood being the longest with the widest trim. The color or colors of the hood lining indicate the degree-granting institution. The University of Minnesota hood is symbolized with a gold background and single maroon chevron.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREES

HOOD COLOR

Master of Public Health and Master of Healthcare Administration.	Salmon
Master of Science.	Yellow
Doctor of Philosophy	Dark Blue

CAP & TASSEL

The academic cap was first worn as a symbol of the master's degree. The mortarboard style cap is an Oxford development. European universities have variations—some caps soft, others square, and some round with a tuft in the center. The tassel of today is an elaboration of the tuft. The Intercollegiate Code permits the color of the graduate's tassel to correspond to the authorized color indicating the degree field.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT TOWARD A HEALTHIER FUTURE

By supporting students, faculty, and life-altering research, philanthropy builds excellence in everything we do.

Generous gifts from donors and the School of Public Health provided 83 different scholarships to 200 students in the 2021-22 academic year. Consider being part of the movement toward a healthier future: sph.umn.edu/give.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

MISSION

The School of Public Health improves the health and well-being of populations and communities around the world through excellence in research and education, and by advancing policies and practices that sustain health equity for all.

SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

Founded	1944
Interim Dean	Timothy Beebe, PhD
Ranking	No. 11 public health school, U.S. News & World Report (No. 6 public school of public health) No. 2 Master of Healthcare Administration program, U.S. News & World Report No. 9 biostatistics program, U.S. News & World Report
Divisions	Biostatistics Environmental Health Sciences Epidemiology & Community Health Health Policy & Management
Full-Time Faculty	130+
Current students	1,428 from 48 different countries
Accreditation	Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) Commission on Accreditation in Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)
Alumni	12,000+ living today

The School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota is home to numerous world-renowned research and training centers. Working together, SPH faculty, staff, and students are dedicated to preventing disease, encouraging better health, and promoting the common good.

SPH faculty members are among the leading experts in public health today, regularly sought after by national and international media to provide innovative thinking and concrete action to emerging and persistent challenges, including structural racism, infectious disease outbreaks, gun violence, an expanding aging population, and a changing climate. Located in one of the largest metropolitan areas in the U.S., the school prepares some of the most influential leaders in the field, and provides the knowledge health departments, communities, and policymakers need to make the best decisions about population health.

WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH?

Every time you drink clean tap water, buckle your seat belt, enjoy a smoke-free airplane flight, or get a flu shot or COVID-19 vaccine, you are part of public health in action.

Although it touches everyone everywhere, many people don't know what public health actually is. Public health links to all other health sciences and professions, but stands apart in three key ways:

- **Prevention:** Public health stops suffering before it starts.
- **Populations:** Public health seeks solutions for entire communities rather than treating disease and injury one patient at a time.
- **Partnerships:** Public health research is built on partnerships to explore the root causes of and solutions to persistent or emerging health and policy challenges.

HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The University of Minnesota was one of the first schools in the nation to offer classes in public health when Charles Hewitt, the secretary of the Minnesota State Board of Health, began teaching personal and community hygiene, epidemic diseases, and physiology in 1874. In the following decades, various University departments created programs in public health disciplines, such as biostatistics, environmental health, and epidemiology.

In 1944, the University brought all of these programs together to create the School of Public Health. Today, our school — ranked #11 in the nation — serves more than 1,400 students to help meet the increasing demand for a public health workforce. We were the first in the country to grant a master's degree in hospital administration, establish a doctoral program in epidemiology, launch a graduate program in maternal and child health, and, in 2017, offer a graduate minor in health equity.

FOCUS ON ANTIRACISM AND HEALTH EQUITY

The School of Public Health is determined to increase health and well-being among all people and our school's guiding belief that "Health is a Human Right" drives our work.

Our Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity is breaking new ground as it works with the community to set research agendas and push into uncharted territory around measuring and ending racism's influence on health. The center increases our students' ability to deeply explore and understand racism's relationship to health and how to affect change.

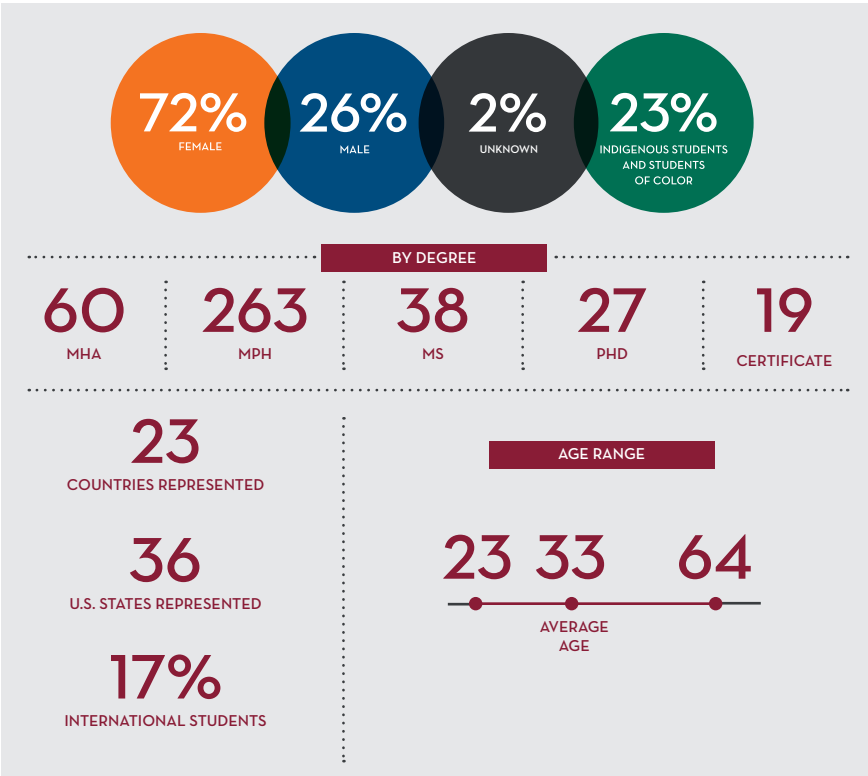
In summer 2021, we launched our Strategic Plan for Antiracism, a school-wide commitment to challenge racism wherever we find it. Both our center and strategic plan are already making our school a national leader in tackling racism and health inequities, especially for Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

Learn more: sph.umn.edu/antiracism

GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE

Each year, the University of Minnesota School of Public Health graduates the next generation of public health professionals who will advance our understanding of how to live a healthier life.

Average of graduation counts from 2018–21 academic years



RESEARCH DAY AWARD WINNERS

The School of Public Health annual Research Day event provides our students and faculty an opportunity to showcase their research activities, integrated learning or applied practice experiences with the University community. Student's posters highlight their innovative thinking and concrete action to tackle some of the world's most emerging and persistent public health challenges.

BEST POSTER AWARD WINNERS SUBMIT THEIR POSTERS TO THE DELTA OMEGA POSTER COMPETITION:

Claire Huber, Maternal Child Health MPH

Exploring Associations Between Adolescent Intimate Partner Violence and Contraceptive Use

Keeley Morris, Epidemiology PhD

Potential Mechanisms for Pandemic Fatigue: The Time-Varying Relationship Between Stress and Average Contacts in the COVID-19 Pandemic

HERE ARE THE OTHER 2022 RESEARCH DAY AWARD WINNERS:

Master's Category

Joseph Akambase, Epidemiology MPH

The Effect of Anthelmintic Treatment on Malaria Prevalence: A Secondary Data Analysis of the Sussundenga Malaria Study

Paige Richmond, Epidemiology MPH

Differences in Treatment Outcomes for Opioid Use Disorder Between Pregnant and Non-Pregnant Females in the United States (2019)

PhD Category

Mykhaylo M. Malakhov, Biostatistics PhD*

*Governance Structure Affects Transboundary Disease Management Under Alternative Objectives **

Aleksandra Alcheva, Environmental Health PhD

Relationship Between Oral Microbiome and Tobacco-Associated Oral Cell DNA Damage in Smokers With Known Differences in Health Risk

People's Choice Category

Maya Benedict, Public Health Administration & Policy MPH

Ukraine's Health System: In Transition, Under Attack

Annie Youngblood, Epidemiology MPH

Alcohol Use Among LGBTQ+ Adults Experiencing Unmet Mental Health Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Cross Sectional Data Analysis from 2020

Caitlin Varquez, Public Health Administration & Policy MPH

Wildfires and Mental Health: The Impact of Indirect Exposure to a Climate-Induced Disaster

**Also People's Choice Award Winner*



Delta Omega

Honorary Society in Public Health

Pi Chapter of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Congratulations to the 2022 inductees to the Pi Chapter of the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health. Membership in Delta Omega is highly selective and each inductee is chosen based on outstanding performance and devotion to public health.

Students are chosen for academic excellence and often rank in the top 25 percent of the graduating class.

Faculty are chosen for excellence based on a review of their work in the field.

Alumni are chosen for their work in the practice of public health that serves as a model for future graduates.

2022 student and faculty inductees are identified in the Commencement Program with < symbol.

Congratulations to all our new members on your accomplishments!

2021-2022 Recipient of the

CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Jeanine Alves Pebbles

2021-2022 Recipients of the

MASTER OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION (MHA)

Brock Alan Aberle

Helena Mara Abermanis

Lucas Andersen

Ashley Gisselle Aviles Brizuela

Samta Bhakta

Marie Bonine

Sarah Culver

Jamie Gaarder

Chloe E. Goodman

Erin Green <

Muskaan Gupta

Priya Gupta

Jacob Harold Matthew Haag

Megan Ann Helfers

Margit Herrmann

Emily Ericksen Johnson

Claire S. Knutson

Lauren E. Kohler

Molly Ann Corrine Kraemer

Dominick Mesdjian

Brandon Milne

Louis Monette

Daniel Okabue

Rachel Rahman

Gavin V. Reynolds

Becca Ruff <

Marissa Jean Sandkuhler <

Vanessa Santamaria

Shane Seifert

Furhan Siddiki

Milan Gene Urukalo

Jessica Vattiprolu

Rahat Verma

Allison J Weidman

John Wiehe

Moriam Yarrow

MHA EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

Ositadinma C. Anene

Justin Bachman

Curtis Batulis

Amit Bhargava

Rachel L. Boerema

Brenda A. Johnson

M. Alycia Johnson

Andre Le Blanc *

Amy S. Ninham

< 2022 Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health Inductee

* 2021 Graduate

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH)

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION

Amy A Almquist
Maylen C. Anthony <
Shalicia Burrell
Tara Cantwell
Jill Collins
Sophie F. Elsenbast
Carolyn Handke

Faiza K. Hassan
Elizabeth B. Magnuson
Roon Makhtal
Emily McGuire
Jordanna B. Midthun
Marali Singaraju <
Sarah M. Steffen

Austin Thao
Julia Tindell <
Karissa M. Tricas
Choua S Xiong
Mai Cua Yang
Grant Zastoupil
Nicholas Zerzan <

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Bailey Atkinson
Anna Fryxell
Mary Abigail Gromek
Hodan A. Hachi
Lisa Hunwardsen
Chinwenwa Esther Iheme

Laura Johns
Gabrielle Johnson
Alexandra C. Kurutz
Jessica Livingston
Emma B. Roth
Ridwan J. Said

Rebecca W. Schoenecker
Ye Won Esther Song
Zachariah Stern <
Jessica Yescas

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Joseph Atule Akambase
Jadyn Anderson
Shannon Baack <
Sallee A. Brandt
Emily Marie Davis
Paige N. Diedrick
Lauren Duval
Farida A. Ekue-Hettah
Asha Lakshmi Elgonda
Audrey C. Enerson
Mezan Ghebre
Katherine C. Giorgio
Allison Goldbeck
Amanda S Gordon

Emily F. Groebner
Nathan Hoeft <
Michelle Holmes
Eustacia C Ikeri
Natalie Jantschek
Dhamina Karim
Luke M. Leners
Ona Loper
Kait Macheledt
Idris Mohamed
Victoria N. Nguyen
Madalyn Nones <
Madeline Poranski <
Alexandra E. Rauch

Paige F. Richmond
Gabrielle Renee Schmidt
Jessica Marie Shandas <
Meghan Sickel
Chinar Singhal
Helayna M Sjoberg
Samantha Strubel
Guy Joseph Thomas
Elizabeth R. Vomacka
Stewart Walukaga
Paige M. Wolf
Anne J. Youngblood

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH)

(Continued)

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

Delaine Felicia Anderson <	Brenna L. Jarvis	Claire Newby
Myo Myo Aye	Hannah Johnson	Faviola E. Ramirez
Nichole Castillo	Krystal Marie Klicka	Delilah Robb
Alexis A. Chavez	Courtney Kutzler	Isabella Rolland
Cassandra Edlund	Bridget M. Lasswell	Hadija Steen Mills <
Paige J Erickson	Taylor M. Lees <	Zenab Tiamiyu
Kelsie Allena Fitch	Rebecca Leigh Lindholm	Kaitlyn T.B. Traub
Audra Ann Gaikowski	Megan Kaj-Siab Lor	Caroline Uphus
Shay Gingras	Erin C. Marten <	Cora Vavra
Suness Hall	Shea Colleen McGrath	Laura Madeline Weinkauff
Claire Huber	Lauren E. McPherson	Rebecca F. Wonder

PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION & POLICY

Safia Abdinur	Madeline Her	Idow Salad
Jacob S Abrahams <	Suweyda Hussein	Jackson A. Sewell
Parker W. Anderson	Ayan Jama, MPH	Thomas Slagerman
Marianna E. Blair	Kirrthana Jegathesan	Delaine Teabout Thomas
Robert Hadley Brehm	Alexandra S. Kooima	Sina Tikabo
Karen Chen	Kennedy Korpi	Madeline S. Turbes
Amira Eromosele	Thomas Plunkett Lyden	Denny Vang
Meredith Gingold	Clarice Martell	Tara R. Viken
Annika Grassl	Raquel K. Motachwa	Kate Muldoon Weis <
Keeley Hayden	Julia Ngep	
Mackenzie L. Heck	Janette M. Romero Saenz	

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH)

(Continued)

PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION & POLICY EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

Rebecca J. Asheim Keller	Kyle Long	Melinda L. Stewart
Eric T. Clemensen	Beatriz R. Menanteau	Victoria A. Troxler
Emily U. Dennis	Naheed Murad	Amanda S. Tunheim <
Seamus Best Dolan	Lisa M. Nadeau	Natalie E. Vasilj
Kathryn Farka	Yasmin Odowa	Maya S. Wedlow <
Jourdan Hennick	Morgan A. Riordan	Chao Yang
Lori Kabang	Taka Roane	

PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION

Joshua P. Bentley,	Natalie Hogan	Gerit W. Wagner
“Kim Jung-taek”	Sydney Meyer	Cecily Jo Weber
Kelley Dillon	Faith Rasmussen	
Alyssa M. Brown	Cassandra Twiggs	
Raeann K. Goins <	Melissa Pamee Vang	

EXECUTIVE PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

Jenny Chomilo	Gamada A. Gamada	Jeffrey JM Merkel
Wigdan Farah	Tha Ying Lee	

PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

Jacqueline Oakes Bui +	Kaitlyn M. Lunacek ^
Becca A. Frenz ^	Dakota T. Olson +

< 2022 Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health Inductee

+ Candidate for dual-degree: Master of Public Policy

^Candidate for dual-degree: Doctor of Dental Surgery

2021-2022 Recipients of the

MASTER OF SCIENCE (MS)

BIostatISTICS

Andres Arguedas L.
Seth Bergstedt
Eric M. Connor
Jessica Hellner
Ziou Jiang

Anthony C. Johnson
Jingqi Liu
Xiao Ma
Mingming Pan
David D. Schneck

Daniel Whitford
Linnea R. York
Zeya Zang
Haozuo Zhao

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Anne Bantle <

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Natalie Eichten
Alex Garvin

Mito Imagawa
Julianna Rose Rushing

Maryam Zahedi

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH, POLICY & ADMINISTRATION

Anna Kathryn Beckstrom

< 2022 Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health Inductee

2021-2022 Recipients of the

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

BIostatISTICS

Grace R. Lyden
*Policy-Relevant Causal Effect Estimators for
Heterogeneous Treatments and Exposures*

Maria Anna Masotti
*Bayesian Functional Spatial Partitioning Methods
for Prostate Cancer Lesion Detection*

Mengli Xiao
*Innovative Statistical Methods for Meta-Analyses
with Between-Study Heterogeneity*

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Doug DeMoulin
*Moral Injury: A Statewide Assessment on the
Burden, Risk, and Protective Factors in
Minnesota Firefighters*

Yoon-Sung (Teddy) Nam
*The Study of Work-Related Stress among Law
Enforcement Personnel*

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

(Continued)

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Collin Calvert

The Role of Policies in Cancer Pain, Health Disparities, and Substance Use

Emily A. Groene Faherty

Estimating the Contribution of N. gonorrhoeae Infection to Pelvic Inflammatory Disease and Tubal Factor Infertility in the United States and the Infertility Belt of Africa

Jessica K. Friedman

Influences of Parity, Caregiving, and COVID-19 on Depressive Symptoms and Coping Behaviors in Women

Jennifer M. Geris

Evaluation of the Role of Cytomegalovirus Infection in the Development of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and Other Cancers

Lindsey Leshner Erickson

Hospital Policies and Hospital-Onset Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus Infections: A Mixed Method Evaluation

Junia Nogueira de Brito

The Positive Deviance Approach to Childhood Obesity and Cardiometabolic Risk in Children Living in Low-Income and Racially and Ethnically Diverse Households

Naomi Harada Thyden

Structural Racism and Its Role in Propagating Racial Health Inequities Through Systems of Higher Education and Public Health Surveillance

Wendy Wang

Novel Risk Factors and Prevention for Stroke

Serena Xiong

Moving HPV Self-Sampling into Primary Care Settings: A Healthy-Equity Centered, Pre-Implementation Study to Address Cervical Cancer Screening Inequities in Minnesota

Ran Zhao <

Cervical Cancer in Women with HIV in A Setting with High Smoking: Implications for Prevention

2021-2022 Recipients of the

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

(Continued)

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH, POLICY & ADMINISTRATION

Chris Frenier

*Continuity of Coverage and Care in Medicaid
Managed Care*

J'Mag Karbeah

*An Examination of Police Contact as a
Determinant of Adolescent Health*

Cynthia Kenyon

*Determining Factors of Vaccine Uptake Beyond
the Count*

Cydney M. McGuire

*Pathways to Participation: Health and Structural
Racism as Determinants of Political
Participation*

Henry Stabler

*Non-profit Hospitals and Community Health:
Hospital Strategy Under the Affordable
Care Act's Enhanced Community Benefit
Regulations*

STUDENT STORIES

All School of Public Health students have a story to tell. Amidst their demanding coursework, they take advantage of many opportunities to shape and define their future in public health. We're pleased to share a few of their stories with you and express our school's pride in what our students have accomplished.

Asha Elgonda

Epidemiology MPH, President, SPH Diversity Network



Asha Elgonda has always been interested in healthcare, and promoting health and health equity. She heard about public health while attending the U of M College of Biological Sciences as an undergraduate student, and it was there that her interest in infectious disease developed.

In summer 2021, Elgonda completed her required Applied Practice Experience (APEX) at Surgical Directions, a healthcare consulting firm based in Chicago. The experience was much different than she expected, focusing more on the business and administration side of healthcare than on statistical analysis as she had thought it would.

"For my APEX, I interviewed clinicians who worked within healthcare settings and we asked them about the pain points in their work and how processes could be improved. We then took all of that data and created a perioperative process flow and a value stream map with recommendations on ways to improve the surgical process," says Elgonda.

Although she is interested in infection control and prevention, Elgonda learned that it's good to have a diverse skill set and is interested in learning more about how our current healthcare system functions.

As a student, Elgonda was also president of the SPH Diversity Network. "I try to be a role model and help students feel comfortable talking about racism and how we can commit to being antiracist," says Elgonda. "I'm not an expert in antiracism, but I'm trying to learn, speak up more, and uplift my own and others' voices to showcase our ability and credibility."

Elgonda is excited about the school's bold vision toward antiracism. She believes that through its Strategic Plan for Antiracism, "the school can have lasting effects by producing well-rounded students who are able to incorporate antiracist practices into their public health careers."

Moriam Yarrow

Master of Healthcare Administration MHA

Moriam Yarrow is passionate about racial health equity and wants to take a systems-approach towards promoting health justice. While pursuing her undergraduate degree, Yarrow conducted research at Cook County Hospital in Chicago and noticed staff burnout problems and process inefficiencies at the hospital. “I realized I didn’t want to be a doctor because it wasn’t going to be possible to make a change to the healthcare system at that level,” says Yarrow.



After receiving her bachelor’s degree in neuroscience, Yarrow wanted to take a step towards promoting racial equity. She co-founded the YO Scholarship Foundation, a non-profit that provides equitable educational opportunities for African American students through mentorship, scholarship, and community engagement initiatives. From there, Yarrow decided to pursue her master’s degree to promote racial equity and to change the healthcare system.

“I chose to be uncomfortable,” says Yarrow. “I’m very outgoing and motivated but I usually choose things that are comfortable to me. To grow as a leader and a person, I knew I needed to step outside of that and that’s what the UMN School of Public Health was for me.”

Yarrow received a Master of Healthcare Administration degree and is an active member of the School of Public Health’s antiracist practice committee. “Healthcare doesn’t have to be limited to the hospital,” says Yarrow. “Thanks to public health, it can be extended throughout the community.”

STUDENT STORIES

Robert Brehm

Public Health Administration & Policy MPH

Robert Brehm is interested in the intersection of health policy and politics. "It's important to know how politicians make sense of health policy, how they convey that to the general public, and how in turn, the public interprets that information," says Brehm. "I'm very interested in how the average American digests public health information, and how that influences their political choices and their votes."



Brehm wrote a chapter in a book titled, "Emerging Policy Practices in Latin America" while pursuing his first master's degree in global policy studies. Contributing to that book helped Brehm shift his focus towards public health. "I decided to apply to MPH programs to develop the necessary expertise to pursue more in-depth public health research," says Brehm.

Brehm enrolled in the Public Health Administration and Policy MPH program because "it seemed to be really grounded in how policies are made from the ground up."

As a student, Brehm says that his experience with the pandemic was challenging. "I'm concerned that although the pandemic has affected the entire world in a really serious way, COVID is just a dress rehearsal for other global public health issues, such as climate change," says Brehm. "We need to figure out better ways to work together to keep each other healthy and safe."

Marali Singaraju

Community Health Promotion MPH

Marali Singaraju always wanted a career that would combine her love for travel with her interests in health promotion. She remembers how the stories that her Tati shared about his public health work in other countries sparked her interest. “I fell in love with the diverse opportunities I would have to make a unique impact across the world while advancing human rights and equityequity,” says Singaraju.



Singaraju pursued her bachelor's in psychology at the University of Minnesota with the goal of someday working for the World Health Organization. She participated in the Model United Nations organization at the University and conducted advocacy work related to advancing human rights. She just graduated from the Community Health Promotion MPH program, and says that it “has been a really interesting journey finishing undergrad, starting grad school, and doing public health work during a pandemic.”

As an Americas Regional Leader with the International Working Group for Health Systems Strengthening, Singaraju is leading a project to advance equitable distribution and access to COVID-19 vaccines. “Vaccine equity goes beyond the sharing of vaccines. It is about respecting our healthcare workers, protecting children from child labor and child marriage, preventing exploitation of women, and improving mental health,” says Singaraju.

Much of Singaraju's work has been focused on health equity. She says that with the injustices that have occurred within the past two years, we have “seen the strength of these communities rising together. The people here have shown me what it takes to make real change and the resiliency to move forward no matter what happens.”

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As a public health professional
dedicated to enhancing the health status
and well-being of individuals and communities,
I pledge to hold the public interest
and health of populations
as my high professional goals.

MINNESOTA ROUSER

Minnesota, hats off to thee!
To thy colors true we shall ever be,
Firm and strong, united are we.
Rah, rah, rah for Ski-U-Mah
Rah! Rah! Rah! Rah!
Rah for the U of M.
[Repeat]
M-I-N-N-E-S-O-T-A!
Minnesota, Minnesota!
Yeah, Gophers!

**Join the celebration
on Social #SPHGrad**

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the individuals who helped make SPH Commencement possible.

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