



2021 COMMENCEMENT

May 17, 2021

ORDER OF CEREMONIES

Opening “Pomp and Circumstance”
Performed by Minnesota Orchestra

Welcome Remarks John R. Finnegan Jr., PhD
Dean and Professor

Commencement Address Loyce Pace, MPH
*Director, Office of Global Affairs
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

Class of 2021 Remarks Tricia Alexander
Public Health Nutrition

Public Health Professionals Pledge Emily McGuire
SPH Student Senate President

Greetings from the SPH Alumni Society Liesl Miller Hargens, MPH ‘07
President, SPH Alumni Society Board of Directors

Conferral of Degrees Kendall J. Powell
University of Minnesota Board of Regents

Closing John R. Finnegan Jr., PhD

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees

Presentation of candidates will follow the program order on pages 8-13. The ceremony will conclude once all individual candidate slides have been shown.

2021 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



LOYCE PACE, MPH

Director Office of Global Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Loyce Pace, MPH, is an outspoken advocate for global health equity, promoting policies and programs from AIDS to Zika. Having lived and worked on the ground in more than 15 countries across three continents, her efforts are rooted in experience partnering with a wide range of government and grassroots stakeholders.

Loyce most recently served as president and executive director of Global Health Council (GHC) and was also a member of the Biden-Harris Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board. In her role at GHC, she advocated strongly for increased investments in global health in the face of budget cuts to agencies, like the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and United States Agency for International Development. From 2006 to 2011, Loyce worked as director of regional programs for the American Cancer Society. She then became the executive advisor for programs and policy at the Livestrong Foundation. Loyce holds a bachelor's degree with honors in human biology from Stanford University and a Master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

2021 COMMENCEMENT PARTICIPANTS



CLASS OF 2021 SPEAKER

TRICIA ALEXANDER

MPH Candidate in Public Health Nutrition

Tricia Alexander is a first generation American with her mother's side gradually immigrating to the United States from Kenya during her mother's teen years. She was raised in Eden Prairie, MN most of her life and frequently visited her extended family in Kenya. This experience of having a foot in

two different cultures has always made her inquisitive and keen on visualizing situations from various perspectives. She received her B.S. in food science and human nutrition with a dietetics management concentration from Colorado State University-Fort Collins. Tricia plans to become a registered dietitian, a career inspired by the connection to food she experiences through her family's Kenyan traditions.

She is passionate about centering communities in her work and the social – as well as political – determinants of health that affect their every day lives, choices, and resources. She is particularly passionate about working in solidarity with institutionally underserved communities (e.g., Black, Indigenous, and people of color, immigrants, refugees, etc.) that are purposefully placed at risk by systems and structures that are founded on and perpetuate racism, classism, sexism, and other forms of oppression.

Tricia is a recipient of the Ruth Stief Fellowship, the Community Health Initiative Scholarship, the POCI Caucus Internship, and the President's Student Leadership and Service Award. Furthermore, she was on the planning committee and an expert voice for the Health in All Matters Podcast Series 2: If not now, when? Racism: A 400-year public health emergency. She has spoken and presented at numerous webinars and events in the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health, with her content intentionally grounded in health equity, Black feminist theory, and critical race theory.

After completing her MPH in nutrition, Tricia will be returning to the School of Public Health to pursue a PhD in epidemiology. She is the recipient of the 2021-22 Diversity of Views and Experiences (DOVE) Fellowship and the Hearst scholarship.

2021 COMMENCEMENT PARTICIPANTS

(Continued)



SPH ALUMNI SOCIETY SPEAKER

LIESL MILLER HARGENS, MPH '07

President, SPH Alumni Society Board of Directors

Liesl Miller Hargens is a passionate global leader with experience in strategy and market access across medical device, hospital, clinic, and payer environments. She is currently the senior director of the Health Economics Center of Excellence at Boston Scientific, which is a critical part of the health economics and market access function charged with generating rigorous

economic evidence of the value of Boston Scientific technologies. Liesl's past roles have included leading research and health economics outcomes research (HEOR) at GE Healthcare; working in business development, market development and strategy, epidemiology and HEOR at Medtronic; serving as the epidemiologist at Stratis Health; and leading research at Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota in its oncology/hematology department.

Liesl has a master's degree in epidemiology from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Smith College. She serves as the president of the School of Public Health Alumni board. Liesl lives in Minneapolis with her husband, two children, and two dogs and enjoys being active on the lakes.

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	<i>Salmon</i>
Master of Science	<i>Yellow</i>
Doctor of Philosophy	<i>Dark Blue</i>

CAP AND 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.



Pi Chapter of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Congratulations to the 2021 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% 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.

2021 student and faculty inductees are identified in the Commencement Program with < symbol.

Congratulations to all our new members on your accomplishments!

2020-2021 Recipients of the

MASTER OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION (MHA)

Kevin Ball
Justin W. Bayles
Matt Bladen
Reuben Christianson >
Avery Clifford
Alisa Rae Fadden
Erik T. Fagerstrom >
Natalie K. Gaines
Elizabeth Kathryn Rose
Garfinkel
Megan E. Graupmann

Tanner Hegge
Grisel Isidor
Nathan F. Jarrett
Trygve Jensen
Michelle L. Johnson
Katherine Q. Larin
Brandon Larsen
Kelsey K. Mihm
Samirah Mulla
Mark H. Nelson
Michelle Nicholson

Alina Okamoto
Laurel O. Pearson
Elizabeth Storrick Peil
Audrey Roche
Ann Weston Sistrunk
Kristy Strain
Thien-Huong Tran >
Anju R. Viddam
Lauren E. Vlaanderen

MHA EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

Jeff Borut
Caitlyn N. Bralick
Jonathan P. Braman
Baye D. Diouf <

Margaret Whipple Doose
Rachael Jeanette Flohrs
Kristen Gorman
Hayleigh Grothe

Maria Alexandra Ordonez
Alexandria Jule Robbins
Sarah Walstein

< 2021 Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health Inductee

> Candidate for dual-degree: Master of Business Administration

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH)

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION

Hanin T. Arqasous
Grace J. Befort
Eileen Bourland
Sarah C. Bruess
Lauren Elise Burroughs
Susana M. Carlos <
Abigail M. DeVita
Emily Ann Harding
Alexandra Hickman

Kelli Hirt
Gabrielle Imani Alanis
Horsford <
Sierra Howard
Marleny Huerta-Apanco
Jessica D. Ilc
Hannah Kinzer <
Kelly C. Leddy
Ingie H. Osman

Brooklyn M. Petrich <
Eleanor Plaunt
Anika C. Reinsch
Beverly Smith-Keiling
Daina Brigitta Strub <
Kali Tiernan
Jeffrey D. Ting
Sailaja Ann Margaret Varma
Chloé Rose Tarling Wallace <

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Firehiwot Bediye
Greta Ciessau
Elizabeth A. Hill
Emily Renee Janet Neuharth
A. Ian Passe <
Drew Persson

Gitanjali Raman <
Jaime Rich
Marcus D. Rushing
Nathan J. Schneider
Kelsey Amber Seiler
Joshua Smith

Tara Suhs
Corina C. Valencia Tibbitts
Narmada Venkateswaran
Kelsey Ward
Hajira Mohammed Wehelie

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Sophia Ibrahim Ali <
Aanuoluwakiiitan O. Ayeni
R. Adetunji Bakare
Ugur Berkay Balkanci
Mariah Jean Bazile
Ariana Beattie
Emma Contestabile
Taylor Dawson
Bisola Esho
Lydia Jane Fess <

Mari E. Freitas <
Marco A. Garcia
Claire Genevieve Henrichsen
Naomi Jiter <
Harmeet Kharoud
Gretchen Louise Koenigs
Rebecca E. Kraetz
Christina R. Landis
Mahesh Mathew
Leah Elizabeth Moat

Jeanne Moua
Lisa T. Nguyen <
Elizabeth R. Palmi
Devon Sauerer
Lauren M. Tehan
Andrew Weiss
Talia Wigger <
Kylie Yocum <

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

Lexie Adams
Cassandra Bulau
Rebecca Chelene
Abigail M. Fink <
Shelbi Giesel
Kathryn Ann Goerd
Elizabeth Suhler Hart
Alyse L. Haven
Hillary J. Hercules
Sarah Jergenson

Christine Kim Park
Madigan M. Knuth
Zoe M. Kusnitz
Emily Leyrer
Aleksey Mason-Bradach
Genelle Monger
Amanda Neubauer
Ben Ose
Emily M. Reimer
Meagan Schrafft

Alyssa Scott
Jane Kelly Smith
Samuel K. Stern
Lai Jing Su
Olivia A. Sullivan
Shana Tang
Stephanie J. Van Dyke <
Leah R. Varga
Laura Victoria Villarreal
Julie Li Yang

2020-2021 Recipients of the

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH)

(Continued)

PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION & POLICY

Sydney Amaris Bernard
Maria Bertrand <
Emma R. Cook
Rachel Sierra Cruz
Doaa M. Elgaali
Mary Gilbertson
Erika Guenther
Angela Jin Han <
Hope Hoffman
Tessa M. Hrkal

Jose Gabriel Huape
Ashley N. Millenbah
Kelly Moeller
John P. Ratanawong <
Michaela Read
Emma Rose
Riebel-Paszkiwicz
Nath Stefan Samaratunga
Anna Shchetinina <
Keelia Silvis <

Kritika Singh
Mary Katherine Siskaninetz
Pardis Stenoien
Alyson K. Sundby
Jill Batdorf Tanem
Sharon Uchegbu
Caitlin Wu Varquez
Mary C. Walters
Malik Williams

PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION & POLICY EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

Andrea Ayers
Sara E. Bolnick
Kelly Carda
Renee Edelhauser
Ashley M. Flakes
Janna R. Gewirtz O'Brien

Natalie Ann Jackson <
Stacy L. Knott
Ronrico A. Mangapit
Katelyn Marschall <
Candice Elizabeth McCardle <
Jessica M. Miller <

Ajibiké I. Ojomo
Margaret Perez
Courtney Sinclair Rasimas <
Christopher Schmitt
Katherine Siqueiros

PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION

Tricia Adoyo Alexander
Toluwani Awokoya
Austin James-Driver Hoeg
Nancy T. Jiang <

Moko Matsumoto
Lydia Ruth Mattson
Kristin A. Norderud
Molly Pass

Amy Pleimling
Lauren A. Pringle
Erika Elise Swant

PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

Brynna Celeste Bargfield +
Jessi Coryell *

Rohan Khazanchi ♦
Sarah Paulus ^

Arianna D. Reid ^

PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

Rolando J. Gonzalez
Daria Kozysa
Vishal Shah <

< 2021 Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health Inductee

+ Candidate for dual-degree: Master of Public Policy

* Candidate for dual-degree: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

♦ Candidate for dual-degree: Doctor of Medicine

^ Candidate for dual-degree: Master of Urban & Regional Planning

2020-2021 Recipients of the

MASTER OF SCIENCE (MS)

BIostatISTICS

Rui Cao

Jiaqi Deng

Miranda Kunz

Guangyou Li

Lauren Makey

Kate Noel

Sai Kaushik Shankar Ramesh

Kumar

Finn A. Roberts

Wyatt J. Tarter

Guanchao Wang

Melissa Wong

Chao Zhang

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Elliott Chinn

Nadir Demirel

Tasma Harindhanavudhi

Rajat Kalra

Diana W. Lone

David M. MacDonald

Sarah Jane Raatz

Christopher J. Tignanelli

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Prabana Jinanjalie Balapuwaduge Mendis

Cecilia Pigozzi

Dadee Saye

Maryam Zahedi

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH, POLICY & ADMINISTRATION

Adrian Niu

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

BIostatistics

CHARLES H. CAIN, *Statistical Considerations for Clinical Trials Aiming to Identify Individualized Treatment Rules*

CHUYU DENG, *Innovative Methods for Treatment Effect Heterogeneity and Calibration*

ANDREW SHAWN DILERNIA <, *Analysis and Modeling of fMRI Data*

BIN GUO, *Integrative Statistical Methods in Genomics and Neuroimaging*

ADAM KAPLAN, *Context-Driven Prior Distributions in Genome-Wide Association Studies, Medical Device Adaptive Clinical Trials, and Genetic Fine-Mapping*

KATHERINE A. KNUTSON, *Integrating Imaging and Genomic Information in GWAS for Powerful Endophenotype Association Testing in Alzheimer's Disease*

SHANNON B. MCKEARNAN, *Statistical Methods for Organ Transplant*

LIANNE K. SIEGEL, *Bayesian Hierarchical Models for Meta-Analysis*

YUAN ZHANG, *Modifications of Q-learning to Optimize Dynamic Treatment Regimes*

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

KARA N. DURSKI, *Increasing Health System Resilience During Times of Crisis: Application of Systems Thinking and Creative Problem-Solving Methodologies*

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

(Continued)

EPIDEMIOLOGY

BRIDGET CATHERINE HAMILTON GRIFFITH, *What are the Barriers and Facilitators of On-Time Measles Vaccination in Uganda?*

AUBREY K. HUBBARD, *Genetic Susceptibility to Pediatric Germ Cell Tumors and the Late Effects of Their Treatment*

EDDAH WARUIRU MBURU, *Incidence Patterns, Care Continuum and Impact of Treatment on Survival Among Women with Breast Cancer in the United States and Ghana*

CARIN NORTHUIS, *Primary and Secondary Prevention of Stroke*

GUILLAUME ONYEAGHALA, *Aspirin Intervention, Inflammation and the Oral Microbiome*

TESS E. PETERSON, *Proteomics and the Role of HIV Infection in Cardiac Remodeling*

JEANIE SANTAULARIA, *The Hidden Burden of Violence*

ANNA M STADELMAN, *Development and Validation of a Clinical Prediction Tool for the Diagnosis of Tuberculous Meningitis*

SRUTHI VALLURI, *Cyclical Food Purchasing Behavior Among Low-Income Households Receiving Nutrition Assistance*

RACHEL ZMORA, *Mortality and Cause of Death Following Pediatric Cardiac Surgery for Congenital Heart Defects*

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

Founded	1944
Dean	John R. Finnegan Jr., PhD
Ranking	No. 10 public health school, U.S. News & World Report
Divisions	Biostatistics Environmental Health Sciences Epidemiology & Community Health Health Policy & Management
Full-Time Faculty	130
Current students	1,300+ 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	11,800+ 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 perspectives on some of the world's most troubling public health problems, such as COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, smoking, and obesity.

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. Public health helps us live longer, healthier lives. It's called "public" because it concentrates on health advances across populations, making sure every person and every community has what they need for health and well-being. At its most basic, public health is about prevention — stopping illnesses before they start — and about creating the right conditions for people to thrive.

HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The University of Minnesota was one of the first 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 #9 in the nation — serves more than 1,300 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 sexual health.

The School of Public Health is proud to be one of the premier schools of public health in the world. Its faculty, staff, and students bring innovative thinking and concrete action to emerging and persistent challenges, including structural racism, 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.

CRITICAL FUNDING IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER

Public health is critical to confronting COVID-19 in Minnesota and beyond. The medical system accounts for only 10% of what keeps us healthy; 90% depends on prevention, public health, and other factors. Yet, the U.S. spends approximately \$11,000 per person on medical care and about \$260 per person on public health and prevention each year.

When you invest in SPH students, faculty, and life-altering research you become a part of the solution. Help us lead through these uncertain times, discover life saving solutions, and prepare our next generation of public health leaders. Join the movement toward a healthier future: sph.umn.edu/give.

THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH TACKLES COVID-19

Public health is critical to confronting COVID-19 in Minnesota and beyond. During this pandemic, the School of Public Health works side-by-side with the Minnesota Department of Health, health systems, tribal nations, policymakers, U of M colleagues, and others to generate solutions. Below are a few examples of our school's work at this unique time.

GUIDING WISE DECISION-MAKING

- Infectious disease expert **Michael Osterholm (PhD '80, MPH '78, MS '76)** advises local, national, and international policymakers and was part of Biden-Harris Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board.
- **Eva Enns** and **Shalini Kulasingam** (with U of M colleagues) create mathematical models to help guide Minnesota's response to COVID-19.
- Graduates **Kris Ehresmann (MPH '90)**, director of infectious disease for the Minnesota Department of Health, and Minneapolis Health Commissioner **Gretchen Musicant (MPH '86)** use their public health education to lead during COVID-19 (52% of graduates stay in Minnesota to become part of the public health workforce).

ADDRESSING ANXIETY AND UNCERTAINTY

Through daily insights in the news, national and local editorials, commentaries, and a new podcast series, **the school brings science-based information to a worried public.**

- **Peter Raynor** helps the public understand COVID-19 spread and ways to prevent transmission, especially in workplaces.
- **Marizen Ramirez** explores how at-risk children cope with stay-at-home restrictions and provides guidance.
- **JP Leider** develops systems to connect patients with facilities offering monoclonal antibodies and other COVID-19 treatments.

PROTECTING ALL MINNESOTANS

- **Jeff Bender** works to protect farmers, farm workers, and farm families from coronavirus infection.
- **Alan Lifson** (with U of M Extension) provides COVID-19 information to new immigrants.
- **Joseph Gaugler** enhances safety for elders in care facilities.

ADVANCING SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES

- **Coordinating Centers for Biometric Research** is involved in multiple studies evaluating treatments for COVID-19.
- **Ruby Nguyen** confronts the rise of domestic violence during the pandemic to help determine appropriate services.
- **Ryan Demmer (PhD '05, MPH '01)** conducts rapid research to identify how common the virus is in asymptomatic health care workers.

WELCOME
to the **ALUMNI**
COMMUNITY



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**Congratulations
Graduate!**

The University of
Minnesota Alumni
Association proudly
welcomes you to a
global community of
496,000+ alumni.

UMNAumni.org



CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2021!

Welcome to the University of Minnesota School of Public Health Alumni Society! We are proud of your achievements and welcome you to a community of more than 11,000 distinguished alumni worldwide.

STAY CONNECTED | GET INVOLVED | GIVE BACK

WEB sph.umn.edu/alumni



[@umnsph](https://www.facebook.com/umnsph)

E-MAIL sph-alum@umn.edu



[z.umn.edu/sphlinkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/z.umn.edu/sphlinkedin)



[@publichealthumn](https://twitter.com/publichealthumn)

PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS PLEDGE

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.

**Join the celebration
on Social #SPHGrad**

