MASTER OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION

Developing the Next Generation of Healthcare Leaders

2019-2020 Year in Review
Program Director’s Note

As we conclude academic year 2019-2020 for the University of Minnesota MHA program, there is no denying that these are exceptional times. For the U.S. health system, the events of the past few months have demonstrated the critical connection between public health and healthcare delivery. While news reports have revealed critical vulnerabilities in hospital capacity, evidence of racial and ethnic disparities in COVID-19-related health outcomes, and the financial fragility of individuals and employers alike, they have also illustrated valuable lessons about ingenuity, problem-solving, resilience, and leadership.

In my two decades as a faculty member with the Minnesota MHA program, this year will be etched more clearly in my mind than others. This year, the program adopted a leadership team model, including Ryan Armbruster who directs executive programming; Justine Mishek who leads experiential learning and our problem-solving curriculum; and Stephanie Hagel, who directs student services. Together, we have been able to plan and execute on a number of initiatives related to our curriculum, faculty, and student experience. Notably, the leadership team undertook a seven month strategic planning process to articulate the MHA Program’s vision, goals, and tactics for the next five years. An overview of the plan is included here.

As the #2 nationally-ranked graduate program in healthcare management according to U.S. News and World Report, students are at the center of everything we do. In 2019-2020, we enrolled 28 first year and 41 second year residential students (including two dual MHA-MBAs). The Minnesota MHA program attracts talented students from across the country. The diversity of our students based on their demographics, academic backgrounds and work experiences enriches the cohort learning experience, both inside and outside of the classroom. In this issue, we share some of our proudest student accomplishments.

The MHA program also welcomed 17 new executive students, representing our eleventh cohort. These students joined our 25 executive students from Cohort 10 on campus in January 2020. Later that month, faculty, staff, students, and alumni had the opportunity to attend Cohort 9’s capstone presentations, which covered a broad range of topics from robotic surgery investments and tele-anesthesiology to value-based contracting in Brazil. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to celebrate with these 29 students as they successfully completed their degree requirements.

While COVID-19 has precluded us from coming together for commencement this year, on behalf of the MHA faculty, staff, and alumni, know that we are so very proud of all of our graduating students and look forward to celebrating their professional successes in years to come.

Jean Abraham, PhD
Wegmiller Professor and
Master of Healthcare Administrator Program Director
Division of Health Policy & Management
School of Public Health
Strategic Plan

The Minnesota MHA program unveiled its strategic plan for 2020-2024 this past spring. The plan includes six domains listed below, each with articulated goals and key initiatives.

**Curriculum Innovation**  To deliver a theory-driven, practice-enabled educational experience that reflects current and anticipated market needs and which develops students’ competencies, such that they will be prepared for leadership roles following graduation.

**Best MHA Faculty and Staff**  To recruit, retain, and develop a multi-disciplinary faculty and staff team, which collectively facilitates an outstanding educational experience for every student.

**Partnerships**  To actively partner and engage with our external stakeholders, including our academic peer programs, healthcare organizations, and our alumni community in order to enhance program visibility, demonstrate educational leadership, and strengthen linkages between theory and practice.

**Superior Student Experience**  To create and facilitate an educational experience that is designed and delivered for the students of today and tomorrow.

**Disseminating Actionable Research**  To promote the generation and dissemination of research knowledge by faculty and graduate students that informs decision-making of healthcare organizations as well as health policy.

**New Educational Offerings**  To be the leader in developing new offerings that respond to emerging market needs and opportunities, domestically and internationally.
Curriculum Innovation

The University of Minnesota’s Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) program strives to be the best in the nation at developing professionals who lead innovative, high performance healthcare organizations, while improving the health of their communities. To accomplish this, we invest in talented faculty and staff who develop and deliver a theory-driven, practice-enabled educational experience that is rigorous, forward-looking, and student-centered. Additionally, more than 200 alumni annually contribute to the student experience by sharing their expertise both inside and outside of the classroom. We are pleased to highlight recent course developments.

Population Health  This course provides students with a strong foundation in the social determinants of health and the role that health system leaders play in driving changes in upstream factors. Stuart Grande, PhD, serves as the course accountable faculty.

Quality, Patient Safety, and Performance Improvement  This course, taught by Helen Parsons, PhD, is a new requirement for the residential track, and complements an existing course in the executive track, instructed by Karyn Baum, MD, MHA.

Leading with Impact  This recently launched executive track course supports students’ leadership development and complements career coaching during on-campus sessions. Kristin Roepke, MA, is the instructor.

Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Quality  Tetyana Shippee, PhD, teaches this elective course which provides students with a deeper understanding of quality issues across the care continuum.

Climate Change and Healthcare Delivery  This elective course identifies the threats and innovations at the intersection of climate change and healthcare. Ryan Armbruster, MHA ’98, serves as the instructor.

Mental Health Services Delivery  This new elective focuses on behavioral health innovations and is instructed by Matthew Johannsen, MHA, and Michael Troy, PhD.

“After completing my residency in the field of mental health, I saw first hand the importance of mental health and addiction treatment. The new Mental Health Services Delivery course is an opportunity to learn more about best practices around the industry. I appreciate the MHA program’s willingness to develop courses that reflect the growing needs of the market.”

Allison Fischbach, MHA ‘20
Senior Manager, Systems and Operations
Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation
Learning Outside the Classroom

Annual Fall Retreat
Carrying on the spirit of the annual MHA fishing trip, MHA students and faculty kicked off the academic year with a weekend team-building and orientation retreat at Baker Near-Wilderness in Maple Plain, Minnesota.
Pictured: MHA students play ‘Minute to Win It’ games at the annual fall retreat.

Community Stewardship Initiative
MHA students continue to give back to the community. This past year 70% of students participated in Community Stewardship Initiative (CSI), a student-driven service organization committed to civic engagement through volunteer work at health organizations, homeless shelters, nursing homes, and food pantries.
Pictured: Jessica Maloy, MHA ’20 and Mary Grace Hickman, MHA ’20 volunteer at Cookie Cart, a Northeast Minneapolis nonprofit.

Phillips Neighborhood Clinic
Students volunteer at Phillips Neighborhood Clinic, a student-run free clinic that provides care to patients regardless of ability to pay. This past year more than 400 volunteers helped treat 900 patients, and the clinic received the University of Minnesota Tony Digg’s People’s Choice award for best student group.
Pictured: Victoria Smith and Alexis Meyer, MHA ’19 accept the Tony Digg’s People’s Choice Award for Best Student Group.

Institute for Healthcare Improvement
This was the second year of MHA participation in the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) student chapter. Students from across the Health Sciences form interdisciplinary teams and partner with local organizations to improve quality of care.
Pictured: IHI student leaders and faculty advisors. Bjorn Berg, PhD, Ryan Hatch, Robert Hayes, MHA ’20, Nathaniel Scott, MD.
Twin Cities Learning Lab

The MHA learning experience extends beyond the classroom. Students in the program’s Twin Cities Learning Lab course visit local healthcare organizations, interact with senior leaders, and experience innovative healthcare environments. The “Walk and Gawk” course, taught by Greg Hart, MHA ’76, is a longtime staple of the program. Last fall, the Class of 2021 visited ten sites in eight weeks, including visits to Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, Minnesota Community Care, and Optum.

“The Learning Lab allows students to learn about different types of organizations, job roles, and organizational cultures. It also deepens relationships between the MHA program, the School of Public Health, and community organizations.”

Greg Hart, MHA ’76  
Senior Fellow
Executive Program Partnerships

The MHA Executive program partners with regional healthcare organizations to form a working knowledge base for students. The partnerships are a significant part of the curriculum and provide opportunities to network and conduct projects with organizational leaders. This past year the program collaborated with Minnesota Community Care—the largest federally qualified health center in Minnesota—on an innovation project aimed to improve patient services. Students also visited Mayo Clinic where they gathered insight and inspiration from leaders in one of the best healthcare organizations in the world.

"Industry collaboration is a critically important part of the MHA Executive experience as it provides another avenue for practical learning opportunities, exposure to new areas of the industry, and insights from leading professionals and organizations."

Ryan Armbruster, MHA ’98
Senior Fellow
The Minnesota Problem Solving Method

Problem solving remains a distinctive feature of the MHA curriculum. This year students partnered with more than 20 organizations across the U.S. to address critical issues related to care delivery and financing. First-year residential students focus on learning problem solving principles through intensive case write-ups and a group field project. In their second year capstone experience, students integrate knowledge and skills acquired throughout the curriculum and apply them to the resolution of a significant management problem in a healthcare organization. The problem solving curriculum is led by Justine Mishek, MHA ’02, and supported by Greg Hart, MHA ’76, Jerry Nye, MHA ’77, Cari Worner, MHA ’00, and 22 MHA alumni volunteers.

Capstone During COVID

Continuing an annual tradition, Advanced Problem Solving students presented their Capstone projects. However, due to the campus closure, students presented their recommendations and fielded questions virtually on Zoom with faculty, staff, and site preceptors in attendance.

2020 Advanced Problem Solving Projects

**Mayo Clinic**
Topic: TeleHealth Services: Long-Term Critical Access Hospital Stay Program
Faculty Advisor: Chris Meyers Janda, MHA
Site Preceptors: Eric Hanson, MHA, MBA; Jamie Newman MD, MHA, Paul Robela, MD

**Children’s Minnesota**
Topic: The Case for Primary Care
Faculty Advisor: Carly Deer, MHA
Site Preceptors: Gigi Chawla, MD, MHA; Hilary Carruthers, MHA, MBA

**Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation**
Topic: Academic Health Center Partnerships
Faculty Advisor: Greg Hart, MHA
Site Preceptor: Scott Palmer, MBA

**Allina Health**
Topic: Improving Hospice House Utilization
Faculty Advisor: Jerry Nye, MHA
Site Preceptors: Lisa Abicht-Swensen; Julia Crist, MHA

**Fairview / M Health Services**
Topic: EMPATH Process and Unit
Faculty Advisor: Dan Anderson, MHA
Site Preceptor: Beth Heinz, MHA, MBA, MSW

**Mental Health Resources**
Topic: Healthcare Services Data Strategy & Value Proposition
Faculty Advisor: Dori Cross, PhD
Site Preceptors: Mary Colburn; Sally Sales

**UCare**
Topic: Program Development for Health and Social Needs
Faculty Advisor: Kimberly Parrish, MBA
Site Preceptor: Julia Joseph-Dicaprio, MD

**CentraCare Health**
Topic: Developing a Clinical Care Model for Highly Complex Patients
Faculty Advisor: Mary Ellen Wells, MHA; Tom O’Connor, MHA
Site Preceptors: Kathy Parsons, MHSA; Joe Hellie, MHA; Joe Blonski, MD; Diane Buschena-Brenna

**Fairview Physician Associates Network**
Topic: Management Services Organization Project
Faculty Advisor: Julie Pettit, MHA
Site Preceptors: Scott Garavet; Britta Hovey, MHA
Executive Capstone Experiences Abroad

In 2019, a team of MHA executive students collaborated with UnitedHealth Group to identify alternative payment models for Brazilian hospitals. Students William Bekker, Matthew Berggren, Jennifer Oakes, and Jerome Siy traveled to Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro where they worked directly with their Brazilian partners, and recommended two initiatives to improve the quality of care and lower costs of services for both patients and hospitals.


A second team, consisting of Kate Shaughnessy and Jen Chung, MD, partnered with HealthPartners International Development to evaluate Ugandan community health models and how they impact the overall health system. This field experience allowed the team to use human-centered design methods to better understand how the community-based health insurance model affects the Ugandan health system and its population.

Pictured: Uganda team Kate Shaughnessy, MHA ’20 (first from left) and Jen Chung, MD, MHA ’20 (middle) with health cooperative partners from the Uganda Health Cooperative Nyakatsiro Health Centre.

Executive Capstone Finalist Presentations

In January, the MHA Executive Class of 2020, faculty, and guests, gathered for capstone finalist presentations, a display of the top six executive capstone presentations. The winning presentation, as voted on by students and faculty, was Peter Kelly’s project about Robotic Surgery at MHealth Fairview.

Kate Shaughnessy and Jen Chung, M.D. "Health Systems Strengthening—Health Cooperatives—Lessons Learned in Southwestern Uganda" HealthPartners, Bloomington, MN and Southwestern Uganda

Alexis Kotschevar "Expanding Critical Care and Observation Services within Acute Psychiatric Services (APS)" Hennepin Healthcare, Minneapolis, MN

Greg Bodene and Sehar Minhas "Real-Time Burnout Monitoring" Optum, Eden Prairie, MN

Daniela Orza, M.D. "Virtual Anesthesiology Tele-consult Program" M Health Fairview, Minneapolis, MN

Jerome Siy, M.D., William Bekker, Jennifer Oakes, and Matthew Berggren "Value-based Care and Payment Models in Brazil" Amil (UnitedHealth Group), Sao Paulo, Brazil

Peter Kelly, M.D. "Robot-Assisted Surgery Program: An Overview and Five-Year Strategic Plan" M Health Fairview, Minneapolis, MN
MHA Faculty Profiles

The MHA program is supported by 29 multi-disciplinary faculty who represent a diverse mix of research active and practitioner instructors, including 9 alumni.

Dori Cross, PhD
Information Technology in Healthcare

What is your research focus this year?
“A lot of my recent research focuses on post-acute care transitions. Older patients requiring continued care after hospitalization are clinically and often socially complex, and conducting handoffs in the care for these patients is fraught with quality and safety challenges. My research looks at how health IT can strengthen these transitions by providing more timely, tailored, and usable information during transition.”

What do you enjoy about working with MHA students?
“Our MHA students are so smart! I really enjoy facilitating classroom discussions and hearing student projects that showcase thoughtful and creative solutions to intractable healthcare problems. I am also really proud of the diverse career trajectories I see our students pursuing after graduation.”

Kimberly Parrish, MBA
Healthcare Finance

What do you enjoy about working with MHA students?
“I really love coaching the final cases in class, case competition teams, and the Advanced Problem Solving teams. It is so fun to see students apply what they have learned and go through the consulting creative process.”

What do you enjoy about working in healthcare?
“I am one of the founding partners/owners of Innovo Advisors, a healthcare consulting firm. What I love about consulting is the creative problem solving work that is required to lead an organization’s improvement efforts and present the results of their efforts. The bigger and messier the problem, the more challenging and exciting the project is.”

Faculty Publications
MHA research active faculty generated more than 50 publications during the 2019-2020 academic year. A publication list is located at the end of this document.
Bjorn Berg, PhD
Operations and Research Quality

What is your research focus?
“I apply operations research methods to problems and decisions in healthcare delivery settings. For me, this often means making sure the right people and resources are in the right place at the right time. I typically focus on outpatient delivery settings but have applied these methods to other contexts like operating room management.”

What is your current project?
“My research is focused on redesigning rotation schedules and clinic operations for medical residency programs. Family medicine residency training programs are moving from hospital-focused schedules to new scheduling models that emphasize the residents’ experience in their clinics and continuity with their patients. This research is in partnership with the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Minnesota and is part of the Minnesota Learning Health System Mentored Career Training Program. It is a particularly exciting project because the residency programs we are partnered with are ready to implement changes based on what we learn.”

What do you enjoy about teaching/working with MHA students?
“MHA students bring a breadth of experience, academic training and perspectives to the classroom and their work. Everyone benefits from this, including myself. I learn a lot about a variety of healthcare settings from the experiences MHA students have during their time in the program. The students bring a strong appetite for learning and an energy to every topic I cover.”

Faculty Spotlight

Peter Huckfeldt, PhD, Associate Professor

Peter Huckfeldt, PhD, has been named the Vernon E. Weckwerth Professor in Healthcare Administration Leadership. Dr. Huckfeldt joined the faculty as assistant professor in 2014 and over the past six years has instructed health economics courses for MHA students in the residential and executive tracks. He maintains an active research agenda focused on the organization and payment of health care providers as well as the effects of delivery interventions targeting more vulnerable populations.

The Weckwerth Professorship was established by a generous donation from Richard Norling, MHA ’75, and made possible by more than 200 donors. This honor recognizes Dr. Huckfeldt’s contributions to the training of MHA students and the significant impact of his research on health policy and management.
Faculty Speaking Events

University of Minnesota MHA Faculty are thought leaders. They are often asked to share their expertise with industry, policy, and community stakeholders. Sharing research findings and perspectives aim to fulfill the program’s mission of disseminating research, advancing the field of healthcare administration, and improving the health of communities.

Harry Harwick Course on Healthcare Administration

Faculty contributed to the 2020 Harry Harwick Course on Healthcare Administration, an interprofessional conference co-sponsored by Mayo Clinic and the MHA program. Jean Abraham, Ryan Armbruster, Janette Dill, Justine Mishek and Stuart Grande represented the program as course speakers. Jamie Newman, MD, MHA ’17, Jean Abraham and Justine Mishek served as co-directors. The conference was simulcast from Mayo Clinic from Rochester, Minnesota and Phoenix, Arizona.

Selected Faculty Presentations


Carrie Henning-Smith, *Rural counties with majority Black or Indigenous populations suffer the highest rates of premature death in the US*. Health Affairs Press Briefing, National Press Club, Washington DC, (December, 2019)

Katy Kozhimannil, *Building Resilient Communities*, Healthy Futures Summit & SPH 75th Anniversary Gala, Minneapolis, MN, (December, 2019)

Kate Shaughnessy  
MHA Class of 2020, Executive Track  
“I enjoy exploring ideas about how we can make health systems work better, both in the U.S. and around the world. My MHA cohort-mates and I have rich discussions about single-payer health systems, the move to value-based care, healthcare as a human right, current health policies, and general advancements in population health. I believe my MHA has provided me with the business, operations, and public health acumen to drive change and improve the health and economic prosperity of the public.”

Right, bottom: Kate pictured with fellow student Jen Chung, MD, in Uganda as part of her capstone project.

Harrington Joe  
MHA Class of 2020, Residency Track  
“My residency experience was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I spent the summer in Pennsylvania working at Geisinger's Health Plan under the Chief Population Health Officer. My project was to work with managers and physicians to develop and advance end-of-life illness strategies. The support of the program—especially alumni—was instrumental to successfully completing the project. An extensive alumni network makes it easy for graduates to find mentors, discuss ideas, and seek career guidance.”

Right, bottom: Harrington volunteers at A Night to Shine.

Elizabeth Garfinkel  
MHA Class of 2021, Residency Track  
“The MHA Program is a tight-knit learning community. We learn together and everybody is excited to be here. We work together in class, but I also enjoy the learning that takes place outside of the classroom. Entering the program with a background in public health, I was thrilled to be able to volunteer at Phillips Neighborhood Clinic as a community health worker. The program shapes students to become excellent healthcare leaders both within and outside of the classroom.”

Right, bottom: Elizabeth and the Class of 2021 celebrate Friendsgiving 2019.
COVID-19 Response

COVID-19 issues were integrated into several spring 2020 courses, leading to ‘real-time’ discussions of its impact on our health system.

Courses

Legal Considerations in Healthcare Services Organizations
Second-year students discussed the emergency measures healthcare organizations are undertaking along with the legal ramifications that might stem from such measures.

Operations Research and Quality in Health Care
First-year students heard from guest speakers about how quality improvement tools are used to maximize and conserve personal protective equipment.

Principles of Problem Solving in Health Services Organizations
One first-year student team collaborated with a specialty clinic to help it operate given constraints created by COVID-19, while another worked to develop best practices for running an incident command center remotely.

UMN Medical Reserve Corps
In March, the M Health Incident Command Center, through the UMN Medical Reserve Corps, invited MHA students to volunteer their administration skills to the COVID response effort. Many students accepted the opportunity to experience Incident Command in a large academic medical center.

Kai Thompson, MHA/MBA ‘20, works on shifting non-essential outpatient services to a virtual model, and communicating the change to patients. Kai notes, “My choice to attend graduate school was motivated by a desire to transition into the healthcare industry and use my skills to have a positive impact on people’s lives. That has been the most enjoyable part of this volunteer experience.”

Kristy Strain, MHA ‘21, volunteers with the Metro Compact Critical Care Working Group. Kristy attends daily virtual meetings between area hospitals to build communication infrastructure and best practices among Twin Cities health systems. “These opportunities allow me to see the immense collaboration between organizations to ensure that each hospital has what it needs to provide care.”

Sam Clark, MHA ‘20, coordinates the surge plans for the Fairview Health Services hospital system, and assists MHA students as they begin their volunteer work through the Medical Reserve Corps. He will begin an administrative fellowship with M Health Fairview this summer. “Seeing the collaborative nature of the work and multiple leadership styles come together behind a common cause has been a great learning experience during this uncertain time.”
COVID-19 Response

MHA Executive Students

Executive students are called to manage a broad scope of operational efforts.

Christina Bible, MHA ‘21
Quality and Safety Improvement Advisor, M Health Fairview
“I support staffing management and redeployment efforts in getting the new Covid hospital site, warmly nicknamed “Bethesda Cov,” stood up. Now that we are up and running I am building some tools for the teams to manage redeployment efforts as well as taking on quick-hit improvement projects. One such project is around managing nutrition carts for Covid patients.”

Kelly Forman, MHA ‘22
Strategic Business Specialist, UC Davis Health
“I am the point of contact and coordinator for all non-PPE donations to our health system. As local businesses and restaurants reach out to seek to donate anything from meals to care packages to skin care to unsold Girl Scout cookies, I coordinate the intake to ensure they meet our compliance requirements and that we are tracking the distributions to ensure they are equitably distributed to our healthcare workers.”

Grant Kennon, MHA ‘20
Vice President/General Counsel, Sky Lakes Medical Center, Oregon
“I serve as co-chief of logistics under our Incident Command Structure, which formed in March. In conjunction with our two co-chiefs of operations, we are working on everything from securing and manufacturing PPE, to developing alternative sites for the delivery of care, managing caregivers who cannot return home due to exposure.”

Mark Nelson ‘21
Care Center Administrator, Vi at Palo Alto, California
"I am an administrator of a long term care facility, comprised of Skilled Nursing, Assisted Living, and a Memory Care Unit. My resident population, being older and more vulnerable, presents an even greater risk from the COVID-19 crisis. We are on full lockdown and our residents are affected mentally and emotionally from confinement to their rooms and visitor restrictions. My staff nurses and CNAs work with integrity and bravery, despite fears for their own safety and welfare. My management staff and I work extended hours but the bond we have formed would not be possible under "business as normal" circumstances."
Case Competitions

Case competitions provide an opportunity for students to put theory learned in the classroom into practice while addressing some of the most pressing issues that exist in healthcare delivery today. The MHA Program supports students’ participation to extend learning beyond the classroom and encourage engagement with students in peer programs. This year more than 40% of our students applied their knowledge and skills to a real-world problem in a case competition. While the case competition season was cut short due to the pandemic, we are proud of those who represented the MHA Program and the University of Minnesota in local and national competitions.

National Association of Health Service Executives Case Competition

Alina Okamoto, MHA ’21, Ruth Gebremedhin, MHA ’20, and Ebyan Abdisalam, MHA ’20, took third at the National Association of Health Service Executives Case Competition in Washington, DC. The team recommended a human centered design approach to improve homelessness conditions in the San Francisco Bay area. The plan included the formation of a health system team to coordinate care and develop a permanent house community—a three phase plan consisting of Intentional Care, Inclusive Design, and Innovative Community.

Pictured: Team with coaches Justine Mishek, MHA ’02, and Kim Parrish.

Clarion Case Competition

Kelsey Mihm, MHA ’21, represented the MHA program in the local CLARION Case Competition, which focuses on inter-professional teamwork to address critical population health issues. Together with teammates Rachel Mills, MPH ’20 and Melissa Glynn, MOT ’20, the team took first place with their solution to reduce African American maternal and infant mortality in Wisconsin.

University of Alabama at Birmingham Case Competition

Karin Lund, MHA ’20, Megan Olson, MHA ’20, and Braden Hellstern, MHA ’20, took third at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Case Competition. Tasked with reducing wait times at the VA, the team was recognized for their novel proposal to create personalized access windows and plans for veterans by using artificial intelligence and machine learning.
Case Competitions

Yale Health Services Innovation Case Competition
The Class of 2021 team of Kelsey Mihm, Tryg Jensen, Michelle Wise and Kristy Strain tied for first place at the Yale Healthcare Services Innovation Case Competition. Charged with creating a solution for treating seniors in their homes, the team’s innovative, wholistic patient care model is under consideration to be implemented by the sponsoring organization.

UMN Global Health Case Competition
Executive track student Kate Shaughnessy, MHA ’20, and a cross-functional team of students from across the University of Minnesota took second place in the UMN Global Health Case Competition. Their case involved prevention and cessation plans for electronic nicotine delivery systems in China’s Guandong Province.

“Coaching a case competition team is an experience like no other. As a graduate program educator, I learn something new from each competition and from each team. Being a coach is a way to continue to grow in my own leadership and management skills. The topics are relevant and our students find creative, futuristic ways to solve the many problems presented.

The reason I come back year after year is to witness the confidence that is built within our students through this experience. You can see students connecting the dots between the various concepts and skills we all teach. The student team “aha” moments and witnessing the confidence they gain after presenting their idea to healthcare professionals for the first time is why coaching will continue to be a part of my work here at the University. It is not often that we can see our teachings come alive in this way.”

Justine Mishek, MHA ’02
Senior Lecturer
Graduation

MHA Program Class of 2020

Ebyan Abdisalam
Chelsea Akin
Haley Beers
Nicole Carpetto
McKenzie Chase
Sam Clark
Michaela DeGrande
Michael DeGuire
Julia Egofske
Spencer Eisele
Eric Felderman
Allison Fischbach
Meghan Flyke
Emily Friedrich
Taylor Gansmoe
Ruth Gebremedhin
Robert Hayes
Braden Hellstern
Mary-Grace Hickman
Hunter Hill
Adam Jensen
Harington Joe
Karin Johnson
Ishvinder Kaur
Michael Labrador
Graduation

MHA Program Class of 2020

Karin Lund
Jessica Maloy
Ann McLaughlin
Sarah Militello
Carrie O'Connor Walker
Josie Olson
Megan Olson
Krupali Patel
Ross Pickett
Josh Rostad
Kai Thompson
Ashleigh Vandenbrink
Spencer Waters
Sarah Weatherman
Cole Wensman
Logan Wood
Graduation

MHA Executive Program Class of 2020

Dan Behrens  William Bekker  Matt Berggren  Nate Blad  Gregory Bodene

Jen Chung  Trisha Curioz  Ann Drvol  Michael Ebbert  Tyson Frodin

Priyangani Goonathilaka  Matt Hunt  Erin Keene  Peter Kelly  Emily Kornhoff

Alexis Kotschevar  Mary Beth Lydon  Alisha Miller  Sehar Minhas  Afrah Mohamed
Graduation

MHA Executive Program Class of 2020

Samrina Naqvi
Michah Niermann
Jennifer Oakes
Daniela Orza
Cameron Prescott
Kate Shaughnessy
Jerome Siy
Bao Vang
Jamie Walski
Class of 2020 Awards

James A. Hamilton Award

Karin Lund received the James A. Hamilton Award. The award is given to the graduating student who has demonstrated the greatest promise of achievement, as voted on by those in the graduating class.

Class of 1954 Award

Karin Johnson received the Class of 1954 Award in recognition of the best clerkship project during summer residencies. Karin Johnson completed her summer residency at Rhode Island Hospital and leveraged the MHA alumni network to complete an excellent clerkship project.

Stewart C. Thomson MD Memorial Award

Cole Wensman received the Stewart C. Thomson MD Memorial Award in recognition of enthusiasm, fraternalism, and selflessness toward classmates and the program in healthcare administration, as voted on by those in the graduating class.

MHA Executive Capstone Award

Peter Kelly, MD, received the MHA Executive Capstone Award honoring the best executive MHA capstone project, as voted on by peers and faculty. Dr. Kelly’s capstone explored a five-year strategic plan for M Health Fairview’s Robotic-Assisted Surgery Program.

Bright M. Dornblaser Award

Ruth Gebremedhin, Krupali Patel, and Cole Wensman received the Bright M. Dornblaser Award in recognition of the best capstone project, as voted on by peers and faculty. Their project focused on expanding member access to services at UCare. Their UCare preceptor was Dr. Julia Joseph-Di Caprio, and their faculty advisor was Kim Parrish.
2019-2020 CLASS PROFILE

CLASS OF 2020 AND 2021 HOME STATES

CLASS OF 2020 SUMMER RESIDENCIES BY REGION

CLASS OF 2019 EMPLOYMENT BY REGION

CLASS OF 2019 SALARY DATA

CLASS OF 2019 EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

100% of students are connected with alumni mentors during their time in the MHA program

#2 Health Care Management Program in the U.S.
MASTER OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM
CLASS PROFILE

MHA EXECUTIVE PROGRAM CURRENT STUDENTS

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

- 48% Integrated Health System
- 18% Academic Medical Center
- 11% Consulting Firm
- 7% For Profit Integrated Health System
- 5% Medical Group
- 5% Community Hospital
- 2% Pediatric System
- 2% Insurer
- 2% Medical Device

GEOGRAPHIC PLACEMENT

- 27%
- 46%
- 7%
- 7%
- 10%
- 2%
- 1%

40% Clinical Professionals (32% Physicians)

37.5 Average Age

28% Students of color

10 years Average work experience

59% female

41% male

#2 Health Care Management Program in the U.S.

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Selected Publications of Research Active MHA Faculty for January 2019-May 2020

Jean Abraham

Dr. Abraham’s research focuses on employer and employee decision-making with respect to health benefits, employer wellness program evaluation, and competition issues in provider and insurance markets.


James Begun

Dr. Begun studies the structure, strategy, and performance of health care and public health organizations and professions. Where feasible, he utilizes a complexity science perspective to better understand those topics.


Bjorn Berg

Dr. Berg’s research focuses on applying operations research methods and analytic approaches within health care delivery settings. He is interested in understanding the inherent uncertainty in complex health care systems and developing strategies to mitigate its effects. In particular, my research interests are in the decisions surrounding health care operations, planning, and scheduling and what their implications are in developing policies, evaluating quality measures, and measuring outcomes.


Selected Publications of Research Active MHA Faculty for January 2019-May 2020

Jon Christianson

Dr. Christianson’s research focuses on the evaluation of treatment processes, competition in healthcare markets, public reporting of provider performance, and financial incentives in health care.


Dori Cross

Dr. Cross’ research seeks to understand and promote organizational changes that improve care coordination and transitions of care for complex patient populations. Her interdisciplinary training combines organizational studies, implementation/improvement science, and informatics. She uses EHR-generated data and creative mixed methods approaches to explore use and evaluation of health information technology, team-based approaches to care, and organizational capacity for change and innovation in response to a constantly evolving delivery system landscape.


Janette Dill

Dr. Dill’s research focuses on the health care workforce, with an emphasis on low- and middle-skill health care workers. She studies the use of credentialing and career ladders in health care settings to improve worker skills and quality of care, and the rewards to workers for participation. She also examines the use of low- and middle-skill workers in care teams across different health care settings.

Yavorsky, Jill and Janette Dill (forthcoming). “Does Unemployment Predict Male Entry Into Female-Dominated Occupations?” Social Science Research.


Selected Publications of Research Active MHA Faculty for January 2019-May 2020

Stuart Grande

Dr. Grande works as a medical sociologist with a deep interest in the social and behavioral factors that contribute to health inequities. His current research and teaching considers the collaborative benefits of novel technologies on patient-provider communication. He applies principles of community-based participatory research (CBPR) with innovative models of health communication like shared decision making (SDM) to improve the way individuals, families, and clinicians engage with health and the healthcare system.


Carrie Henning-Smith

Dr. Henning-Smith conducts research with the goal of moving toward health equity for all, with a particular focus on historically marginalized populations in order to illuminate structural barriers to health and well-being and practical policy solutions. Under this broad umbrella, her work falls into two distinct, but overlapping themes: 1.) illuminating disparities in health and access to care, especially for older adults and rural residents, and 2.) investigating the ways in which environment, from immediate living environment to broader geographical context, impacts health.


Selected Publications of Research Active MHA Faculty for January 2019-May 2020

**Peter Huckfeldt**

*Dr. Huckfeldt’s research investigates the organization and payment of health care providers; the structure of health insurance; and the effects of delivery interventions targeting more vulnerable populations.*


**Katy Kozhimannil**

*Dr. Kozhimannil conducts research to inform the development, implementation, and evaluation of health policy that impacts health care delivery, quality, and outcomes during critical times in the lifecourse, including pregnancy and childbirth.*


Selected Publications of Research Active MHA Faculty for January 2019-May 2020

Helen Parsons

Dr. Parson's research focuses on the benefits, risks, and results of healthcare interventions so that patients, clinicians and policy makers can make more informed decisions. Much of her work focuses on cancer survivorship, where she has expertise in implementation and evaluation of large survivorship studies, including the development and use of survey and administrative data to examine health and psychosocial outcomes. My overall goal is to identify effective strategies to improve the quality and value of healthcare.


Tetyana Shippee

Dr. Shippee’s research focuses on what really matters to people as they age, such as quality of life measures (like social interactions with others and meal enjoyment) in long-term care settings and the role of racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities for older adults’ quality of life.


