



# Department of Family Medicine & Public Health Undergraduate & Graduate Awards and Graduation Recognition Ceremony



*Celebrating Excellence*

Friday, June 16th, 2017 from 5:30-7:30pm

Lower Auditorium and Courtyard at MET



# AGENDA

## 5:45pm – Welcome and Introductions

**Richard Armenta, PhD, MPH**

Assistant Professor, UCSD

## 5:50pm – Remarks and Faculty Awards

**Dennis Trinidad, PhD, MPH**

Director of the Bachelor's Program in Public Health, UCSD

**David Strong, PhD**

Director of the Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health, UCSD

## 5:55pm – Student Awards

**Dennis Trinidad, PhD, MPH**

Director of the Bachelor's Program in Public Health, UCSD

**David Strong, PhD**

Director of the Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health, UCSD

## 6:10pm – Student Recognitions

**Dennis Trinidad, PhD, MPH**

Director of the Bachelor's Program in Public Health, UCSD

**David Strong, PhD**

Director of the Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health, UCSD

**Sara McMenam, PhD**

Assistant Director of the Advanced Practicum Program, UCSD

## 6:20pm – End Remarks

**Richard Armenta, PhD, MPH**

Assistant Professor, UCSD

## 6:25-7:30pm – Social and Refreshments



# CONGRATULATIONS

*The Department of Family Medicine and Public Health would like to recognize all of our graduating students from both our Bachelor of Science in Public Health Program and our UCSD-SDSU Joint Doctoral Public Health Program. The department is proud of the hard work all of you have put forward in your studies, and looks forward to seeing the great work you will do in promoting healthy lives and communities in your future endeavors.*

## AWARDS

### **Golden Apple Excellence in Teaching Award**

*The department of Family Medicine and Public Health has created the Golden Apple Excellence in Teaching Award to recognize faculty for their outstanding work as instructors, both for the BSPH and for the JDP. Nominees were solicited from BSPH and JDP students, and award recipients were selected based on the content of student nominations. Nominations for the recipients testified to their excellence in classroom instruction and their passion for public health education.*

- **Dr. Samantha Hurst** – Dr. Hurst is a medical anthropologist and qualitative methodologist, who has led efforts to develop advanced curriculum for doctoral students pursuing qualitative and mixed qualitative and quantitative methodologies. She taught both the FPM 288 Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods and MED 231 Introduction to Mixed Methods Research courses. Dr. Hurst is able to blend humor with real world examples from her broad experiences. She always makes an effort to be available for questions and brings a genuine interest in students' efforts to learn and strengthen their skills in methods for asking public health questions. Her students describe her as a "superb instructor" and "a true credit to UCSD."
- **Dr. Margaret Ryan** – Dr. Ryan taught FPMU 130 Occupation and Environmental Health in Fall 2016. She served 139 students. Dr. Ryan's students described her as a caring, inspirational, and accessible educator. Her ability to encourage questions and discussion about course material and her use of in-class demonstrations were provided as examples of her effectiveness at engaging students. Her straight-to-the-point style and positive attitude made her a pleasure for students to work with. Students expressed their appreciation for Dr. Ryan's continued support of their professional development outside the class. One student commented that Dr. Ryan made her/him proud to be completing a degree in public health.

## **Excellence in Teaching in the BSPH Award**

*Our programs reflect university-wide values for academic excellence in teaching, research, and service. In honoring our students' achievements, we want to recognize individuals who have made exceptional contributions in each of these three pillars of academic excellence. We would like to start by awarding an outstanding teaching assistant who has exhibited extraordinary performance. She has provided high-quality support to instructors and students, which has greatly contributed to the success of each course she has been assigned to. To recognize her excellent work, we now will present the following Teaching Assistant with the award for TA of the Year.*

- **Jennifer Sanchez-Flack** – Jennifer has been a Teaching Assistant for seven consecutive quarters for the BSPH. She is being honored with this award for her exemplary support of both the Health Behavior & Chronic Diseases course (FPMU 110) and the Health Policies for Healthy Lifestyles course (FPMU 120). Her knowledge as a Health Behavior graduate student contributed to her ability to explain complex problems and ways to approach them to students. Jennifer is described as being patient with the undergraduate students that need that extra attention. BSPH instructors she has worked with have said that Jennifer is undoubtedly ready to start her new faculty teaching position in the Fall.

## **Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award in the BS Public Health Major**

*The students receiving this award have displayed academic excellence in their coursework within and outside the Public Health major. Each of them has a major GPA of 3.85 or higher, and a UC San Diego GPA of a 3.5 or higher.*

- **Aaser Hamoud Ali, Angela Marie Becerra, Jia Li Chen, Kaitlin Natalie Cheng, Alexandra Elyse Clay, Katrina Sinead Kennedy, Lauren Masako Kikumoto, Jacqueline Thanh Thao Le, Shelton Lo, Ryan Caelen McKinzie, Holly Tan, Crystal Nicole Thompson Andreas, Jingyuan Xiao, Armaan Yaseyyedi**

## **Excellence in Research Award**

*Generating and disseminating knowledge is a critical component in preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting public health. We would like to award a student whose innovative research activities during his graduate studies have made significant and well-recognized contributions to the improvement of public health.*

- **Eric Leas** – Eric has proven his capacity to make substantial contributions in a challenging research environment repeatedly since joining the Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health. Eric's recent research has ranged from global environmental health to big data analytics for public health, and his dissertation explored important issues pertaining to the marketing of tobacco products. He has published papers examining whether certain marketing practices make cigarettes seem "safer" or more appealing than other brands and how proposed tobacco control strategies such as removing branding from packaging may impact perceptions of harmfulness or addictiveness of products. Eric has excellent research skills in experimental design, experience in conducting complex data analyses—including demonstrations of how Twitter and Google can inform public health—and has been active in helping to disseminate the results of this work through 18 scientific publications. Eric

has been exceptionally effective in leading his own projects, has produced clearly articulated research papers and continues to generate high-impact publications in top journals. After receiving his doctoral degree in Public Health, Eric will begin his post-doctoral training at Stanford University.

### **Independent Study in Public Health Research**

*Students are given the opportunity to do independent study projects with faculty members for academic credit. This student was selected out of many who were nominated by their faculty for her exceptional research project.*

- **Alexia M. Anavim** – Alexia worked with Dr. Erik Groessl in Winter 2017. Alexia conducted research on yoga therapy for chronic pain. She conducted a comprehensive literature review, developed an evaluation survey, and performed data analysis. Alexia exhibited initiative, critical thinking and creativity. She was described as a wonderful team collaborator who has a strong interest and passion in sharing her research and knowledge.

### **Excellence in Public Health Community Engagement**

*To develop the well-being of communities, public health professionals work collaboratively through groups of people to mobilize resources, influence systems, and provide a catalyst for change. We would like to award two graduate students who have displayed excellence in community engagement for public health. These individuals have made significant and well-recognized contributions by illustrating a range of approaches that can be used to engage communities around both traditional and emerging public health issues.*

- **Jaime Arredondo Sanchez Lira** – Jaime is a fifth-year candidate in the Global Health track of the UCSD/SDSU Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health. As an international student, he has contributed to Public Health in the community in various ways. Jaime has consistently demonstrated a strong interest in and dedication to engaging directly with highly marginalized people who use drugs in Tijuana. This has involved not only seeking to identify community needs with respect to services to address substance use disorders, but also highlighting these needs through the use of multimedia ([video](#)), discussions with policymakers (particularly the Tijuana Municipal Police Department), and through his personal efforts to connect individuals suffering with opioid use disorders with proper treatment. Jaime negotiated the signing of a collaborative agreement in 2014 [between the municipal Police of Tijuana and the Division of Global Public Health](#). This agreement has spawned an array of research projects to evaluate a police training initiative designed to harmonize police practices targeting people who take drugs by injection in Tijuana with public health objectives. Through these efforts, which are ongoing, and which he has consistently engaged in throughout his doctoral studies, Jaime has demonstrated his deep dedication to ameliorating the lives of people burdened by untreated substance use disorders. His selfless dedication to this work has not only made a meaningful difference in the lives of people who use drugs in Tijuana; but he is also a model for how other students might engage with this population. He is the ideal recipient of this award.
- **Lorena Pacheco** – As a registered dietitian and PhD (Epidemiology) candidate, Lorena has consistently integrated her clinical and epidemiological skills with community and public health engagement. Lorena is exceptionally skillful in creating partnerships within her broad professional

and community network to enhance multidisciplinary approaches for delivery of patient care and community research. Under the direction of SDSU Professor Dr. Stephanie Brodine, Ms. Pacheco created the Nutritional Services Department for [VIIDAI in San Quintín, Baja California, México](#). As their volunteer Director of Nutritional Services, she supervises field research, interventions and nutrition counseling, and mentors trainees on health promotion and epidemiology projects from SDSU School of Public Health, SDSU School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences, UC San Diego School of Medicine, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California School of Medicine, and Family Medicine residents from Scripps Chula Vista Hospital. Additionally, Lorena has worked with UC San Diego Health's one-year dietetic internship with a [Medical Nutrition Therapy concentration](#). Under the guidance of Dr. Cheryl Anderson, Lorena co-supervises UC San Diego dietetics interns during research rotations. Lorena's dissertation is based on the "Avocados in the Home Study: Effects of Avocado Intake on the Nutritional Status of Families Trial," where her leadership role extends beyond her research duties—it involves training community health workers (promotoras), immersion in the Latino community to enhance enrollment, retention, and understanding of participation in clinical studies, and creating collaborations with the [San Ysidro Health Center](#). Lorena's expertise and leadership, at this early stage of her career, has been recognized by the American Public Health Association (APHA), where she was invited to serve as the Moderator for the Session on "Food and Nutrition from a Global Perspective" at the 2016 APHA Annual Meeting. In summary, Lorena exemplifies an epidemiologist who is not limited to remote protocol design and data interpretation, but recognizes the value of engaging with a broad spectrum of community partners, of being accessible to underserved study populations, and of translating research findings into sustainable and community-relevant interventions.

## **Public Health Community Service Award**

*The community service award is based on dedicated service to others as well as breadth, quality, and time committed to community service. Activities must be performed without receiving pay or academic credit. Each of the two recipients of this award received strong and enthusiastic recommendations from their organizations, who spoke highly of their maturity, devotion, and compassion for others.*

- **Hasan Rehan Makda** – Hasan devoted over 400 hours to the Red Cross. He hosted fundraisers for the American Red cross and was involved in Blood Bash, a weeklong blood drive competition he started. Hasan believes that his work with the Red Cross allowed him to have an impact based on the generosity of donors. Hasan's supervisor described him as a committed leader in the organization who is wonderful to work with.
- **Nhat Quang Hai Nguyen** – Nhat dedicated over 200 hours to Good Samaritans Medical Dental Ministry. He was involved in a two week medical mission in Vietnam where he worked to manage and dispense medication to patients and also served as an interpreter. Nhat believes that working to serve patients, many of whom had no access to modern healthcare practices, gave him the opportunity to learn about himself. Nhat's supervisor described him as a "true team player" with "service in his heart."

# DEPARTMENT RECOGNITIONS

## Defending Students

*There are two significant milestones in the journey to fulfill requirements of the doctoral degree in public health: the Advancement to Candidacy for the doctoral degree and the successful defense of the quality of research in their graduate thesis. We would first like to congratulate the following individuals who successfully completed this academic path, have defended their dissertation research, and therefore will be awarded the Doctorate of Philosophy in Public Health. These scholars have made significant contributions to public health in topic areas ranging from the prevention of infectious disease to developing new ways to reduce the risk for cancer.*

- **Jaime Arredondo Sanchez Lira** – Evaluating the Implementation of Drug Decriminalization in Tijuana Mexico: Police and Public Health
- **James Balcius** – Maritime Military Humanitarian Civic Assistance Missions: Resource Use, Coordination, and Governance to Improve Global Health
- **John Bellettiere** – Cardiovascular and metabolic health in relation to sedentary behavior and how it is accumulated
- **Julie Bergman** – Maternal Influences on Vertical Transmission of HIV in Kenya and Uganda
- **Raphael Cuomo** – Access and Affordability of Cancer Drugs in International Settings
- **Jessa Engelberg** – Ecological Moderators of the Relation Between Neighborhood Safety and Physical Activity
- **Melawhy Garcia** – Socio-ecological correlates of non-adherence to prescribed medications among low-income Hispanic/Latino adults with chronic conditions
- **Jonho Heo** – Cohort-based Income Status and Population Health
- **Jennifer Kempster** – Beyond Regression: Using Clusters of Characteristics to Describe Smokers and Predict Outcomes
- **Eric Leas** – Essays on the Marketing and Packaging of Cigarettes
- **Charles Matthew III** – Cross Border Health Collaborative Leadership
- **Corinne McDaniels** – Hyperkyphosis and incident falls among community-dwelling older adults
- **Lilian Perez** – Ecological correlates of physical activity among urban adult and adolescent populations: Findings from global and US contexts
- **Kristi Robusto** – Childhood Obesity Prevention: Is it a Hop, Jump, and a Skip Away? An Exploratory Study of the Behavioral Ecological Model and the Influence of Contingencies on Child Body Composition
- **Jennifer Sanchez-Flack** – A Food Environment Perspective on the Fruit and Vegetable Dietary Behaviors of U.S. Hispanic

- **Sandra Soto** – The role of children, families, and acculturation on Latina mothers' dietary intake and behaviors
- **Michelle Takemoto (Black)** – Take a Stand: A Mixed Methods Approach to Evaluate a Pilot Sedentary Behavior Intervention
- **Christina Thornton** – Senior Change Makers Pilot Study: Improving Physical Activity Environments through Intergenerational Advocacy

## Advancing to Candidacy

*After undergoing rigorous challenges and evaluations by a committee of scholars, students who successful propose a novel line of research pass their first major milestone in the Joint Doctoral Program and become candidates for the doctoral degree.*

- **Alyson Cavanaugh, Jessica Hawks, Andrea Mendoza Vasquez, Sandahl Nelson, Lorena Pacheco, Marissa Salazar, Che Wankie**

## Research Awards

*Congratulate the following students who have received individual fellowships, research training, and research service awards from the following groups and agencies: Fogarty, NIH: NCI, NIDA, NINR, AHA, UC MEXUS/CONACYT, USMEX, FISP, Chancellor's Interdisciplinary Collaboratory Fellowship, and GloCal.*



- **Nathan Alamillo, Jaime Arredondo Sanchez Lira, Maggie Crawford, Erin Delker, Kelsie Full, Lara Kusnezov, Lorena Pacheco, Lilian Perez, Sandra Soto, Teresita Rocha Jimenez, Marissa Salazar, Carlos Rivera Saldana, Katy Sileo, Kazi Priyanka Silmi**



## Public Health Research Day Poster Awards

On April 5th, 2017 the UC San Diego Institute for Public Health held the third annual [Public Health Research Day](#). This event brought together more than 300 faculty, staff, post-docs, and students from across campus for a symposium and poster session featuring 100 posters on public health research and public health in action in our communities. The following posters received awards.

- **Pearl Kuang** – The Presence of Bisexual Stigma: Literature Review on Bisexual Stigma and Health Implications for Bisexuals  
Second Place: Undergraduate Division
- **Jingyuan Xiao** – Providing the Best Care Possible: Clinical Use of the PDQ with Individuals Diagnosed with Cancer  
Third Place: Undergraduate Division
- **Joyce Xiao** – Promoting Fruit and Vegetable Consumption among Families at the Preuss School  
First Place: Public Health in Action

## Completion of the Advanced Practicum

*These thirteen students successfully completed a year-long intensive applied public health experience. They applied public health principles to real world settings and prepared comprehensive portfolios that demonstrated the power of public health higher education and community-academic partnerships.*

- **Kaitlin Cheng** – Hands for Helpings: A Lesson Equipping 5th Graders to Identify Proper Meal Portion Sizes
- **Diana Cortez Moreno** – Anosognosia: A systematic review with a focus on screening methods
- **Monica Dutta** – Regulatory Summary of the Duties of Local Health Officers in California
- **Vennis Hong** – Contributions of the Scripps Wellbeing Center in Reducing Hospital Readmissions
- **Caroline Hou** – Evaluating Alzheimer's San Diego's Wandering Prevention Pilot Program
- **Brandon Khuu** – Mindfulness & Stress Management Promotion for Parents at The Preuss School UCSD
- **Jacqueline Le** – Improving the Quality of an Undergraduate Student Training in the HFiT Undergraduate Internship Program
- **Anela Bianca Lorenzana** – Health on Track 2017: A Health Fair for Parents at The Preuss School UCSD
- **Marylin Miranda Garcia** – Diabetes Education Program for the Latino Community of Linda Vista
- **Monica Oh** – Knowledge Management and Transfer in Public Health Services
- **Esther Solis Becerra** – Evaluating Health Literacy of the Latino Community in Linda Vista
- **Crystal Thompson Andreas** – Assessing Zika Virus Knowledge Among Personnel at HFiT Clinic
- **Joyce Xiao** – Promoting Fruit and Vegetable Consumption Among Families at the Preuss School

# CAMPUS RECOGNITIONS

## **UCSD Public Health Club Leadership**

*The Public Health Club provides valuable opportunities for students interested in public health to get to know each other, support one another in their academic pursuits, and participate in community outreach. These students served in crucial leadership capacities within the club.*

- **Omar Sajjad** – Public Health Club Leadership: President
- **Rachel Bilchak** – Public Health Club Leadership: Health Promotion Chair
- **Crystal Thompson Andreas** – Public Health Club Leadership: Health Promotion Officer
- **Deborah Chang** – Public Health Club Leadership: External Affairs Chair
- **Karla Ochoa** – Public Health Club Leadership: External Affairs Officer
- **Nhat Quang Nguyen** – Public Health Club Leadership: Publicity Chair
- **Sallie Lu** – Public Health Club Leadership: Publicity Officer
- **Jessica Lu** – Public Health Club Leadership: Community Service Chair
- **Cassandra Meraz** – Public Health Club Leadership: Community Service Officer
- **Lauren Collin** – Public Health Club Leadership: Financial Chair

## **2017 Blum Summer Field Internship**

*Since 2014, the UC Office of the President, in collaboration with regent Richard Blum, have sponsored cross-disciplinary summer field internships at UCSD Community Stations, located in underserved sites across the San Diego-Tijuana region. Of those who were selected for these internships, three come from our own Public Health majors.*

- **Cynthia Frausto** – Assigned to Cross-Border Community Station in San Ysidro
- **Maria Mendez** – Assigned to Cross-Border Community Station in San Ysidro
- **Ifunanyachukwu Okwuosa** – Assigned to Cross-Border Community Station in Laureles, Tijuana

# **THANK YOU**

**To all of our faculty, staff, and students**