

The Director's Column

Dr. Nils Hennig, Program Director



What a long and strange trip it has been since the first case of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in NYC was diagnosed on February 29 of last year (at The Mount Sinai Hospital). Up until then our program space in the CAM Building was bustling with life. I would see our students clustering together in the hallways, sitting shoulder-by-shoulder in full classrooms and roaming the Mount Sinai campus. In the early spring of 2020, who would have predicted ending 2020 and starting

2021 with remote learning, and already planning our second virtual MPH graduation ceremony? At least for now, some of the old ways of life are gone. But what has not changed is our students' and faculty's dedication and enthusiasm to improving the health of communities and individuals. We are committed to our core values of community, sound science, diversity, social justice, and engagement. Looking at the articles in this new issue of The Scoop, I actually think our dedication to positive change is stronger than ever.

While the COVID-19 epidemic continues to rage and break horrible records, the arrival of new vaccines is reason for cautious optimism. At Mount Sinai we have been vaccinating our staff since mid-December. While most vaccines have taken decades to develop, this time around it took scientists, volunteers and public health professionals from

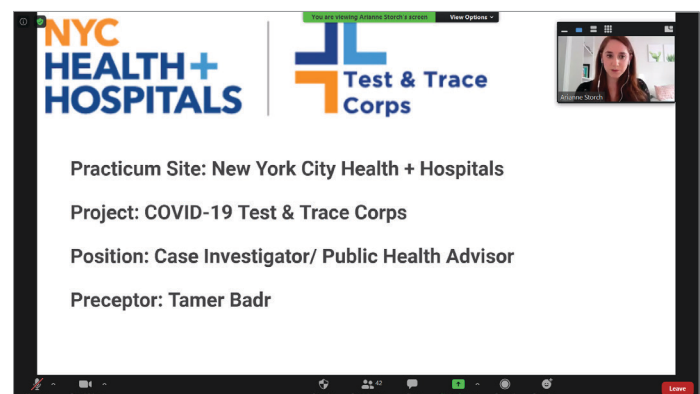
conception to large-scale implementation less than a year. As the editors of The New England Journal of Medicine recently wrote: "There is a lot of credit to go around: to the scientists who shared data and who developed the underlying methods and implemented them to create a vaccine, to the clinical trialists who performed high-quality work in the setting of a health emergency, to the thousands of participants who volunteered to take part in the trial, and to the governments that helped create performance standards and a market for the vaccine." Obviously many important questions remain and only long-term studies will be able answer them: long term side effects, how long will the vaccine remain effective, does the vaccine prevent asymptomatic disease and limit transmission, what about children, pregnant women, and immunocompromised patients, etc., etc.? The logistical challenges of manufacturing and delivering a vaccine remain daunting. I know first-hand how challenging it is to roll out a campaign requiring two doses while maintaining the cold chain.

This is a good reminder that vaccination remains one of the most powerful public health tools. Vaccines have revolutionized public health and medicine, and have helped save millions and millions of lives. The practice of immunization dates back hundreds of years. Buddhist monks drank snake venom to confer immunity to snake bites and variolation (smearing of a skin tear with cowpox to confer immunity to smallpox) was practiced in 17th century China. Edward Jenner is considered the founder of vaccinology in the West in 1796, after he inoculated a 13 year-old-boy with vaccinia

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Practicum Showcase 2020: A Few Highlights

On October 21, 2020, our graduate program community gathered virtually to learn about seven students' recently completed Applied Practice Experience (APE) work. Assistant Professor Maya Korin, PhD, MS, summarized the Program's pride on the day, "This year's public health practicum showcase highlighted the perseverance and agility of our public health students to thrive and learn, even in the middle of a pandemic. In fact, two of the practicums presented were able to utilize the current COVID-19 outbreak to put their public health skills to use, aiding in both contact tracing efforts as well as managing infection spread in incarcerated populations. Our students' practicum experiences showed the breadth of work that can be done within public health. It was a pleasure to participate as a faculty member and learn about how impactful our students are in the field."



Arienne Storch, MPH student discusses her involvement in contact tracing activities with the NYC Health + Hospitals Test & Trace Corps Initiative.



Arianne Storch, MPH student

For my Applied Practice Experience, I work as a Case Investigator through the NYC Health + Hospitals Test & Trace Corps Initiative. Case investigation is the identification and investigation of patients with confirmed and probable diagnoses of COVID-19. I call New York City residents who have recently tested positive for COVID-19 and conduct interviews about their symptoms, demographics, and recent settings where they could have been exposed to large groups of people. I give instructions on how to isolate while infected as well as offer resources such as food assistance and accommodations to help people during this time. Most importantly, I collect the information of other individuals who the case may have been in close contact with during their infectious period.

Having the opportunity to speak to so many people affected by this pandemic has been very humbling. It has clearly demonstrated that everyone has been affected by this illness no matter what zip code you live in or your socio-economic status and everyone has their own stories and challenges. While this work can be overwhelming at times, I am uplifted when I think of how New York City's contact tracing efforts have succeeded in identifying cases and reducing the spread of COVID-19.

I am working with Rachelle D. Veasley, LCSW, Director of Client and Mitigation Services at the Federal Defenders of New York (FDNY), an organization that provides public defense services to indigent clients facing federal charges. This is a continuation of my MSW field practice, in which I acted as a supportive counselor for incarcerated clients who were not yet sentenced and assisted with collecting information for mitigation support. Common themes in their stories were their chronic illnesses and the neglectful medical attention they received from the correctional facilities where they were being housed despite their constitutional right to care and documented Bureau of Prisons protocol. No longer a supportive counselor, I am now assisting them by translating and defining traditional social work concerns into public health terminology, so that they may use this research for legal mitigation. My APE brings together social work, legal representation, and public health. It will help FDNY provide clients with more equitable access to safe and healthy living conditions. My experience within the FDNY gives me the opportunity



*Kathleen Turner-Purves,
MSW/MPH Student*

to use the principles of public health to reinforce the importance of competent medical care for the incarcerated, support the argument for shorter sentences, and offer compassionate release when necessary. My future hope is that the health and well-being of incarcerated individuals is just as protected as those who are not incarcerated and I'm proud to be involved in work that brings us one stop closer to making this a reality.

For my APE, I sought to explore the intersection of technology and health by working at Rock Health – a venture capital fund that exclusively invests in early-stage digital health companies. Through this experience, I hoped to gain exposure to innovative companies, understand the major economic models allowing these companies to thrive, and have a more nuanced perspective on how to pitch ideas to venture capitalists. Over the summer, I met with companies seeking investment from Rock Health to hear them “pitch” their ideas and I crafted an investing thesis and resulting blog post exploring the areas of the older-adult healthcare market in which Rock Health should focus its investments. Watching more than 50 early-stage digital health companies pitch their ideas, hearing how the Rock Health investing team evaluated these pitches, crafting and presenting my own opinions on whether we should invest were amazing ways both to explore the wide range of companies that exist and also to hone my understanding of what makes a “good” pitch. Diving deep into Medicare and dual eligible insurance and understanding how these systems create (or in some cases do not create) opportunities for innovation helped

me begin to understand the economic players that come together to build a new digital health company. I walked away from the summer feeling more informed and excited about the prospect of using technology to accelerate and scale public health goals and to improve access to high-quality care. I think there are many ways to gain exposure to digital health, from working at venture capital firms, to interning at digital health companies, to advocating for using digital health products in more traditional public health organizations. If this work sounds exciting to you, I would really encourage you to consider these types of experiences for your APE!



Katie Hanss, MD/MPH Student

I completed my APE at The Access Challenge, a non-profit organization headquartered in NYC that is involved in political advocacy and health-related communication and mass media campaigns. Following the United Nations General Assembly's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) political declaration in September 2019, the Access Challenge, in partnership with the African Union (AU), the World Health Organization and Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Foundation (Tanzania), launched the flagship program themed "One-by-One Target 2030" Campaign. The campaign, aimed at assisting the AU to attain UHC by the year 2030, is founded on three key pillars: 1) Political advocacy to rally the commitment of Africa Heads of States and governments toward achieving UHC; 2) Global conferences that engages the crème de la crème in the global health industry to continue and sustain the UHC conversation, and 3) Mass media campaign that galvanizes the support of the grassroots to demand for UHC. The unceremonious emergence of COVID-19 caused a worrying increased trend in the spread of misinformation about COVID-19 in Africa, a phenomenon that the WHO director described as "We're not only fighting a pandemic but infodemics." Concerned with this unfortunate trend, a sub-campaign: "One-By-One Target COVID-19" was launched to help eliminate the growing

misinformation and help raise funds on behalf of the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention to increase the testing capacity of countries.

Under the tutelage of my preceptor, I was responsible for drafting the UHC proposals forwarded to the AU. The AU accepted our proposal and has culminated in a questionnaire by the AU that will be forwarded to all 54 AU countries for their response. Their responses will be codified into statistical data that will inform the next line of action, thus which countries have prepared their health system toward UHC. Secondly, I played a leading role in drafting the content for our mass media strategy for the "One-By-One Target COVID-19 Campaign." This was sent to many media houses (TV, radios) and airline companies. We received positive responses from these organizations to advertise our content. Thirdly, I had the privilege of drafting a grant proposal that received positive feedback. I did a lot of research for Access Challenge especially on the pro-vaccine campaign to counteract an earlier campaign #saynotovaccine, aimed at rejecting a vaccination. I also wrote an article titled "the imperative role of the private sector in COVID-19 in Africa" due for publication in the Fall 2020 edition of their series.

UHC simply implies all citizens in their community receive service without financial hardship.



Abdul Bais Ahmed, DPM/MPH student

Its core principles are affordability, access, quality acceptability, availability, community participation, intersectoral collaboration, and appropriate use of resources. It's not only about individual health services but population-based services such as public health campaigns. It's much more than just health; but equity, development priorities, and social inclusion and cohesion. If implemented, UHC can lead to overwhelming changes in African countries' health policies. At the individual level, increased access, affordable, available, acceptable, and quality care will be attained. This can change Africa's health narratives such as reduction in infant mortality and maternal mortality, if not total eradication.



Chantelle McLeish, MPH Student

This summer I had the amazing opportunity to help launch the Mount Sinai Summer Institute, an initiative led by the Mount Sinai Department of Health Education. The purpose of the Summer Institute was to engage black youth aged 15-19 about topics of public health, social justice, health equity, and community activism. Along with the Director of Health Education Alyssa Gale, Mount Sinai Social worker Lajeanna Haughton, and Rutgers MPH Student Natalie Montes, we planned and completed seven weeks of remote programming for 9 bright participants. My responsibilities included reviewing and recommending readings, creating discussion assignments, curating videos for the participants,

and facilitating discussion and breakout groups during our daily programming.

Each week, we had amazing speakers from different fields in public health. The students felt empowered seeing black professionals that they could identify with and who are successful and grounded in doing public health work. The students worked through countless processing and reflection assignments, and practiced activism by writing letters and creating posters about topics that they felt strongly about. The Mount Sinai Summer Institute actively engaged youth on current public health issues and outlined to each participant why it is so important to be aware of what is happening in one's community and how it can affect your health. My APE experience was not only a professional milestone for me, but it was an opportunity to instill a legacy of public health interest in youth. Youth are valuable because they are lifelong stakeholders in promoting community well-being. It is never too early to start being aware and making a difference. All of the youth that we engaged with this summer are extremely bright, intelligent and are so motivated to make a difference within the communities that they live in. I have no doubts in my mind that these students will continue to use their voices to speak up for the changes they want to see in society.

As a first-year MPH student, the process of looking for an APE can be a bit overwhelming at times. The student presenters in the showcase shared many helpful tips on how to secure an APE. The students also showed amazing flexibility in their ability to adapt to the changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Attending the practicum showcase reassured me that I will also find a project that aligns to my field of interest; as opportunities are ever changing to suit the current needs of the community!

- Amanda Singh, first-year MPH student

Staffing Mount Sinai Hospital Vaccine Clinics

In early January 2021, Governor Andrew Cuomo expanded vaccine eligibility to individuals ages 65 and older, first responders, grocery store workers, public transit employees, in-person college instructors, staff and support staff for P-12 schools, childcare, and correctional settings, as well as individuals living and working or volunteering in congregate homeless shelters. Within hours of the announcement, Stephanie H. Factor, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Disease, recruited over 20 graduate students to step into volunteer roles at the Mount Sinai Hospital to assist with meeting the needs of this new phase of vaccine rollout. Three students describe their experiences thus far:



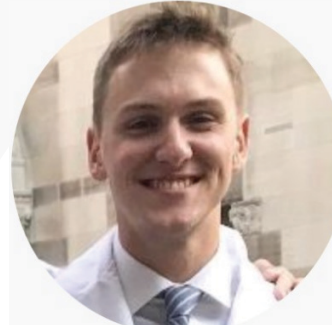
Welmince Pello, MPH student

My experience volunteering in the vaccine distribution effort is terrific. Most of the people who I assist are above 65 years old. I help them find the right booth to avoid waiting in long queues. I guide others through completing their New York State COVID-19 Vaccine Form using tablets or their personal smartphones. Volunteering at the COVID-19 vaccine clinic has helped me connect to the community surrounding Mount Sinai. I truly appreciate this opportunity and look forward to helping in any way that I can during these trying times.



Wendy Barillas, MPH student

I feel privileged to work with the Pod Squad to help with the vaccination distribution efforts. Throughout this experience, I am continuously left in awe at the work that this incredible team does: specifically the tireless efforts of the management team: Jamie Ruhmshottel, Brian Angelos, and Dr. Ania Wajnberg. Within my volunteer role, I answer vaccination-related questions that both staff and community members have, summarize the factsheets for the vaccine recipients, and manage the foot-traffic in vaccination lines. I have learned how to communicate effectively with community members and health care personnel. Overall, this is a great experience and has opened my eyes to practices concerning community health education.



Gregory Rose, DPM/MPH student

It has been a long year! Being a part of this "light at the end of the tunnel" moment has been extremely rewarding. The emotion within the building is palpable. That all-too-familiar feeling of anxiety about maintaining social distancing is still present, but there are also tangible feelings of relief, excitement and joy. Having the opportunity to see this historic vaccine rollout and being able to play a helping role is an experience I will never forget. Thank you to the Graduate Program in Public Health for allowing me to participate in this remarkable event and thank you to all the doctors, nurses and staff working long hours and risking their own health for the good of our New York City community. The dedication I have seen is something I will always remember as I begin my career as a healthcare professional and clinician.



For more information about the new COVID-19 vaccines, visit <https://www.mountsinai.org/about/covid19/vaccine-information> Or use your smartphone to scan this QR code



(Left to right) Ryan Buerger, Janice Therese Bautista, and Hannah Johnson at the Mount Sinai Hospital vaccination Pod in the Guggenheim Pavilion Lobby. Photograph by Sahiti Yarakala

The First Virtual American Public Health Association Annual Meeting

The American Public Health Association (APHA) is the largest membership organization representing the public health profession. This year, APHA hosted 9,400 public health professionals in the first virtual Annual Meeting and Expo October 24-28, 2020. Three alumni were invited to present their work and shared their experiences with us. APHA provides the opportunity to hear from public health leaders, make connections within and across sectors, and participate in life-long learning. The Graduate Program in Public Health encourages all students to submit original research abstracts for the upcoming 2021 Annual Meeting. Visit apha.org to submit your abstract by mid-March!

The APHA annual meeting is truly a great platform for any researcher regardless of age or background to present their research. I felt an immense sense of pride in presenting alongside many significant professionals striving for change and making this world a better place.

– **Shivani Rathi, MPH**

I enjoyed my time at APHA this year. 2020 has been challenging, but the way APHA designed the virtual Annual Meeting made it easy to navigate and see more presentations live than if we were in person. I recommend every MPH student attend the APHA conference at least once. There are thousands of public health professionals to connect with. Everyone has different perspectives that can help improve healthcare as we know it. The APHA Annual Meeting highlights the importance of public health and offers all professionals a space to share, learn, and engage.

– **Karan Kohli, MPH**



Charles Sanky's presentation during APHA's Delta Omega Poster Session

This year I was honored with the ability to deliver two oral presentations at APHA. My first presentation centered on health equity and the social determinants of health in the clinical setting. My second presentation was a qualitative study that focused on childhood obesity in Trinidad and Tobago. I was extremely excited to present this work and listen to others present as well. It is imperative now, more than ever, that we unite as a public health community to discuss our efforts and coordinate our ideas in the face of trying times. As we look forward to future conferences, I am excited for public health professionals to reimagine how we can connect and collaborate during times like these, especially considering the necessity of working together to address public health crises.

– **Charles Sanky, MPH**

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virus (cowpox), and demonstrated immunity to smallpox. In 1798, the first smallpox vaccine was developed. Over the 18th and 19th centuries, systematic implementation of mass smallpox immunization culminated in its global eradication in 1979. Louis Pasteur's 1885 rabies vaccine was the next to make an impact on human disease. And then, at the dawn of bacteriology, developments rapidly followed. Antitoxins and vaccines against diphtheria, tetanus, anthrax, cholera, plague, typhoid, tuberculosis, and more were developed through the 1930s. The middle of the 20th century was an active time for vaccine research and development. Methods for growing viruses in the laboratory led to rapid discoveries and innovations, including the creation of vaccines for polio. Researchers targeted other common childhood diseases such as measles, mumps, and rubella, and vaccines for these diseases reduced the disease burden greatly. The further application of molecular genetics and its increased insights into immunology, microbiology and genomics led to the development of recombinant hepatitis B vaccines, the less reactogenic acellular pertussis vaccine, and new techniques for seasonal influenza

vaccine manufacture. And now another innovation, messenger RNA vaccines—also called mRNA vaccines—are some of the first COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States. Instead of putting a weakened or inactivated germ into our bodies to trigger an immune response, mRNA vaccines teach our cells how to make a protein—or even just a piece of a protein—that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies. These developments are promising for controlling COVID-19 and beyond.

Finally I want to offer my sincerest sympathy to those of you who have experienced loss on a personal level during these difficult times. To all of you on the front lines, my heartfelt thanks for your service. Public health professionals, faculty and students are making a difference with their dedication to the public's health. Let us continue to support one another as we move through these challenges with resilience and heart. Stay safe!

Third Annual Public Health Professional Development Conference

Featuring a Conversation on How to Address Racism, Sexism, and Injustice with Author Dolly Chugh, PhD

The Graduate Program in Public Health hosts annual conferences and events to equip current students and alumni with the tools necessary to successfully navigate their way from public health student to public health professional. This year's virtual Public Health Professional Development conference featured a Book Chat with social psychologist Dolly Chugh, PhD, author of "The Person You Mean To Be". Dr. Chugh led students, alumni, and community members through practical and effective approaches to confront sexism, racism, and inequality, and injustice. Jacqueline Cortez, first-year MPH student emphasizes, "These evidence-based strategies help us grow as people and professionals." Juliana Amo, second-year MSW/MPH student shares her experience of the event:

"The conversation offered an enlightening discussion around equality, diversity, and inclusion. The discussion was very thought-provoking in terms of assessing our own internal biases, specifically as we navigate the world as public health students. Not only will bias affect how I treat others, but bias will be a factor that influences my future as a public health worker. Dolly Chugh made an amazing statement about the notion of trying to be a good person: "We redefine what it means to be a good person as someone who is trying to be better, as opposed to someone who is allowing themselves to believe in the illusion that they are always a good person." The ability to reflect on one's actions and use that introspection to change allows us to have kindness for those who may not have gotten it right the first time but will be better in the future.

As a student studying public health, Dolly Chugh's understanding of the "psychology of good people" is key. Being aware of our own unconscious bias can lead us away from ignorance and towards a place where we learn to be more accepting and open. I wholeheartedly believe that being in public health means that you have the opportunity to be on the right side of history and being on the right side of history means that you have to be open and willing to fight for a more positive future for any and every one. I love that "The Person You Mean To Be" is a book that offers a reflective experience. Anyone who reads Dolly Chugh's book will be willing and ready to do the personal work necessary to make a change for the better."

To learn more about Dr. Dolly Chugh's work, visit <http://www.dollychugh.com/newsletter>



SAVE THE DATE
for the Fourth
Annual Public
Health Career Fair
April 14, 2021!

Photo of Associate Director, Elisabeth Brodbeck, MPH, MA, talking with Dolly Chugh, PhD, during the virtual Public Health Professional Development conference on November 6, 2020. Photo taken by Sahiti Yarakala, a first-year MPH student who participated from home.

After the Book Chat, students attended virtual roundtable networking sessions with alumni and representatives from several Mount Sinai departments including Health Education, Population Health and Payer Systems, and Talent Acquisition. Sahiti Yarakala, first-year MPH student, was among a group that sought advice from ISMMS alumni regarding the Applied Practice Experience and how to scout for interesting internships. Sahiti states, "the biggest piece of advice given during the roundtables was to take advantage of every opportunity and aim to gain valuable experience."

Mental Health and 2020

By Brielle Dojer, second-year MPH student

It's been a difficult year for us all. Just a couple of months into 2020, the arrival and surge of SARS-CoV-2 in New York City upended life as we knew it. Since then, we've watched the pandemic take the lives of more than 2.3 million people worldwide and destroy livelihoods, fueled by a federal government that largely disregarded science, public health, and human suffering. On top of this, the disproportionate effect the pandemic has had on our most vulnerable communities, and the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and Jacob Blake have been painful reminders of the injustice, racism, and systemic inequity that many of us entered the field of Public Health to combat.

While this tumultuous year has unfolded before us, the parts of life that bring the most comfort and joy - those that involve gathering with others - have been on hold, or often felt unsafe to partake in. However, school and, for many of us, work, have not been on hold. While these responsibilities can be helpful distractions from everything else happening to and around us, they can also feel like yet another weight on our shoulders, and many of us have found it difficult to put the same focus and effort into them as we do normally. For me, giving myself a pass to be less than okay right now, and talking with my friends, family, and therapist have been important ways of coping with the sadness and anxiety I've experienced this year. As we continue to move through this particularly difficult time in our lives, it's important to check in with ourselves emotionally, and reach out to others if we are struggling. Mount Sinai also offers health and wellness resources for students, and Program Director Dr. Nils Hennig has made clear that anyone who needs additional academic support or accommodations should feel welcome to reach out to him.

Everyone reading this has, somehow, made it this far - and if all we can say as the year draws to a close is that we've cared for ourselves and managed to keep going, it's enough.



**MOUNT SINAI
EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT
RESOURCES**

A guide to mental, emotional, and spiritual help at work

The Office of Well-being and Resilience present a comprehensive infographic on resources for Mount Sinai employees and students.

Mount Sinai Employee and Student Resources

A guide to mental, emotional, and spiritual help at work



Center for Stress, Resilience, and Personal Growth

Resilience training workshops, individual support, and treatment.
[Click to download our app](#) on Sinai Central
212-659-5564 | bit.ly/MS-CSRPG



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4calm@mountsinai.org



The Office of Well-Being and Resilience

Facilitated discussions, narrative medicine, and mindfulness training
tiny.cc/wellnessrequests



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Peer emotional support
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Louis Armstrong Center for Music and Medicine

Daily individual and group sessions
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info@musicandmedicine.org



Spiritual Care

Speak with a chaplain
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The Mount Sinai Hospital **212-241-7262**
Mount Sinai West **212-523-6920**
Mount Sinai Morningside **212-523-2016**
Mount Sinai Queens **718-808-7460**
On-Call Line (nights and weekends) **212-241-7262**



The Office of Well-being and Resilience
OWBR@mssm.edu | 212-241-5057

Student Spotlight

An Interview with Myat Ko

Myat Ko is a second-year Master of Public Health student in the Epidemiology Track. Before studying public health, he received a medical degree from the University of Medicine, Mandalay in Myanmar.

Describe why you chose to study medicine.

I grew up in Myanmar, a small developing Southeast Asian country. When I was young, I watched my grandmother frequent hospitals and clinics due to acute exacerbation of asthma. I witnessed doctors caring for my grandmother. The smile on her face when they made her feel better was enough to convince me that doctors have superpowers – the power to heal. I pursued a medical degree because I wanted to be one of those superhero doctors that could bring smiles to the faces of their patients. Pursuing medicine is the tool that made this ability possible.

Why did you choose to continue your education with studying public health?

I wanted to expand my view of healthcare past the doctor and patient relationship. I chose public health because I sought to understand how to improve the health of entire communities and how to reduce health inequities at a population level. I chose the Epidemiology track because I am interested in learning how to identify, control, and mitigate the spread of disease. Epidemiology encompasses the full spectrum of understanding disease distribution and risk factors that lead to disease. I believe that epidemiology is the cornerstone of public health. My choice to study public health and epidemiology is rooted in my belief that public health is essential to the health and well-being of communities. Mount Sinai is an institution that has a mission to advance medicine through education, research and outreach. The Graduate Program in Public Health promotes and supports students as they venture into the world to tackle public health problems. I could not have chosen a better institution for my master's degree.

Describe a project that you are currently working on and outline its importance.

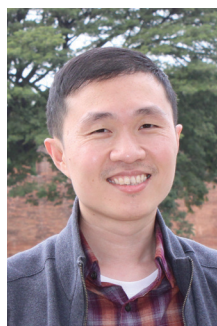
I currently work as a research assistant at Memorial Sloan Kettering Center. This has given me a more in-depth view of the nature of disease and new treatment regimens. Throughout this experience, I have learned how to carry out project protocols, analyze and interpret data and conduct literature reviews to support scientific theories. I think that my education at Mount Sinai truly prepared me to embark on such a groundbreaking endeavor.

What is something that you want to impact in the healthcare field?

I am interested in advocating for cancer screening for early detectable cancer such as colon polyps and regular infection screenings for viral diseases such as HIV. Both are controllable and manageable if detected early. Early detection methods can lead to better health outcomes for those affected by these diseases. I believe that the evidence for supporting early screenings lies in epidemiological evidence. I hope to make an impact by advocating for changes that will lead to better health outcomes for the communities I serve as a public health professional.

What advice would you give to incoming MPH students?

To all incoming public health students, I think that you should take the time to explore all opportunities that public health has to offer. The career opportunities are endless and there is always work that needs to be done to better the health of our communities. A career in public health will give you the opportunity to do work that will leave a positive legacy. If you are interested in becoming a leader and making an impact, then public health is for you.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Public Health Week is April 5-9, 2021. Join the NPHW Planning Committee to pitch ideas or lead our events! Please contact Jennifer.Valdivia-Espino@mssm.edu for more information!

Public Health Research Day will be Thursday, May 27, 2021! Events include the annual poster session featuring all graduating students, invited oral presentations, and networking opportunities.



Icahn School
of Medicine at
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Sinai

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Editors

Chantelle McLeish, MPH Student
Jennifer Valdivia Espino, Program Coordinator
Nils Hennig, Program Director

Contributors

Maya Korin, PhD, MS
Ariane Storch, MPH Student
Abdul Bais Ahmed, DPM/MPH Student
Kathleen Turner-Purves, MSW/MPH Student
Katie Hanss, MD/MPH Student
Amanda Singh, MPH Student
Welmince Pello, MPH Student
Wendy Barillas, MPH Student
Gregory Rose, DPM/MPH Student
Shivani Rathi, MPH
Karan Kohli, MPH
Charles Sanky, MPH
Jacqueline Cortez, MPH Student
Juliana Amo, MSW/MPH Student
Sahiti Yarakala, MPH Student
Brielle Dojer, MPH Student
Myat Ko, MPH Student

Visit Us On The Web

Icahn.mssm.edu/publichealth

Contact Us

publichealth@mssm.edu
T 212-824-7292
F 212-824-2327

Center for Advanced Medicine (CAM)

17 East 102nd Street
West Tower, Fifth Floor
New York, NY 10029