



DOWNSTATE
SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3

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WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK! ALUMNI SURVEY

Welcome to the **third School of Public Health Quarterly Alumni Newsletter!** We're excited to share updates, highlights, and stories from our growing community of public health graduates. Your connection helps keep our network strong and our programs thriving. As we continue to grow together, we'd love your input!

Please take 5 minutes to complete our Alumni Survey—your feedback helps us enhance our programs and maintain our accreditation status. Every response makes a difference. **Click here or scan the QR code to the right to complete the survey!**



ALUMNI SURVEY



NEW! DUAL CONCENTRATION OPTION

The School of Public Health is excited to offer MPH students in good academic standing the option to pursue select dual concentrations! The option to complete dual concentrations will be offered for any combination of the following concentrations: Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Health Policy and Management, and Community Health Sciences. Approved students must fulfill all course requirements for both concentrations and complete an Integrative Learning Experience (ILE) that synthesizes at least one foundational competency and at least one competency from each concentration, as per CEPH requirements. We believe this option will provide students with a broader, more interdisciplinary skill set and expand opportunities for advanced research, leadership, and career growth across diverse areas of public health practice.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FACULTY



Seth Prins, Ph.D., MPH, Associate Professor of Community Health Sciences, examines how mass incarceration and workplace dynamics shape mental illness and substance use. His NIH R01 funding on the school-to-prison pipeline and scholarship on structural inequities align with Downstate's mission to address the root causes of health disparities.



Joanne Constantin, Ph.D, MPH, Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management brings a health economics lens to maternal and child health and substance misuse, focusing on racial and ethnic inequities. Her research bridges policy and practice to inform more equitable health systems.

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code to visit the SUNY Downstate SPH website and learn more about our programs, faculty, curriculum, scholarships, and more!



We are interested in your accomplishments, personal or professional. If you would like us to highlight your achievements or be an alum feature, please email: Paula.Spann@Downstate.edu



APHA NEWS: STUDENTS AND FACULTY

We are so excited to announce so many of our faculty and students will be attending the APHA conference taking place on November 2nd-5th! Below is a list of the Downstate School of Public Health attendees and presentations:

Dr. Kitaw Demissie, Dean of the School of Public Health: Leadership Capacity

Raeann Rolston, Director of Admissions and Recruitment, Paula Spann, Student Affairs Program Manager, Charlie Ferkso, Student Recruitment Specialist will be managing the SPH Booth and actively recruiting students at this premier public health event.

Dr. Marlene Camacho- Rivera, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, will be presenting on *"Socioecological Influences of Access to Mental Health Treatment Among Latina Mothers: A Scoping Review"*

Paula Spann, Student Affairs Program Manager, will be presenting on *"Examining the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Food Insecurity Among Older Adults in New York State"*

Dr. Rose Calixte, Assistant Professor of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics has an abstract titled *"Factors Associated with the Use of Electronic Health (ehealth) Communication in a Central Brooklyn Maternal Population"*

Dr. Victor Paul-Polanco, Assistant Professor of the Department of Health Policy & Management and, **Mayouri Bhattacharjee (DrPH)** will be presenting on *"Site-based Differences in Patient-Reported Health Equity Experiences Across Central Brooklyn"*

Dr. Janet Rosenbaum, Assistant Professor of the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics currently serves as voting Governing Councilor for the APHA Governance Council, which is the representative legislative body of the APHA and will attend a meeting in-person at the conference

Dr. Aimee Afable, Associate Professor of the Department of Community Health Sciences & Associate Dean for Community Engagement will be presenting on *"Preliminary Efficacy of We Care About Brooklyn, A Novel Remote Precision Support Intervention Designed to Address NYC's Maternal Health Crisis"*

Samuel Abariga (DrPH) will be presenting on his abstract titled *"Association between Protein Consumption and Height Z-score Among Children Ages 1-4: Analysis of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys Using Entropy Balancing"*

Yanilka Rodriguez (MD/MPH) will give an oral presentation on *"An Intersectional Approach to Elucidating Multilevel Drivers of Colorectal Cancer Screening Intention Among Younger Latino Men"*

Tobi Somorin (MD/MPH) will present on an abstract titled *"Food & Housing Insecurity Disparities Among Individuals Reporting Health Related Social Needs in Clinical Settings: A Secondary Data Analysis of HINTS"*



FACULTY AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Congratulations to Dr. Marlene Camacho-Rivera for serving as a panelist at SUNY Downstate's Hispanic Heritage Month event, *"Latino & Underserved Community Leadership in Public Service, Health Equity, and Access."* [Click here to view a recording of the event](#)



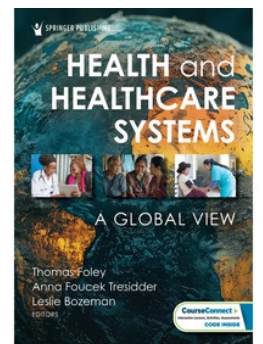
Congratulations to Dr. Aimee Afable on her publication, *"Addressing Maternal Health Disparities Through Transformational Community Engagement."* [Click here to learn more](#)



Congratulations to MPH student Paige Lederman on her Op-Ed publication on climate justice. Paige links lived experience to evidence showing that low income and minority neighborhoods bear the brunt of flooding and delayed recovery. [Click here to learn more](#)



Congratulations to our five faculty: Dr. Anika Daniels-Osaze, Dr. Daniel Ehlke, Dr. Victor Puac-Polanco, Dr. Jia Sun, and Dr. Sharifa Nasreen, who each contributed a chapter on healthcare in different countries to the textbook *Health and Healthcare Systems: A Global View*. [Click here to learn more](#)



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT / UPDATES



Danvy Truong serves as the Community Partnerships Manager in the School of Public Health, where she fulfills the role of Applied Practice Experience (APEX) Coordinator. In this capacity, she provides guidance to MPH and DrPH students in successfully fulfilling the requirements of the APEX course. Additionally, Danvy supports the Office of Community Engagement by fostering existing partnerships and establishing new collaborations with diverse community stakeholders. An alumna of the MPH program at SUNY Downstate School of Public Health, Danvy has been recognized with the Lenard & Christine Szarek Fellowship Award and the Dean's Medal of Excellence. In previous roles, Danvy worked at the NYC Department of Health as a Project Manager in the Office of Strategic Operations & Performance Management. She was formerly a Program Research Associate at Aaya's Table, an organization that manages chronic illnesses with a whole-food plant-based intervention. Danvy is passionate about community engagement, health equity, and food justice.

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