Despite the warm sunny days, it’s mid-November and the Executive MPH program is heading into Session 7, the last of the fall quarter. As you’ll see from the pictures included in this newsletter, we have two fantastic cohorts currently preparing those last papers, reports, and summer field projects before the Thanksgiving break we’ll all enjoy with family, friends, and perhaps a bit of extra sleep!

Our new Class of 2020 is one of our most diverse cohorts yet. Clinicians, managers, public health advocates and professionals have all joined our program to learn together, grow in debates over challenging problems, and create significant bonds – as those of you alumni reading this know – that will last a lifetime. The Class of 2019 wears the title of Year 2s happily, and is a tightly bonded, enthusiastic bunch that challenges our faculty as well as each other with thinking outside the usual “box”. Personality exudes from this cohort!

Our federal and state healthcare legislation continues to be complicated and broad. The mid-term elections have passed, and with the Democrats controlling the House, this will most likely result in a curbing of the GOP efforts to repeal the ACA, perhaps not a complete halt however. California’s governor-elect Gavin Newsom’s agenda of single payer healthcare will also require interesting studies on the implications for all our organizations. It’s an exciting time, as always, for being in health policy & management!

I encourage you all to stay engaged. I invite you all back to campus to stay informed (the monthly Paul Torrens’ Health Forum!). And I wish you all a satisfying end to 2018 and a healthy and energetic start to 2019.

Best regards,

Leah J. Vriesman, PhD, MHA, MBA
Director & Associate Professor
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Welcome, EMPH Class of 2020!

EMPH Class of 2020 (from left to right):
Kayla Kilani, Margilane Hernandez, Alicia Coulter, Zahrah Ahmad, Chisolu Anakwenze, Zulay Carrillo, Brandon Fernandez-Comer, Robert Gutierrez, Sarah Francis, Melissa Guevarra, Roya Mirilavassani, Sara Rodriguez, Hilary Johnson, Victor Pawelzik, Isabelle Soh, Natalie Yragui, Valentina Nguyen, Tamara Molidor, Erik Coll, Angela Bray, Jonathan Martinez-Vargas, Aneliese Castro, Massoud Agahi, Hans Milian, Sandra Kiley

We are proud to welcome our EMPH class of 2020!
These 24 new students bring a great amount of diversity to the program; on average, this cohort has 9.5 years of professional work experience, reflected in their myriad job titles and responsibilities. This year’s cohort consists of two physicians, two nurses, one MBA graduate, one industrial engineer, and many professionals with managerial and administrative backgrounds. These unique professional experiences bring a tremendous amount of theoretical and practical value to the EMPH program, and we are thrilled to have them!
This summer, the Executive Programs in Health Policy & Management welcomed 13 Japanese Nursing Students from Josai International University as part of the COPE International Health Scholar Program. Students learned about the U.S. Healthcare system through lectures delivered by UCLA Faculty and had the opportunity to tour the UCLA campus as well as the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. This is the third year that the International Health Scholar Program has run and we’re looking forward to our next international cohort!

The annual Health Policy and Management/EMPH Alumni Mixer (sponsored by HPSMA and EMPH) on Friday, October 19, brought a ton of great networking opportunities. Current students, alumni, faculty, and special guests were in attendance at this event on UCLA’s campus.

Thank you to HPMSA and HPMAA for their work in planning and coordinating this event in conjunction with the EMPH program, and to all of our wonderful alumni who attended!
Upcoming Workshop

Strategy Execution of Toyota Production System (TPS) Principles: November 30 & December 1

Jennifer Wortham, Dr.PH

This workshop provides a framework for achieving key strategic initiatives based on the Toyota Production System (TPS). The session includes presentations from several healthcare industry executives on the application of TPS principles within their organization. Participants will also have the opportunity to tour the UCLA Ashe Student Health and Wellness Center - a facility that is successfully using the TPS program.

Learn More/Register Now

New EMPH Faculty

The EMPH program welcomes two new faculty members to the program, Dr. Jessica Gipson, and Jonathan Freedman. Jessica will be teaching our Community Health Sciences course and Jonathan will be teaching our National Health Policy course. We are thrilled to welcome them!

Jessica D. Gipson is a social scientist and reproductive health researcher with 15+ years of public health work and research experience. Gipson completed her Ph.D. and postdoctoral training at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, earned an MPH at the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and worked as a health extensionist in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic. Gipson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health whose research integrates qualitative and quantitative methods to examine sociocultural influences on sexual and reproductive health, mostly in lower- and middle-income settings. Specific research interests include: investigating how gender norms and cultural context influence couples’ communication and reproductive decision-making, integrating qualitative and quantitative research methods to better understand unintended pregnancy and its consequences, and examining the use of existing and newly-developed male contraceptive methods in the U.S. and globally.

Jonathan Freedman works with plans, providers, associations, and governmental and non-governmental entities in the areas of public health, safety net health care, and public policy. His work focuses on strategic planning, public health improvement and transformation, and the health care safety net. He is regularly sought after for complex strategic and operational planning situations. Jonathan held a variety of management and leadership roles for more than 25 years with the County of Los Angeles, including Chief Deputy Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH). While at DPH, Jonathan was directly responsible for more than 4,000 FTEs and a $900 million budget encompassing the County’s delivery of public health services including surveillance and assessment, communicable disease control, substance abuse services, clinical public health services, maternal and child health, environmental health, and numerous other programs. Jonathan has led many high-profile initiatives, including the public health response to the 1994 Northridge earthquake; Los Angeles County’s Master Tobacco Settlement negotiation; solutions to funding crises in the Los Angeles County safety net; and the 2010 H1N1 influenza response. Jonathan has received outstanding leadership awards from the California State Association of Counties and Los Angeles County. His work has been published in Health Affairs, and he is a contributor to Public Health Practice: What Works by Oxford University Press.