UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
Executive Programs in Health Policy & Management

Quarterly Update - Spring 2024

The latest news about our students, faculty, and alumni.

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's springtime in the Executive Programs Office, and I wanted to take a moment to reflect on a few exciting announcements. For those of you new to our quarterly newsletter, welcome!

UCLA Fielding School of Public Health has once again been ranked by peer leaders in the top 10 best public health schools in the United States, and the Health Policy & Management specialty is also ranked in the top 10, tying with UC Berkeley at number nine. The 2024-2025 rankings were published April 9 by *U.S. News and World Report*.

I would like to congratulate Adjunct Professor Mike Galper who was honored by Achievable Health at their annual gala on April 13th with the "It's Achievable Bob Steiner Community Impact Award.” A retired partner from the Health Care Consulting Practice of PwC, Professor Galper teaches in the EMPH and MHA programs and is highly regarded in the industry. He serves on the Achievable Health Board of Directors, providing integrated health care to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and other vulnerable populations. We are so proud of the work he does in public health and were so happy to see so many students and graduates at the event, celebrating his contributions to healthcare.

Our second year EMPH Students completed their business plans and presented them to an impressive panel of judges last month. Congratulations to our students on this milestone project, the culmination of their graduate school studies. The winning team will be announced on April 25th at the UCLA HPMAA Leaders of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow Dinner, and presented with the EMPH Sinaiko Business Plan Award.

We are just eight weeks away from Graduation 2024. On June 14, our Executive Programs Office will see 70 students conferred with their MHA and MPH diplomas at Royce Hall. We are so proud of your hard work. We are very much looking forward to the Graduation Reception and celebrating with you all as you continue your journeys in public health. The world is better for it!

One last note: the EMPH Transition Committee has been hard at work and I am happy to say we've made great progress. Until we make an official announcement, I am still serving as the Interim Director, through June.

Until next time, best wishes for a productive quarter.

All my best,

Kyle Sullivan, MSW
Director, Executive Programs in HPM
Interim Director, EMPH Program

IMPORTANT DATES

Info Sessions

Get your questions answered about our executive programs, learn about the curriculum, class schedule, and the admissions process.

MHA: Tuesday, April 30 Register

EMPH: Tuesday, May 14 Register; Saturday, May 18 Register

Application Deadlines

The next EMPH Application Review is May 1. Subsequent reviews take place on the first of each month through July or until the cohort is full. (Fall cohort begins August 23.)

Apply Now

MHA Summer Quarter Application Deadline is May 20. (Summer Orientation is June 20 and Summer instruction begins July 1.)

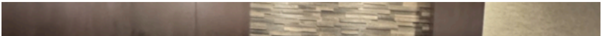
Apply Now

2024 Graduation

The 2024 Graduation Ceremony is Friday, June 14. We look forward to welcoming the EMPH and MHA graduates and their families to the Executive Programs Graduation Reception. The ceremony takes place immediately following, at Royce Hall.

FACULTY

Executive HPM draws on the distinguished faculty, programs and academics of the nationally renowned UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. Courses are taught by leading practitioners and researchers in the field of public health, health policy and healthcare management, as well as faculty from UCLA’s other graduate schools and management-related fields. Their expertise spans clinical practice, applied research, policy analysis, entrepreneurship, and consultation at the local, national and international level.



Adjunct Professor Michael Galper Honored With Achievable Health Award

Congratulations to Professor Michael Galper who was honored this week by Achievable Health with the "It's Achievable Bob Steiner Community Impact Award" at their annual It's Achievable Gala on April 13 in Marina del Rey. Their mission is to provide high quality, integrated health care to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and other vulnerable populations.

Currently serving on the Achievable Health Board of Directors, Professor Galper is a retired partner from the Health Care Consulting Practice of PwC and teaches in the EMPH and MHA programs. He leads the steering committee for the Paul Torrens Health Forum and is the faculty liaison to the Health Policy and Management Alumni Association (HPMAA).

Read more about Professor Galper.

Dr. Becky Yano Attends President Biden Executive Order Signing

Adjunct Professor in the EMPH Program and Director of the VA HSR&D Center for the Study of Healthcare Innovation, Implementation & Policy at the VA Greater Los

Angeles Healthcare System, Dr. Becky Yano contributed to the White House Initiative on Women's Health Research, leading to the Executive Order on Advancing Women's Health Research and Innovation.

During the March 18 signing event, Dr. Yano watched from a special VIP viewing area as President Biden signed the Executive Order and announced what the White House described as “the most comprehensive set of actions ever taken to advance women’s health research and innovation.”

Read more about Dr. Becky Yano.

EMPH Business Plans

Congratulations to our second year EMPH students on their business plans.

Second year EMPH Students presented their business plans to guest judges on March 8. The winning team will be announced, April 25 at UCLA HPMAA (Health Policy & Management Alumni Association) Leaders of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow Dinner, and presented with the EMPH Sinaiko Business Plan Award.

Each student group was assigned alumni mentors to guide them through this milestone project, the culmination of their EMPH graduate school studies. Three second-year courses specifically prepared them for it: Healthcare Financial Management, Healthcare Marketing, and Healthcare Strategy. All alumni mentors are past winners of the EMPH Sinaiko Business Plan Award.

"Well done, EMPH Students! An excellent group of individuals bringing creative ideas and insights to healthcare. Such an honor to coach and mentor. I learned so much and feel so grateful for the opportunity.” - EMPH Alumni Mentor Stephanie Wally, MPH, Director of Strategic Projects, Kaiser Permanente

Care Bridge

EMPH Students Erica Cirineo,

HerHub Connect

EMPH Students Visha

Vishakha Hariawala, and Cameron Salehi

Mentored by Stephanie Wally, MPH (Director of Strategic Projects at Kaiser Permanente), Talia Friedman, MPH (Occupational Therapist), and Katie Payne, MPH (Business Development Manager at Enthalpy Analytical)

OUR COMPANY
MISSION
VISION
VALUES

MindGuard Analytics

EMPH Students Lori Petrini, Jamie Ruiz, and Brad Ouellet

Mentored by Harleen Gill-Jessup, MPH (Integration Manager, Optum) and Josyel Castellon, MPH (Cancer Research Health Equity Manager at Cedars-Sinai)

Subbiah, MD, and Via Moira Ventura

Mentored by Aneliese Castro, JD, MPH (Associate at Hooper, Lundy & Bookman Health Law Attorneys) and Natalie Yragui, MPH (Business Consultant, Office of Administration and Finance at Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine)

Bearly Bruins (Sweatheart App)

EMPH Students Jerry De Vries, Ayesha Lee, and Graciela Medina

Mentored by Jonathan Martinez Vargas, MPH (Performance Improvement Consultant at Cedars-Sinai) and Zulay Carillo, MPH (Manager of Community Resource Center at LA Care Health Plan)

Special thank you to our guest judges:

Ava Aguado, MPH, Director of Medical Strategy & Ops at Sony Pictures
Craig DePriester, MBA, Chief Operating Officer at Curana Health
Madeline Frederick, MHSA, Executive Director of Strategic Planning at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA)
David Krasnow, OD, MPH, Chairman at Diabetes Eye-D International
Laura Erskine, PhD, Professor and MHA Program Director at UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
Julie Carafelli, MPH, Assistant Director of Executive Programs in Health Policy & Management at UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

"Judging this competition is always a highlight—really impressive projects this year that showed a keen understanding of the marketplace and utilized a set of creative approaches to solving real problems faced by the industry today." - EMPH Business Plans Guest Judge Craig DePriester, Chief Operating Officer at Curana Health

MHA

Featuring two on-campus immersions and a capstone project, the MHA curriculum provides networking opportunities and real-world experience. During the capstone project, students work with a healthcare organization to implement and evaluate solutions to organizational or management problems. UCLA's flexible program also offers asynchronous course materials and the option to switch between a full-time and part-time schedule, so professionals can continue to work full-time while advancing their career.

MHA Immersion

Immersion is held each

Welcome New MHA Candidates

Congrats MHA Winter Grads

Six grads finished the

quarter and brings online students to campus twice during their studies. We are about to host Spring Immersion--an invigorating week of professional development sessions, team-building exercises, and networking. In the photo above (taken during Winter Immersion in February), students gathered on the helipad at Cedars-Sinai. The student who traveled the furthest was Dr. Syed Huda, hailing from Qatar.

One of the highlights of our online MHA Program is the flexibility. Students can begin their graduate studies in any quarter. Congratulations to the following candidates who started the program this quarter, with their first classes on April 1st:

- Alexandra Agate
- Shaunessy Burton
- Elizabeth Contreras Garcia
- Jasmene del Aguila
- Amtej Dhillon
- Daisy Gonzalez
- Fatima Maada Bio
- Danielle Milosavljevic
- Abraham Payan
- Diana Petros
- Erin (Ferguson) Warren
- Min Yu

MHA program in March and are officially part of the UCLA Class of 2024! We look forward to seeing you at the graduation ceremony on June 14:

- Nallely Aparicio, MHA
- Araxia Boghossian, MHA
- Samantha Brenneman, MHA
- Heidy Flores, MHA
- Deb Franzon, MD, MHA
- Emily Shearon, MHA

ALUMNI

The UCLA Fielding School of Public Health Executive Programs in HPM Alumni Network includes over 700 graduates committed to making a difference in the field of public health. Nothing brings us more joy than sharing your important work with our community. Please notify us of your career updates for an opportunity to be featured. Just send us an email at exechpm@ucla.edu or feel free to DM or tag us on LinkedIn.

Alumni Spotlight: Kelly Benshoof, MPH

UCLA Fielding School of Public Health Executive Programs in Health Policy & Management

ALUMNI

Q&A: EMPH Grad and La Maida Project Executive Director Kelly Benshoof, MPH, Takes Public Health Approach to Reverse Rising Levels of Mental Health Challenges

Three years after graduating from UCLA's Executive Master of Public Health (EMPH) Program in 2016, Kelly Benshoof, MPH, launched La Maida Project, a Southern California based nonprofit organization that includes notable board members such as Drew Carey and Jennifer Garner, focused on innovative solutions to the mental health crisis. As the Executive Director, she worked with co-founders Alexis Naim, LCSW, and Omid Naim, MD, to create La Maida Project's health-promoting Ecological Trauma-Informed Model which includes a range of workshops and programs where participants gain the tools to understand their capacity to heal and create change in their own lives and communities. We caught up with Kelly to learn more about her journey in public health and her important work directing the vision at La Maida Project.

Get the story

Career Moves

Our students and grads are making moves in public health. Please notify us of your career updates for an opportunity to be featured. Just send us an email at execphm@ucla.edu or feel free to DM or tag us on LinkedIn.

EMPH

- Aneliese Castro, JD, MPH (EMPH '20) joined the health law attorneys at Hooper, Lundy & Bookman, P.C. as an Associate in the Los Angeles office.
- David Delgado, MPH (EMPH '19) started a new job as Senior Economic Development Coordinator – Tech for the City of Glendale.
- Sarah Salej Freed, MPH (EMPH '21) started a new position as a Certified Pediatric Sleep Consultant.

- Justin Henderson, MPH (EMPH '08) started his Master of Social Work at University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
- Sophie Li, MPH (EMPH '21) was promoted to Associate Director, Healthcare Analytics at Guidehouse.
- Valentina Nguyen, MPH (EMPH '20) was promoted to Senior Program Manager at Stanford Health Care.

MHA

- Debbie Aguilera, RN, MHA Candidate, started a new position as Director of Nursing at Vista Pacific Convalescent.
- Marina Ghuneem, MHA Candidate, started a new position as Administrative Analyst for the Lung Cancer Research Program at UCLA Health.
- Madison Knight, MHA Candidate, has been promoted to Operations Manager at Elaborate.
- Andrea Lopez, MHA Candidate, has accepted the position of Associate Sales Representative at Zimmer Biomet in their Surgical Division, based in Los Angeles.
- Bailee Magnuson, MHA (MHA '23) started a new position as a Business System Analyst at County of San Luis Obispo.
- Sarah Pramano, MHA (MHA '23) has been promoted to a new position as the Assistant Campus Director at Career Care Institute.

Alumni: Update Your Contact Info

The world-renowned **UCLA Fielding School of Public Health** harnesses the resources and expertise of the #1 public university in the U.S. to develop proactive leaders who will shape the future of healthcare.

Housed within the Fielding School, the Executive Programs Office in the Health Policy and Management Department offers two executive degree programs designed for working professionals: Executive Master of Public Health (EMPH) and Online Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA).

Follow us on social to stay engaged with UCLA's Executive Programs in Health Policy and Management and our community.

UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, 650 Charles E Young Dr S, Los Angeles, CA 90095,
United States, (310) 267-5600

Unsubscribe Manage preferences