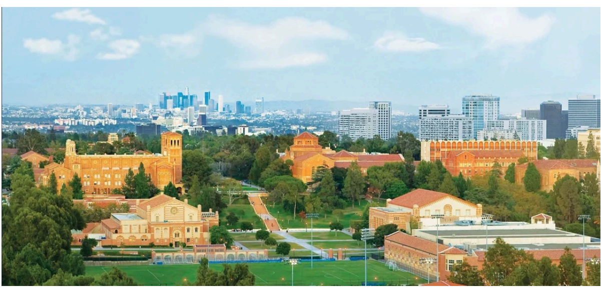
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
Executive Programs in Health Policy & Management

Quarterly Update – Winter 2025

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



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are devastated by the historic Los Angeles fires impacting our community. A number of our alumni and faculty have lost their homes. Our hearts go out to all those affected. Please know you are in our thoughts, and we will make it through this together. Please click here for resources for the Bruin community to give and receive aid and reach out to us directly if you wish to contribute to immediate recovery efforts.

The fires are a public health emergency, and they put a great strain on resources. We are so proud of the important work our students and alumni are doing in public health. If you are considering pursuing your master's degree in public health or healthcare administration, we encourage you to take action. The world needs your care, expertise, and leadership.

We are thrilled to announce we are growing our team in the Executive Programs Office. Please join us in welcoming Sarah Tran, ExecHPM Program Coordinator. A UCR graduate with experience at SCAN Health Plan, Sarah is already demonstrating leadership skills and taking on projects to streamline our operations.

We have officially started accepting applications for our Fall 2025 EMPH cohort and are introducing the program to interested applicants in our live Info Session webinars, scheduled throughout winter and spring. UCLA employees will receive $2,500 annually toward their tuition. Alumni, if you have a referral, please contact me or Student Affairs Officer Monica Boerger, as we offer a referral fee. Our first review of applications begins February 1st and we will continue to review applications on the first of each month until the cohort is full.

With 50 new students who enrolled in the online MHA program over Fall and Winter, the program is going strong. We welcomed an impressive 40 students to campus in October for MHA Fall Immersion, including MHA Candidate and First Lady of Sierra Leone, Her Excellency Fatima Maada Bio. It was a wonderful week of team building, professional development, and camaraderie. We are so pleased with the number of ExecHPM graduates who attended the MHA Immersion Farewell Reception, as well. Our corner of the FSPH community continues to grow stronger every day.

It was great to see so many of you take advantage of the invitation to attend the HPMSA Alumni Mixer on October 18 at the UCLA Faculty Club. Looking around the room, it was so nice to see EMPH and MHA students and graduates socializing with the larger FSPH HPM community. The bonds you form positively impact the field of public health, and we're so proud of the role each of you play.

Congratulations to the MHA Students and Year 2 EMPH Students who completed their capstone. It was an honor to sit in on the EMPH student applied consulting presentations in November. Your findings are a testament to your honed insights, knowledge, and passion for public health.

We are proud to say that Professor Jonathan Freedman, MSPH '91, has joined the FSPH Hall of Fame with the Lester Breslow Lifetime Achievement Award, celebrated at the Induction Dinner on October 23rd. Professor Freedman is a graduate of FSPH and we've been fortunate to have him teaching in the EMPH Program since 2018.

It's hard to believe but the HPMAA “Leaders of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow” Annual Awards Dinner is just a few months away, coming up on Tuesday, May 20th. We are excited to say that former EMPH Director, Leah J. Vriesman, Ph.D., MHA, MBA, the Associate Dean of Academic & Faculty Affairs at UCLA Extension and Professor in the HPM Department, has been selected as the 2025 Ira Alpert Service Awardee. We are looking forward to honoring her at the dinner, celebrating our students who will be joining the honors societies of Delta Omega and Upsilon Phi Delta, and celebrating the EMPH Sinaiko Business Plan Awardees. The annual event brings together industry leaders and the UCLA public health community.

Wishing everyone a successful winter quarter and you'll be hearing from us again in April with our Spring Quarterly Update.

All my best,

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Info Sessions

Please spread the word about our upcoming online Info Sessions. It's a great opportunity for interested applicants to learn about our programs in a live Q&A webinar that covers program curriculum, admissions requirements, and application materials.

EMPH Priority Review:

February 1, 2025

Our first review of applications for the Executive Master of Public Health (EMPH) Fall 2025 cohort begins February 1st.

Applications received by February 1st will be

MHA Winter Quarter:

Classes began Monday, January 6, 2025

MHA Winter Quarter Immersion:

Wednesday, February 26 - Saturday, March 1, 2025

MHA Spring Quarter:

EMPH:
Tuesday, February 4, 12:00pm PT
REGISTER

Wednesday, March 12, 5:00pm PT
REGISTER

MHA:
Tuesday, January 21, 12pm PT
REGISTER

given priority consideration for scholarships. We will continue to review applications on the first of each month until the cohort is full, but the first review takes place February 1st. Start or complete your application on the UCLA Grad Portal.

Application Deadline is Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Apply now.

Classes begin Monday, March 31, 2025

UCLA Fielding School of Public Health Career Transitions Panel Discussion and Networking Night

Thursday, January 23, 2025, 5:30 - 7:30pm PT
Geffen Hall Learning Studio B36
885 Tiverton Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90024

In partnership with the UCLA Health Policy & Management Alumni Association (HPMAA), the Fielding School of Public Health CPDO and OGSS teams are hosting an informal professional development event with the goal of providing current students with information related to career transitions. The event will begin with a networking social followed by a panel discussion and Q&A moderated by Krisianna Bock, Principal, HKS Architects.

Panelists:
Brandon Fernandez Comer, CEO, Cri-Help
Jennifer Heenan, Partner, Spencer Stuart
Andy Ortiz, CHRO, Cedars-Sinai

Dinner will be provided to guests who register by Tuesday, January 21st.

Open to all UCLA graduate and undergraduate students, staff, faculty, and alumni. Dinner will be provided and registration is required.

REGISTER

Paul Torrens Health Forum:
Please join MHA Program Director and UCLA Center for Healthcare Management Director Dr. Laura Erskine for the next Paul Torrens Health Forum:
"Healthcare in the Trump Administration: What They Plan, What to Look For."
January 29, 2025, 5:30pm PT
Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center - Tamkin Auditorium*
REGISTER
**This is an in-person event. Recordings of the Health Forums are available several days after the event on UCLA Fielding's YouTube page.*

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.

Jonathan Freedman Awarded Lester Breslow Lifetime Achievement Award

Congratulations to EMPH Professor Jonathan Freedman, MSPH 1991, who was recognized with the Lester Breslow Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2024 Fielding School of Public Health Alumni Hall of Fame Award Dinner in October at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles.

With over 25 years of management experience in Los Angeles County's public health sector, Jonathan Freedman has led numerous strategic health initiatives and high-profile projects. Professor Freedman is a graduate of FSPH and has been teaching in the EMPH Program since 2018, and is currently teaching first year EMPH students, "Health Reform: Policy, Research, and Implementation Issues."

Dr. Leah Vriesman To Be Honored as 2025 Ira Alpert Service Awardee

We are thrilled to announce that Leah J. Vriesman, Ph.D., MHA, MBA, will be honored as this year's recipient of the Ira Alpert Service Award at the Leaders of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow Annual Dinner on May 20, 2025. Former Executive Director of the Executive Programs Office in Health Policy & Management, Dr. Vriesman is Associate Dean of Academic & Faculty Affairs at UCLA Extension and Professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health's Department of Health Policy and Management.

Ira Alpert (Class of 1966) created the Department's first alumni association. Now 1,000+ members strong, the Health Policy and Management Alumni Association (HPMAA) honors Mr. Alpert's effort and contribution by granting the Ira Alpert Service Award each year to an individual who has helped sustain, grow and broaden the leadership role of the Association.

Congratulations to Dr. Vriesman and we look forward to celebrating her contributions at the dinner.

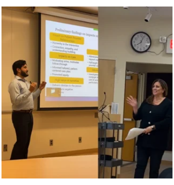
EXECUTIVE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (EMPH) PROGRAM

Congratulations to EMPH Students on Completing Their Capstone Projects

Each year, in the summer between the first and second year of the EMPH Program, Professor Mike Galper leads students in their summer consulting projects.

The students presented their findings on November 15, 2024, during Session 7 of the EMPH Program Fall Quarter.

cting Patients
the ED PC



Eunice Ninet and Alvin Wong presented a plan for improving employee well-being at Cedars-Sinai.

Alan Rozet and Vanessa Villafuerte evaluated success factors of a pharmacist-led care management program at Agilon Health.

Lisa Edwards and Elías Rodríguez partnered with the VA of California on the value of using patient stories in providing care to veterans.

Dayanara Nieto Flores, Daisy Wang, and Nikki Morales worked with LA General Hospital to improve the connection between emergency room patients and proper primary care resources.

We look forward to seeing this cohort present their Business Plans during Winter Quarter, Session 7 on March 7, 2025.

EMPH Holiday Party

We so enjoyed celebrating with both EMPH cohorts at our Annual EMPH Winter Holiday Party, held at Hershey Hall on December 13, 2024. We love this annual tradition and were so happy to so many faculty could also attend.

It was a 3-way tie for winner of the festive sweater contest: Trishna Singh's sweater was all aglow, Eunice Ninet donned a gorgeous Peruvian pullover, and Marina Martinez could have been mistaken for Frosty with her carrot. Zach Morganstein gets an honorary mention for his festive Hanukkah cardigan!

Thank You, Guest Speakers!

Last quarter, Dr. Julie Elginer invited **Zohra Pervez, MPH (EMPH '23)**, to return to the UCLA campus as a guest speaker in her Reproductive Health Advocacy (HPM 434) course. As the Cedars-Sinai Operations Manager - CS Compass, Executive Health, and LGBTQ+ Center, Zo introduced the Year 2 EMPH students to gender affirming care and other issues that the LGBTQ+ community faces.

STOP THE BLEED
SAVE A LIFE
ACS
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
THE COMMITTEE ON TRAUMA
STOPTHEBLEED.ORG

Special thanks to **Erik Coll, MPH, RN (EMPH '20)** for leading an EMPH Professional Development Session during Session 6 of Fall Quarter. As the Injury and Violence Prevention and Outreach Coordinator at UCLA Health – Trauma Surgery, he led a Stop the Bleed workshop and a panel discussion with CRI-Help CEO **Brandon Fernandez, MPH (EMPH '20)** and UCLA Mobile Stroke Unit Nurse Manager **Kayla Kilani, MPH, RN (EMPH '20)**. The graduates shared their stories about their important work in public health, providing a wonderful opportunity for networking.

EMPH Class of 2024 Making Moves

Special congratulations on the career moves and promotions of our most recent EMPH cohort to graduate. It's only been six months and they are already making big moves in healthcare. The recognition these graduates are receiving is a testament to what you can do with an MPH degree. And this is only the beginning.

Lori Petrini, MPH

Lori Petrini, MPH, has been promoted to Director, Strategic Planning at Sutter Health.

Brad Ouellet, MPH

Brad Ouellet, MPH started a new role as System VP - Supply Chain & Support Services at UW Health.

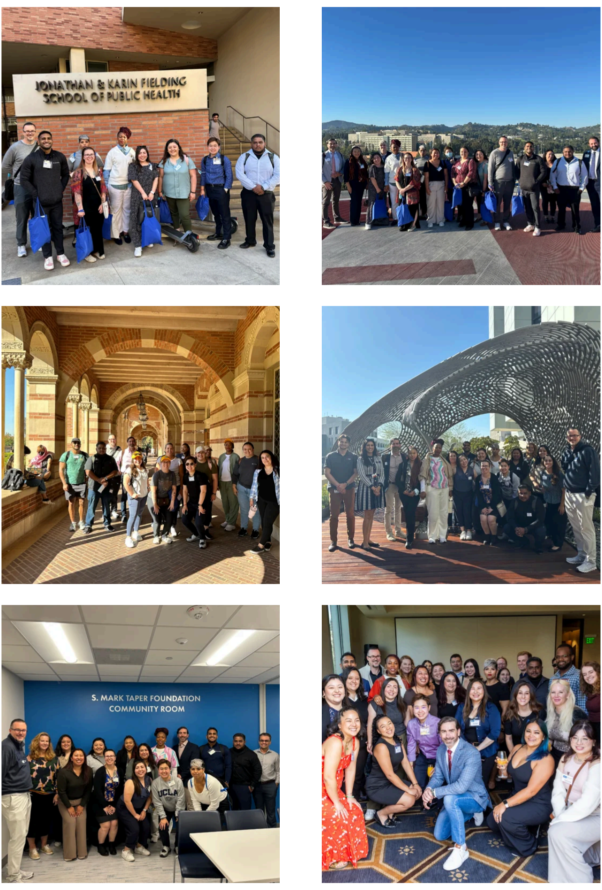
Erica Cirineo, MPH

Erica Cirineo, MPH, started a new position as a Professional Development Associate, Nursing Professional Development at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA).

Via Moira Ventura, MPH

Sinaiko Business Plan Winner Via Moira Ventura, MPH, has been promoted to Senior Clinical Research Associate II at PPD, the clinical research business of Thermo Fisher Scientific.

MASTER OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION (MHA)


JONATHAN & KARIN FIELDING SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
S. MARK TAPER FOUNDATION COMMUNITY ROOM

MHA Fall Quarter 2024 Immersion

Immersion is held each quarter and brings online students to campus twice during their studies. We hosted MHA candidates on campus, October 23-26, during Fall Quarter for a packed schedule of professional development sessions, team-building exercises, and networking. The First Lady of Sierra Leone, Her Excellency Fatima Maada Bio was among the MHA candidates in attendance. Winter Quarter 2025 MHA Immersion is February 26 - March 1, 2025.

Welcome New MHA Candidates

One of the highlights of our online MHA Program is the flexibility. Students can begin their graduate studies throughout the year. Congratulations to the following MHA candidates who enrolled in the program over the Fall 2024 and Winter 2025 Quarters. We look forward to welcoming you to campus at an upcoming Immersion.

Fall 2024

Gabriella Akselrod
Zachary Ambroziak
Ruben Astorga
Rodolfo Balderas-Magallanes
Navnidhee Batra
Lindsey Berman
Lawrence Canada
Deanne Do
Stephanie Estrada
AnnaRose Etra
Latricia Hayes
Adrianna Lawrence
Christine Lindsley
Mineh Markarian
Katherine Martinez Vazquez
Angelica Mitchell-Brightmon
Ruben Munoz
Julianne Neuweiler
Amy Ngo
Gisela Nieto Loa
Rosie Oganesian
Karina Ortiz
Jennifer Patterson
Francis Pelayo
Jazmin Ramos
Leidy Brigith Rivas
Vanessa Sebok
Jenevieve Segura
Joyce Tong
Harshul Zaveri

Winter 2025

Mohammed Abdullah
William Blackman
Mary Boyadgian
Joleen Cambe
Lawrence Chen
Aaiza Dee
Francisco De la Rosa
Marjan Dehghanian
Lisa Johns
Catharine McSweeney
Sara Morgan Miller
Peter Oishi
Catherine Pham
Henry Phan
Keshonna Richmond
Audrey Saada
Hasmik Shirvanyan
Eriyanna Sioson-Archer
Ariana Tarkhanian
Joyce Thai

Congratulations MHA Graduates, Fall Quarter 2024

And finally, we wish to congratulate the students who just completed their courses at the end of Fall 2024 Quarter. Your hard work and passion have earned you your Master of Healthcare Administration degree. We can't wait to celebrate this important milestone with you at Graduation Ceremony in June 2025, and we look forward to seeing where you take your MHA degree.

UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
Executive Programs in Health Policy & Management
MHA FALL QUARTER GRADUATES, CLASS OF 2024
Sanad Abdelrahman
James Brittain
Breanna Castanon
Abigail Ceja-Cerezo
Armand Gomez
Deepti Datta
Trang Lieu
Casimir Kwiatkowski
Ani Mkrtoumian
Trysten Nguyen
James Papier
Alexis Poole
Leng Tang-Ritchie
Lisa Yachetti

ALUMNI UPDATES

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 professional 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.

EMPH

Vanni Carapetian, MPH (EMPH '11) is now the Director of Regulatory Innovation and Sustainment at Genentech.

Erica Cirineo, MPH (EMPH '24), started a new position as a Professional Development Associate, Nursing Professional Development at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA).

Leon Cristobal, MPH (EMPH '19), Executive Director of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, was featured on Good Day LA, FOX 11's morning news show to promote Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's "Light The Night" event, November 2, 2024.

Audrey Fisher, MPH, FACHE (EMPH '04), Chief Executive Officer at Virginia Heart, is now serving as a mentor for rising healthcare executives with the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).

Kyle Horne, MPH, CNP (EMPH '22), is stepping into a new role as the first Sustainability Manager at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA).

Joy Lewis, MPH, MSW (EMPH '10), SVP, Health Equity Strategies and Executive Director, Institute for Diversity and Health Equity at American Hospital Association, has been honored with the DC Hospital Association's Vincent C. Gray 2024 Health Equity Award.

Rachel Mashburn, PharmD, MPH (EMPH '17) is Executive Director of the Pharmacy at the City of Hope, Orange County.

Jocelyn Mendoza, EMPH Candidate, recently became a Health Coach at the Wonderful Center for Health Innovation.

John Monahan, MPH (EMPH '00) and retired healthcare executive recently donated $20 million to his alma mater, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Aamer Mumtaz, MBA, MPH (EMPH '14) co-founded ID-Antigens in San Francisco, California, and is currently the acting CEO.

Dorcas Mutheki, MPH, RN (EMPH '13) is now the Director of Quality & Safety Oversight at Kaiser Permanente.

Brad Ouellet, MPH (EMPH '24) starting a new role as System VP - Supply Chain & Support Services at UW Health.

Lori Petrini, MPH (EMPH '24) has been promoted to Director, Strategic Planning at Sutter Health.

Alan Rozet, EMPH Candidate, has been promoted to Operating Principal at Clayton, Dubilier & Rice (CD&R).

Sarah Salej Freed, MPH (EMPH '21) is a Pediatric Dentist and recently founded a sleep consulting firm, Building Sleep.

Bill Sherman, MD, MPH (EMPH '13) founded the Surgical ICU at Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

John Tanouye, MPH (EMPH '12) is now the Manager of Data Analytics at Kaiser Permanente.

Via Moira Ventura, MPH (EMPH '24) has been promoted to Senior Clinical Research Associate II at PPD, the clinical research business of Thermo Fisher Scientific.

Pamela Wu, MPH (EMPH '09) started a new position as Senior Director, Executive Search & Recruitment at University of California Office of the President.

MHA

Debbie Aguilera, RN, BSN, PHN, MHA Candidate started a new position as Patient Care Manager at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Jennifer Arnold, MHA (MHA '24), is now the Director of Operations at UCLA Tarjan Center.

Abigail Ceja-Cerezo, MHA (MHA '24), is now a Graduate Intern at Kaiser

Permanente.

James Chand, RN, MHA Candidate, is now a Flight Nurse at REACH Air Medical Services.

Uma Chandavarkar, MD, MHA (MHA ‘24), started a new position as Public Health Medical Officer II and Informatics Medical Consultant at California Department of Health Care Services.

Elizabeth Contreras Garcia, MHA Candidate, is now an Administrative Assistant III in the Global Health Program at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine.

Nelson Goins, MHA Candidate, started a new position as Service Experience & Escalation Lead | Medical Transportation Services at Kaiser Permanente.

Nilan Aaron Gunewardena, MHA Candidate, is now a Senior Program Manager and Technology Solutions Lead at Kaiser Permanente.

Anabel Guzman, MHA Candidate, started a new position as State Governmental Program Analyst at California Department of Social Services.

Syed Haris Huda, MD, MHA Candidate and Attending Physician, is now the Clinical Education Lead in the Emergency Department at Sidra Medicine in Doha, Qatar.

Shawn Jacob, MHA Candidate, has been promoted to the Director of Physician Contracting and Compensation at El Camino Health.

Karisa Kanachki, MHA Candidate, started a new position as a Health System Specialist, Patient Safety Manager with the Defense Health Agency.

Brianna Levenson Shakoor, MHA (MHA ‘23) was recently promoted to the Director of Operations at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC).

Aazeen Nasir, MHA (MHA ‘23) started a new position as a Clinical Research Coordinator at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Saundra Rivers, MHA Candidate, is now the Director of Regulatory Affairs at Providence Health Plan.

Olivia Salas-Tapia, MHA (MHA ‘24) started a new position as the Curriculum Coordinator at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

Leng Tang-Ritchie, MHA (MHA ‘24) started a new position as IS Project Manager at Scripps Health.

Joyce Tong, MHA Candidate, is now working at Astrana Health as a Supervisor of Member Services.

U.S. News & World Report has announced their 2025 best college rankings, and we are proud to say that for the 8th year in a row, UCLA has been named the #1 public university. We are in the top 10 for best schools of public health and also ranked in the top 10 for Health Policy and Management.

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