

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF

PUBLIC HEALTH

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**TOGETHER WE BUILD
A HEALTHIER FUTURE**



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Mel & Enid Zuckerman
College of Public Health

POWER OF PUBLIC HEALTH



DEAN'S MESSAGE



Greetings Friends,

I am delighted to welcome you to this year's Annual Report for the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. As we reflect on the past year, it is clear that our dedication to excellence in education, research, and service has yielded remarkable success.

Our relentless pursuit of health promotion and our deep-rooted commitment to community engagement has yielded positive outcomes for the people we serve. Our students, faculty, and staff have been actively engaged in programs that address health disparities, promote healthy lifestyles, and empower communities to take charge of their well-being. We have taken significant strides in our efforts to enhance border and rural health, recognizing the unique challenges these communities face. Our partnerships and initiatives have not only improved access to healthcare in these regions but have also bolstered community resilience and engagement.

We are proud to continue our focus on student scholarships. Ensuring access to quality education for all who aspire to become public health professionals remains at the heart of our mission. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the hard work of our dedicated staff we have been able to provide more opportunities for students to pursue their dreams and contribute to the field of public health.

In the ever-evolving landscape of public health, it is essential to remain proactive and responsive to emerging challenges. We are excited to introduce five new strategic priorities that will guide our work in the coming years:

Mental Health has become a national crisis. We must support mental health across the lifespan, from youth to older adults, and expand screening and services as we work to change and overcome the stigma of mental illness.

Climate Change and Health stands as the greatest challenge facing humanity today, and we must devise strategies and implementation programs to build more sustainable and resilient communities.

Global Health remains a priority as we educate the next generation of public health leaders who can find solutions for health challenges that cross borders and continents in our deeply interconnected world.

Indigenous Health has long been an area of focus for us in Arizona, and we must continue to work collaboratively to improve health disparities in tribal nations both regionally and globally through education, research, and service.

Digital Epidemiology will guide us into the future of public health as smartphones, mobile apps, and wearable devices transform our ability to track, prevent, and stop the spread of disease.

Each of these five priorities overlaps and interconnects with the others. When we build our knowledge and capabilities in one area, we improve our proficiency in the others. As we grow our expertise, we work collaboratively across disciplines and with the communities we serve. Together, we will find solutions.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge the current conflicts and challenges that continue to affect our world. These conflicts underscore the critical importance of humanitarian efforts to address the public health challenges faced by regional populations and provide access to essential healthcare services. I want to emphasize the significance of unity within our community to provide mutual support, foster mutual respect, and approach one another with kindness and compassion.

As we reflect on our past achievements and look forward to these new strategic priorities, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our faculty, staff, students, and partners who have been steadfast in their commitment to our mission. Together, we will continue to push the boundaries of public health, making a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and communities, and promoting a healthier, more equitable world for all.

I hope you will be inspired by the stories in our 2023 annual report. Please go to our website to learn more about our programs and research, and everything we have accomplished this year!

I wish you all a safe, happy, and healthy new year ahead! Bear Down!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Iman Hakim". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Iman Hakim, MD, PhD, MPH
Dean

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publichealth.arizona.edu

Tucson Campus
Drachman Hall
1295 N. Martin Ave.
P.O. Box 245163
Tucson, Arizona 85724

Phoenix Campus
Phoenix Bioscience Core
550 E. Van Buren Street
UA Phoenix Plaza Building 1
Phoenix, AZ 85004

CONNECT WITH US

   @uazpublichealth
 bit.ly/linkedin-uazpublichealth

Dean, Zuckerman College of Public Health
Iman Hakim, MD, PhD, MPH '94

Editor
Shepherd Reed

Photography
Kate Gardiner

Art Director
Paula Hayes

Kris Hanning
Noelle Haro-Gomez
Shepherd Reed

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.



The Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health has held continuous accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) since 2003 and is accredited through December 31, 2027.



ON THE COVER
Alumni, students, faculty and staff joined in a Round Dance at the college's *Indigenous Health: Connecting with Wellbeing and Community Day* in February 2023
Photo by
Kate Gardiner



REMEMBERING MEL ZUCKERMAN

Mel changed the world with his passion to promote health and wellness for all. His innovation, generosity, and support of the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, and so many other organizations, has touched millions of lives. We are so grateful for the time we spent with him, and we are humbled by the legacy he left.

We honor Mel Zuckerman, a philanthropist, wellness pioneer and public health champion whose generosity launched the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH), supported dozens of local organizations, provided public health students with scholarships, and recently funded a new Health and Medical Careers High School as part of the Pima JTED Career and Technical Education District.

As a founding funder of the College of Public Health along with his wife Enid Zuckerman, Mel changed the lives of more than 5,500 public health graduates who now work to promote public health and prevent disease in all 50 states and around the world. His philanthropy continues through the

Zuckerman Family Foundation that gives support for education, health, and wellness programs in our Southern Arizona community, programs that have touched thousands of lives.

Mel is survived by his wife, Enid; his two children, Amy and Jay (Stephanie); his grandchildren Nicole (Ken), Talia, Colton and Riley; his two great-grandchildren, Chloe and Asher; his sister and brother-in-law Paula and Arthur Molk; his many nieces and nephews; and countless friends.





OUR STUDENTS PUSH FOR CHANGE

We train our students to turn compassion into action, and make the world a better place. We give them the skills they need to work collaboratively with communities, analyze health threats, build programs, conduct research, and shape policy.

Inspiring Student Research Presented at the Annual Public Health Poster Forum

Students, staff, and faculty came together to showcase inspiring student research and public health projects at the [2023 annual Public Health Poster Forum](#). A celebration of student projects, the Forum showcased a range of student work, and projects earned prizes from the judges. Entirely organized by students, the theme for this year's Forum was One Health, and the room was packed with students presenting their creative solutions to public health challenges. Thanks to all the students who participated, there was so much passion for positive change in the room!



MS student Taylor Simmons won an award for her research poster.





Returned Peace Corps Volunteers See Power of Public Health

Many young Americans give months or years of their life to service with the Peace Corps to help communities in other countries, then return to the United States with valuable real-world experience. Once they have served, many of them stay connected with the Peace Corps organization, and they're commonly referred to as RPVCs (Returned Peace Corps Volunteers).

A high percentage of RPCVs go on to earn graduate degrees that will help them make the world a better place, and that is where the University of Arizona, and the Zuckerman College of Public Health come into the picture. Fueled by their passion to improve health and wellness in the world, [more Returned Peace Corps Volunteers come to the College of Public Health to earn graduate degrees](#) than any other college or program at the UArizona.



Meredith Brewer, second year Global Health MPH student in Guyana



College Welcomes New Leadership for Office of Student Affairs

The college is very pleased to [welcome Lyn Durán, MA, our new Assistant Dean for the Office of Student Affairs \(OSA\)](#). Lyn brings extensive experience with student support and advising, alongside a deep commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. As a successful team leader for student services, she values collaboration and knows how to support staff so they can do their best work.

Lyn is the right person to help the college grow and support our students to become the public health leaders of tomorrow, here in Arizona and around the world.

—Dean Hakim

Public Health Graduates Translate Passion Into Action

Our students share a determination to help others and build a healthier, more equitable world. Several of [our Spring 2023 graduates found ways to make a difference](#), as interns and volunteers for programs and projects from working with youth to community health clinics.



Karyn Bloxham MPH '23, Health Promotion

While working full time, Karyn also did an internship with the Southern Arizona Roadrunners, served on college committees, and earned her Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Health.



Paola Felix Cuamea BS '23, Public Health

Throughout her undergraduate career, Paola served as a MEZCOPH Public Health Ambassador, an intern for *Nosotros Comprometidos a Su Salud*, and volunteered at a health clinic with Mex-Zona in Mexico.



Kimberly Lakocy MPH '23, Health Behavior Health Promotion

Kim worked with the Grow 2B Fit Foundation in Tucson, Arizona for her internship, even while she worked full-time as a nurse at the University of New Mexico Senior Health Center.



Rebia Khan MD/MPH '23

Rebia completed her MPH internship with the Arizona Dept. of Health Services on a project investigating COVID in captive wildlife in Arizona, and additionally accomplished a six-week rotation with the CDC's Epidemiology Elective Program.



Braydon Mathis BS '23, Public Health

Braydon served as a MEZCOPH Public Health Ambassador, a student lead for the Partnerships Through Honors Leadership and Mentorship Program, and served on the executive team for the Student Health Advocacy Committee within the Associated Students of the University of Arizona (ASUA) student government.

Diversity Event Brings Together Students, Faculty, and Staff

A student mixer event organized by the college's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI), in collaboration with the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) drew dozens of students, faculty, and staff together to meet, greet, laugh, and connect with food and music. We were delighted to see so many from our college community join in the fun! 🎉



OUR RESEARCHERS USE DATA TO BUILD A HEALTHIER WORLD

In collaboration with individuals and communities, our faculty and students conduct research to gather the data that solves health problems. Our research identifies risks, informs decisions, and guides programs to build a healthier and more resilient world for everyone.

EPA Awards \$10M for New Environmental Justice Center

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded \$10 million to the college to fund the [Western Environmental Science Technical Assistance Center for Environmental Justice](#) (WEST EJ Center) for five years. The EPA's promise of clean air, land and water has not reached many historically marginalized communities due to complex physical, social, and economic factors. Led by principal investigator Paloma Beamer, PhD, the WEST EJ Center brings together a diverse coalition with longstanding relationships and extensive expertise working with communities to overcome these barriers and help fund research and projects to support environmental and energy justice for underserved communities.



New NIH Award Launches Southwest Center on Resilience for Climate Change and Health

Dr. Kacey Ernst and Dr. Mona Arora, in collaboration with several other public health faculty as well as researchers from across the university, recently received a P20 center planning grant from the NIH's National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for a new [Southwest Center on Resilience for Climate Change and Health](#) (SCORCH). The SCORCH Center supports cross-disciplinary researchers and community partners to plan and implement programs that will help underserved communities in hot and dry geographic regions adapt to climate-driven health threats. The Center builds on the experience and expertise of our faculty, alongside our collaborative relationships with many external partners, to focus on building sustainable and resilient communities in the face of climate change.



Stephanie Russo Carroll at Forefront of Indigenous Data Governance

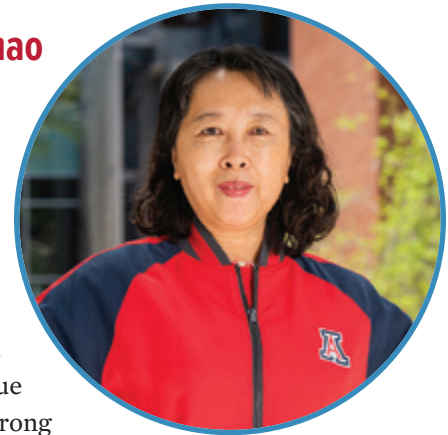
The concept known as Indigenous Data Governance emphasizes Indigenous Peoples’ right to control data about their people, lands and cultures. [Dr. Stephanie Russo Carroll, a leading expert on Indigenous Data Governance](#), works collaboratively with Indigenous communities in Arizona and around the world to advance the adoption of guidelines so that Indigenous communities control the collection, application, and use of data about them, their lands, and their cultures, whether it originates from research, government programs, corporate efforts, or other means. Carroll also teaches students, many from tribal communities, about the Indigenous data governance approach, and she is part of a team of Indigenous faculty in public health who created a [Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Health](#) at the college.

Center for Firefighter Health Collaborative Research Finds Answers

The college’s [Center for Firefighter Health Collaborative Research](#) has been awarded funds for several new research studies. Researchers are testing new ways to reduce the risk of occupation-related cancer for firefighters in a [study funded by a Regents Research Grant](#) from the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR). The study is led by Dr. Jeff Burgess and Dr. Melissa Furlong. Another new research study, led by Dr. Patricia Haynes and funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), will [evaluate behavioral interventions to improve firefighter sleep and recovery](#) as a path to better mental and physical health for firefighters.

College Welcomes Dr. Zhao Chen as Associate Dean for Research

The college is very pleased to [welcome Dr. Zhao Chen as the new Associate Dean for Research](#). Dr. Chen brings a vision to build on research connected to the college’s unique location in Arizona and on our strong partnerships with diverse regional, tribal and border communities. She will work collaboratively to grow funding and expand the college’s already impressive research portfolio in a range of public health fields and data sciences. A Distinguished Professor, Dr. Chen previously served as the Department Chair for the college’s Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. In addition, she directs the Healthy Aging Lab with a focus on mind-body connections in aging using a life-course approach. 🍷



OUR PARTNERSHIPS IMPROVE GLOBAL HEALTH

In public health, we know that many of our health challenges, from pandemics to climate change, must be confronted on a global scale. Our world is deeply interconnected, and we are dedicated to educating the next generation of collaborative, culturally competent global health leaders.

Innovative Global Disease Tracking Platform 'Global Flu View' Awarded to the College

An innovative digital web platform that visualizes self-reported influenza-like illness data from several participatory surveillance programs around the world, named [Global Flu View](#), has been awarded to the Global Health Institute at the college, along with funding to hire a faculty member who will oversee and advance the project. This new platform is part of our push to train our students and advance programs in Digital Epidemiology.



Young Global Leaders Program Engages High School Students with Public Health

This year, the annual [Young Global Leaders program for high school students](#) worked with the Environment, Exposure Science and Risk Assessment Center at the college to introduce the students to public health concepts and practices, and enable them to participate in hands-on lab activities. The students loved the experience!



International MPH Graduates from UArizona's Gulf Medical University MicroCampus Attend Tucson Convocation

Two Dual MPH students from our UArizona – Gulf Medical University (GMU) MicroCampus in the United Arab Emirates [joined us in Tucson to participate in the Spring 2023 Convocation ceremony](#). We were so pleased to welcome Ethel Akolaa and Dr. Latifah Alsaad in person alongside their families to celebrate the joyous occasion!

In addition to Ethel and Latifa who came to Tucson for Convocation, Mouza Almehairi, Dima Alwardat, Ewan Ambanattu, Abdurrahman Chikaire, and Haydy Nassar also graduated this year from the GMU Dual MPH program and were able to attend the ceremony virtually.



Global Health Institute Scholars Program Prepares Students to Work Worldwide

Through the [Global Health Institute \(GHI\) Scholars program](#), students receive funding to work on public health research and projects in other countries, an experience that expands their skills, knowledge, and perspective. A unique educational experience, the program develops students' ability to analyze and solve problems in different settings and different cultural frameworks so they become more effective public health professionals, whether they work in the United States or abroad. Twelve students participated in the program in Summer 2023.



Visit from International Medical University Malaysia Delegation Builds Partnership with the College

In May, a [delegation of leaders from the International Medical University \(IMU\) Malaysia](#) visited the college to sign a partnership agreement for education and research. IMU is Malaysia's first and most established private medical and health sciences university with over 30 years of dedicated focus on healthcare education. The collaboration between IMU and MEZCOPH will begin with a Dual MPH Degree program, and the visit enabled leadership from both universities to discuss their vision for the new partnership. 🗨️

YOUR SUPPORT FUELS THE POWER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Our many supporters make gifts to provide student scholarships, empower our future public health leaders, and advance the well-being of communities. By investing in the education of our students, you help address the pressing health challenges we face. Public health professionals are desperately needed, here in the United States and globally, and this year we've identified five key areas where we must advance education, research, and practice to insure a healthier world. Join us to shape the future!

OUR DONORS CHANGE LIVES

As the University of Arizona launches its 5-year fundraising campaign named **Fuel Wonder**, the Zuckerman College of Public Health will pursue its own campaign to support our students and our 5 Funding Priorities based on our Strategic Plan. The name of the campaign, Fuel Wonder, is inspired by the UArizona's Wonder campaign that promotes the university to prospective students, guided by the concept of wonder.



FUEL WONDER THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

For public health, we often wonder what a kinder, healthier, more equitable world would look like. We wonder how to get there. And that wonder inspires us to use the tools and insights of public health to make the world a better place, especially for vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. To turn our vision into a reality, [the college identified 5 Strategic Priorities](#) that will be vital for the future of public health for all of us.

- » [Mental Health](#)
- » [Global Health](#)
- » [Climate Change & Health](#)
- » [Indigenous Health](#)
- » [Digital Epidemiology](#)

Among the 5 priorities, each one overlaps and interconnects with the others. For example, the strain of Climate Change shocks such as heatwaves, wildfires, and drought will impact Mental Health on a Global scale and often among many Indigenous communities. Our education and expertise in each priority area will enhance and amplify our abilities to solve challenges in the other areas.

1 MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health provides the foundation for our overall health and wellbeing. Today, our country is facing a mental health crisis, amplified by the COVID pandemic and social media, with increasing rates of loneliness, anxiety, and depression. To improve health outcomes, we must provide accessible and effective mental health programs and services, even as we continue our work to overcome the stigma of mental illness.

Mental and behavioral health challenges vary over the lifespan and across cultures. In the college, we have many established programs aimed to improve mental health for children and youth, and we are determined to expand those successful programs. We also know that older adults face many mental health pressures related to physical health, loss of loved ones, and social isolation. We must find solutions to help our aging population.

Your support will provide funds for education, programs, and research designed to improve mental health awareness and services across the lifespan for all our diverse communities. From an endowed chair with expertise in promoting community-wide mental health programs, to course development and funding to teach the new courses, we will build the next generation of public health leaders to solve our widespread mental health crisis.



2 CLIMATE CHANGE & HEALTH

Climate Change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity today. Heatwaves, droughts, floods, and wildfires have already displaced millions of people and often cause widespread food insecurity. Public health programs can help build community resilience and environmental sustainability in the face of climate-driven shocks. Often these disasters harm vulnerable and disadvantaged communities the most. Public health offers solutions to many of these challenges, and this fund will help us collaboratively build climate resilience in a warming world through education, programs, and research.

Your support will provide funds for education, programs, and research to prepare for the health risks of climate change, build resilient communities, and support the most vulnerable populations. From an endowed chair with expertise in climate preparedness and response programs, to support for course development and funding to teach the new courses, we will build programs to train the next generation of public health professionals who will lead us through climate-driven disasters.



3 GLOBAL HEALTH

The world faces unprecedented public health challenges that require global solutions, from infectious disease to environmental pollution and climate change. The college's Global Health Institute (GHI) provides a comprehensive and integrated focal point for innovative public health education, collaborative research, and experiential learning with many global partners.

Your support will help grow our programs to train globally minded and culturally competent public health professionals who will meet the interconnected health challenges of tomorrow. We will use contributions to launch international pilot projects, and fund students for global research and program experiences that will train experienced and innovative public health professionals to shape the future of world health.



community service as we continue to grow our Indigenous faculty and program offerings.

Native Americans and Alaska Natives experience disproportionate health disparities related to chronic diseases, injury, violence, obesity and substance use. The college's research and programs are designed to improve health outcomes in tribal communities across a range of health disparities. All our research and community projects related to Indigenous health are guided by tribal collaborators and use the community participation model. We focus on incorporating rigorous study design with culturally appropriate measures to achieve the shared goal of reducing or eliminating Native health disparities.

We need to build our public health workforce in tribal communities to address health challenges, and the college is dedicated to that mission. Your funding will help support Indigenous faculty and curriculum that will support and educate tribal students to become the public health leaders of tomorrow, skilled professionals who will guide programs, policy, and practice to create a healthier future for native nations.

4 INDIGENOUS HEALTH

Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. The Zuckerman College of Public Health has been working with Indigenous communities for many years, building sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations through education offerings, partnerships, and

5 DIGITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

In our technological age, Digital Epidemiology takes advantage of digital tools like smartphones, mobile apps, and wearable devices to track, prevent, and stop the spread of disease. This approach also tracks data from outside the health system, such as social media posts and internet search queries, to provide local and timely information about disease and health dynamics in populations around the world. Often, Digital Epidemiology empowers communities to gather and report their own data on both infectious and chronic disease in order to improve health outcomes locally. As technology enters every aspect of our lives, digital epidemiology will increasingly provide the data and connections we need to meet public health challenges.

Your funds will help to build our educational and research capacity in Digital Epidemiology. We will advance our educational expertise through course development and pilot projects so we can guide students from the classroom to applied practice experiences in the real world. Support for an endowed chair to lead our efforts in this vital emerging



field will benefit future students for years to come and ensure that we remain at the forefront of technological advances. Our funding priorities are interconnected, and using digital tools we will prepare the next generation of public health professionals to meet the health challenges across all the other areas: Mental Health, Climate Change & Health, Global Health, and Indigenous Health.

EXPLORE OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND DISCOVER HOW YOU CAN CREATE IMPACT!

Give to support our initiatives.

Scan the QR code or visit us at publichealth.arizona.edu/give-now.





Gratitude for Donna Knight

We are all very appreciative of Donna Knight, our former Director of Development, who retired after more than 20 years of exemplary service to the college. Donna began working on fundraising for the college in 2002, and she saw the successful results of her efforts as the college grew substantially. Even through the pandemic, her dedication to public health guided her to successfully continue raising funds for the college. Donna established lasting friendships with many of our donors, and they will miss her. Her fundraising efforts helped us build programs and community partnerships that have delivered lasting benefits for the health and wellbeing of so many Arizona communities. Thank you, Donna, for all you have given to the college and our public health mission. Congratulations on your retirement!

2023 Scholarship Luncheon

We were so pleased to gather and connect with our many supporters and scholarship students at the [2023 annual MEZCOPH Scholarship Luncheon!](#) The event brought together donors who fund scholarships with the students they support to remind us all of what we can achieve together.

Following introductions and remembrances from Dean Hakim, we heard inspirational stories from scholarship students Javier Aguiñiga, Lady Dorothy Elli, Pedro Flores Gallardo, MS, Maiya Block Ngaybe, MPH '21, and Jamie Young, BS '20.

Then we heard from two closing speakers, first our accomplished alumnus Mark Smolinski, MD, MPH '94, a global innovator and problem solver who now serves as president of the international nonprofit Ending Pandemics, an organization that focuses on fighting emerging infectious disease globally. Second, as the concluding speaker, we heard from the new Chairwoman of our Community Advisory Board, JoAnna Westcott, a financial consultant and president of Bill Westcott, Inc. A passionate philanthropist, JoAnna talked about her discovery of public health and the wide range of benefits that public health research and programs bring to our country and our world. Our 2023 Scholarship Luncheon was presented by the college with support from JoAnna Westcott with Bill Westcott, Inc, and we very much appreciate the contribution!

Community Advisory Board Focuses on Mental Health

Our [Community Advisory Board](#) (CAB) supports the mission of the College by increasing awareness of health promotion and prevention strategies through community collaboration, fundraising, and advocacy activities. This year, the CAB voted to focus their efforts on [Mental Health](#), one of our strategic priorities. The members of the CAB include:

JoAnna Westcott
Chairwoman of the Board
President of Bill Westcott Inc.

Kate Breck Calhoun
Director of Sales and Marketing,
Tucson Convention Center

Robert Guerrero
Southern Arizona Outreach
and Constituent Services
Representative, Office of U.S.
Senator Mark Kelly

Will Humble, MPH, DrHC '15
Executive Director, Arizona
Public Health Association

Jan Konstanty
Business professional with
extensive experience in both
U.S. and international markets

Alberto Piña Moore
Manager of US operations
for the Nanjing American
University, LLC

Lupita Murillo
KVOA News 4 Reporter

Christine Bracamonte Wiggs, MPH '02, MS '10, PhD '16
Staff Vice President, Community and Health
Advancement, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
President, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
Foundation for Community & Health Advancement

Amy Zuckerman, DHumL '23
Photographer, philanthropist, public health advocate

Nicole Zuckerman-Morris, JD
Executive Director, Zuckerman Family Foundation

A LEGACY OF GIVING HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN MANY LIVES

In 2023 we mourned the loss of our cherished founding visionary, [Mel Zuckerman](#), who will be forever remembered for his compassion, generosity, and unwavering dedication to public health (see the remembrance for Mel at the front of this Annual Report). We pay tribute to our esteemed supporters of the college who passed away this year, Dr. Frank Marcus and Dr. Ann Nichols, both passionate advocates for public health. The college and the many communities they touched will always be grateful for their legacy of impact.

Dr. Frank Marcus

[Dr. Frank Marcus, an innovative cardiologist and a public health champion](#), passed away in December 2022. His impressive career with the University of Arizona Health Sciences Sarver Heart Center led him to understand the root causes of many heart problems, which led him to public health. To promote better heart health, Frank established and funded the Childhood Obesity



Prevention Initiative in collaboration with the college. The Marcus family will carry Frank's passion for heart health forward with the Marcus Family Obesity Prevention Project Endowment, in honor of Edith, Frank, Janet and Samuel Marcus and the Obesity Prevention Project.

Dr. Ann Nichols

[Dr. Ann Nichols dedicated her life to helping others as a social worker](#), community organizer, teacher, and social justice advocate both in the United States and globally. Ann passed away in



January 2023. Ann established the Andrew W. Nichols Initiative Scholarship in memory of her late husband Dr. Andrew Nichols who established the Arizona Rural Health Office in 1984 which later became the Arizona Center for Rural Health in the college. The Scholarship funds public health students who are committed to social change and focused on rural or border health issues.

The Zuckerman Family Legacy Continues

Amy Zuckerman

Amy Zuckerman, a longtime community advocate, photographer, and public health champion, was [presented with an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by President Robbins](#) at the University of Arizona Spring 2023 Commencement ceremony in recognition of her contributions to the university and public health. Amy continues the legacy of her parents, Mel and Enid Zuckerman, founding funders of the college. In addition to receiving the honorary degree, [Amy spoke at the MEZCOPH's Spring 2023 Convocation](#) event to remember her father Mel who passed away in March 2023 at the age of 94. She shared her pride in the college her father helped to establish and in all the graduating students. We are grateful for Amy's ongoing support of the college!



Nicole Zuckerman-Morris, JD

Through her ongoing dedication to the college and our public health mission, Nicole Zuckerman-Morris, JD, continues to change the lives of students and the communities we serve. Nicole has been a longtime member of our Community Advisory Board and shown leadership, acumen, and vision in that role. She received the college's 2021 Honorary Alumna of the Year award, and this past spring she [hosted a group of our California alumni at a lunch in San Diego](#) to build community and connection. We are grateful for Nicole's passion for public health, and her commitment to continue the legacy of her grandparents, Mel and Enid.

SIGNIFICANT DONATIONS PROPEL THE COLLEGE

Some organizations or individuals make major gifts or establish endowments, large contributions that make an especially significant impact on the future of public health, on our ability to educate our students, or on the communities that we serve in Arizona. We are profoundly grateful for these transformative gifts.

Chicanos Por La Causa Contributes Major Gift to fund Scholarships

We are incredibly grateful for the major gift from Chicanos Por la Causa that will fund student scholarships. Our long-time partnership continues to make a significant impact on the education and future of our students, ensuring access to valuable opportunities and a strong future. These scholarships focus on a commitment to service in our communities throughout Arizona and leadership and service to our Hispanic communities in particular.

Thank you Chicanos Por La Causa!



Arizona Complete Health Makes Major Investment in Our Mobile Health Unit

Arizona Complete Health Arizona Complete Health continues to champion our Primary Prevention Mobile Health Units (MHUs), a program dedicated to providing and facilitating access to health education, screening, and other services for vulnerable communities. We are profoundly appreciative of this major investment to support the MHU program that bridges access to care for minority, low-income, and uninsured individuals. The MHU's also provide a learning opportunity for students training through the UArizona's Health Sciences Colleges, including Public Health, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy.

Thank you Arizona Complete Health!


The Harris Epidemiology Seed Endowment

This endowment was established to provide faculty with seed funding for research projects being conducted in the Epidemiology Program at the college, and it continues the legacy of Dr. Robin Harris, professor emeritus in the college, and all she has done to support students, faculty, and communities and improve health in Arizona and beyond.

The Iman Hakim and Michael Mikhael Global Health Institute Scholars Award

Iman Hakim and Michael Mikhael established this endowment to support students in the Global Health Institute Scholars program in the college. Funding is available to full-time graduate and/or undergraduate students in the college with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA or greater who are participating in the Global Health Institute (GHI) Scholars program.

Ken and Linda Robin Public Health Scholarship

Ken and Linda Robin are pleased to announce their commitment to doctoral students within the college with this prestigious scholarship that will empower doctoral students to pursue excellence in both research and practice in the field of public health and help train the next generation of public health professors. 



FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL, OUR ALUMNI MAKE A DIFFERENCE

From Tucson to Tanzania, our alumni are working to build programs, provide services, and shape policy that will help vulnerable communities. As our world changes and new health threats emerge due to forces like climate change, environmental pollution, and communicable disease, our alumni stand ready, trained to respond and find solutions. Thanks to our alumni for all they do to make the world a kinder, healthier place!

Indigenous Health Day Brings Alumni and Students Together

At a [community event to build connections for Indigenous Health](#), students and community members gathered to hear from Julianna Reece, MD, MBA, MPH '96 (Diné), a pioneer in Indigenous Health who leads the Healthy Tribes program at the CDC, and to participate in activities, traditional food, and a round dance to build Native engagement. Dr. Reece, the college's 2022-2023 Alumna of the Year award winner, gave a compelling and inspirational presentation about health in Indigenous communities from a historical perspective to a vision for the future of tribal health.



MEZCOPH Alumni Come Together in Washington DC

More than two dozen of our alumni, friends, and family members from the Washington, DC area [gathered for a reception at the University of Arizona DC Center](#) to share stories and connect with each other, college leadership, and staff. We were delighted to join so many of our graduates who are now professionals working in federal agencies and national or state public health organizations in the greater DC area.



Connect with Us!

We want to know what you're working on! Connect with Amber Richmond, MA'18, Manager of Alumni Engagement and Events, to learn about opportunities like mentorship, teaching, and regional alumni groups. We want to hear from you! Contact Amber: amrichmond@arizona.edu



Alumni Resources

MEZCOPH Job Board

Subscribe to our job posting listserv to hear about positions in public health and related organizations that have been sent to us by our alumni and others from the MEZCOPH community.



bit.ly/mezcoph-jobs

Connect with Alumni

Join our UA Zuckerman College of Public Health Alumni Group on LinkedIn and Facebook to see updates from alumni and the college:



linkedin.com/groups/1064557



facebook.com/groups/mezcophalumni

California Alumni Connect in San Diego

MEZCOPH alumni who now live and work in California [gathered for a lunch in San Diego](#), to catch up, connect, and share their stories. Nicole Zuckerman-Morris, JD, grand-daughter of Mel Zuckerman, the founding funder of the college, hosted the lunch event to bring together some of the college's California alumni for an afternoon of community and connection. Great to see everyone and thank you Nicole!

International Career Panel Connects Global Health Alumni with Students

The Office of Student Affairs and the Global Health Alliance partnered with the Office of Alumni Engagement to [host an International Careers Panel in April 2023](#). The panel included MEZCOPH alumni Preshit Ambade, DrPH '20, and Erin Lockley, MPH '15. Dr. Ambade shared his experience working on healthcare finance and health insurance issues in developing countries, including India. Erin Lockley talked about her experience with the Peace Corps in Niger and Benin, and about her subsequent work as a public health professional managing projects in Madagascar, Guinea, Mali, Uganda and Haiti. Also on the panel, adjunct professor Naqib Safi, MD, MBA, MCommH, drew on his wide experience working with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in many nations and in emergency response for the UN. Associate dean for academic and faculty affairs John Ehiri, PhD, MPH, MSc, moderated the panel, and students gained a range of perspectives on career opportunities in global health.





Congratulations to our 2023 Alumni and Leadership Award Winners!

Our alumni and community supporters give their time and expertise to support the health of so many communities – locally, nationally, and globally – and with these annual awards we are proud to highlight their dedication to public health and their exceptional service. This year many of our award winners were able to attend our 2023 annual Homecoming Celebration! We were delighted to come together with award winners, alumni, students, and faculty. And we are so proud and inspired by the accomplishments of our awardees. Thank you all for being there and for all you do to build a healthier world!



OUR ALUMNI MAKE A DIFFERENCE WORLDWIDE

Our alumni hold leadership positions worldwide to advance public health promotion and programs. Their efforts increase health and wellness in dozens of countries and touch millions of lives.

 **Zurich, Switzerland**

Sarah Battaglia MPH '20, BS '15

2020 MPH, One Health

Safety and Incident Response Specialist, EF Education First

Sarah Battaglia is from Tucson, AZ and is a graduate of MEZCOPH's MPH One Health program. Sarah is interested in applying systems-thinking and interdisciplinary approaches to emerging public health challenges. Her work in pandemic preparedness at Maricopa County Department of Public Health primed her to become a leader in their COVID-19 Response in 2020. Sarah is currently located in Zurich, Switzerland where she is working in safety, preparedness, and response for an educational travel company. Her commitment to creating resilient communities drives her to make a positive impact worldwide.



 **Khartoum, Sudan**

Safa Elkraïl DDS, MPH '19

2019 MPH, Health Services Administration

Director of Operations, National Human Resources for Health Observatory (NHRHO)

Dr. Safa Elkraïl serves as the Director of Operations at the National Human Resources for Health Observatory (NHRHO)

– Sudan where she leads a team that designs and executes health research studies to guide evidence-based policy decisions. She oversees data management and sharing systems, and recently developed a new organizational structure for the Observatory that significantly enhanced the efficiency of the organization's health information system. Additionally, she managed the launch of the National Health Workforce Account for Sudan, a multiphase project to create the most comprehensive database of Healthcare Human Resources in the country.



 **Lusaka, Zambia**

Kafula Silumbe MPH '09

2009 MPH, Public Health Policy and Management

PATH/MACEPA Zambia Team Lead, PATH/Malaria Control and Elimination Partnership in Africa (MACEPA)

Kafula Silumbe, team leader of the Malaria Control and Elimination Partnership in Africa (MACEPA) program in Zambia, provides oversight and manages activities and interventions targeting malaria control, prevention, and elimination based on an agenda established by the Ministry of Health (MOH) in Zambia. The MACEPA program is part of the global nonprofit Promote a Healthier Planet (PATH), and Kafula also provides technical assistance to MACEPA/PATH partner personnel, particularly the Zambia National Malaria Elimination Centre, for vector control interventions, program implementation, and data collection techniques.





THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Mel & Enid Zuckerman
College of Public Health

1295 N. Martin Ave.
P.O. Box 245163
Tucson, Arizona 85724

*The Zuckerman
College of Public
Health strives for
diversity, inclusion,
and equity for our
students, and in
everything we do.*

OUR STUDENTS



782

Undergraduate
Students



419

MPH Students
42% Online



154

MS, PhD, DrPH
Students