



Building knowledge. Taking action. Empowering communities.
For the health of people everywhere.

Fall 2024 > ISSUE 3

VOICES OF PUBLIC HEALTH

A message from our community



Meet the new Assistant Health Officer

Dr. Ignacio Santana

Merced County Department of Public Health
Assistant County Health Officer

A message from Merced County’s New Assistant Health Officer

We are pleased to invite Dr. Ignacio Santana, Merced County Department of Public Health’s new Assistant County Health Officer, to introduce himself and share about his expertise in occupational medicine and highlight some of the efforts that the Merced County Department of Public Health is leading.

“As UC Merced grows its public health and medical programs, we’re looking forward to working together to tackle the region’s health challenges. | Trabajamos juntos para triunfar sobre los desafíos de salud de la esta región a medida que la Universidad de California en Merced desarrolla sus programas de medicina y de salud pública. .” — Dr. Ignacio Santana, MD

[More >](#)

Research and action



From preventing suicide to fostering a sense of belonging, Public Health faculty’s research advances mental health

Department of Public Health faculty are committed to supporting the mental health and emotional well-being in the San Joaquin Valley by addressing a wide range of pressing mental health challenges.

[More >](#)

Student leaders



Undergraduates' leadership fosters community on campus

Undergraduates, Surisaday N. Garcia Ruiz, Simone Samra, and Dania Castillo Villanueva share how they have become active leaders and research collaborators on campus.

[More >](#)

Community partners



Working to strengthen immigrant rights in the San Joaquin Valley

The Immigrant Legal Resource Center provides vital technical assistance to legal service providers and education and civic engagement opportunities for immigrant communities in our region that has limited legal resources.

[More >](#)

Faculty on the forefront



The critical role of community organizations in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic

A recent book and publications by Nancy Burke show the vital role played by community organizations and indigenous networks in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Haga clic aquí para leer el artículo en español.](#)

[More >](#)



Food and beverage health policy research in Chile and Mexico

Intrigued by ongoing policy debates in Mexico about the influence of the food and beverage industry, Susana Ramirez conducted sabbatical research in Mexico and Chile to examine public health advocacy that is advancing public health policies.

[Haga clic aquí para leer el artículo en español.](#)

[More >](#)

Follow the link below for more stories about UC Merced Public Health Department faculty research.

[More >](#)

Contact us

Asa Bradman, Department Chair
abradman@ucmerced.edu

[Donate to Public Health >](#)

Copyright ©2023 UC Merced

University of California, Merced
School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts
Public Health Department

5200 North Lake Road
Merced, CA 95343
(209) 228-7742

[Add us to your address book](#)
[Update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)