

VOICES OF PUBLIC HEALTH

A message from our community



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This Spring's newsletter highlights many examples of our faculty and students taking action to advance health equity and put our department's updated mission and principles into practice.

"We feel that there is no better time to emphasize that our teaching, research, and service to our community is guided by the principles of health equity, social justice, and environmental justice. —
Asa Bradman, Department Chair

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Research and action



Nicotine & Cannabis Policy Center – building local data infrastructure

The UC Merced Nicotine and Cannabis Policy Center (NCPCC), directed by Assistant Professor Arturo Durazo with Professor Irene Yen, is extending prior collaborations with health departments and tobacco prevention and control advocates across the San Joaquin Valley and Sierra Foothills. Key initiatives include organizing local data to support community-driven projects and training new investigators to pursue regionally relevant research.

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Student leaders



Public Health Through Advocacy

Fabiola Moncerrat Perez-Lua, from Tulare County, is dedicated to advocating for Latinos, immigrants, and farmworkers. Her research at UC Merced explores how immigration policies and agriculture industry power affect health inequities. She's published extensively and aims to continue influencing policy.

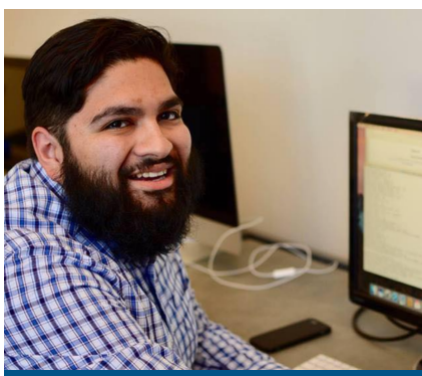
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Alumni in the field



Navigating Public Health, from NIH to Kaiser

A recent graduate of the UC Merced PhD program, Carlisha Hall shares her journey into public health. Encouraged by an advisor at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to explore the field, she discovered UC Merced at a conference. Drawn to the research of Sidra Goldman-Mellor, she found a mentor who shared her interests in social-environmental influences on mental health.

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A Taste for Science

UC Merced graduate Vicente (Vince) Ramirez has taken an exciting journey from the Central Valley to the forefront of chemosensory research. His research explores taste receptor genes, how we perceive flavors, and what that means for our health. Now a postdoctoral fellow at the Monell Chemical Senses Center, he studies taste and smell as early disease indicators.

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Faculty on the forefront



Supporting health care systems after natural disasters

Ali Rivera-Gonzalez is leading research in Puerto Rico to understand the needs of physicians who provide health care following major disasters, such as hurricanes.

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Air quality conference brings people together across the region

Asa Bradman organized a conference on air quality for over 200 attendees that brought together community members, researchers, and state and local governments to discuss air quality challenges in our region.

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

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Contact us

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