

2025

COMMENCEMENT

JUNE 13



UC San Diego

HERBERT WERTHEIM
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND
HUMAN LONGEVITY SCIENCE

Program

Processional

Welcome

Cheryl A.M. Anderson, PhD, MPH, MS
Dean, Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and
Human Longevity Science at UC San Diego
Hood Family Endowed Dean's Chair in Public Health

Student Speakers

Naomi Rose Eisner Guy
Master of Public Health (Health Policy)

Lindsey Jules Ruiz-Estacio
Bachelor of Science in Public Health (Medicine Sciences)

Keynote Address

“Public Health in Turbulent Times: Becoming a Learning, Healing
and Impactful Health Leader”

Tomás Aragón, MD, DrPH

Awards

Recognition of Graduates

Recessional

Keynote Speaker



Tomás Aragón, MD, DrPH

Dr. Tomás Aragón was raised in a low-income Latino community. His family immigrated from Nicaragua. His mom completed a sixth-grade education and worked as a seamstress in inner-city sweatshops. She raised four children as a single parent.

Her humility, perseverance and resilience inspired Dr. Aragón to explore and eventually discover a career in governmental public health and medicine.

Dr. Aragón went on to become the health officer of San Francisco, and, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, led the state public health response as the state public health officer and director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) until his retirement in January 2025.

Striving to embody and promote the universal values of dignity, equity, compassion and belonging, he worked to transform systems and policies towards a culture of equity, belonging, healing and health for all people and our planet.

As state public health officer, he exercised leadership and legal authority to protect health, promote well-being and prevent disease and injury.

As CDPH director, he led the largest state health department on its journey of becoming a learning, healing and impactful organization.

He promotes community-based solutions that foster mental health and well-being, and cultivate social connection, belonging and resilience. He studies human decision intelligence to improve team decision making in the face of uncertainty, trade-offs and time constraints.

Dr. Aragón was recently honored with the Beverlee A. Myers Award for Excellence in Public Health — the highest honor awarded by CDPH. This award celebrates exceptional leadership, vision and dedication to advancing public health.

Awards

Bachelor of Science in Public Health Independent Study in Public Health Experiential and Research Award

Stella Ghevondyan
Makayla Jeffris
Lauren Medina
Traeson Salcido

Bachelor of Science in Public Health Community Service Award

Kendy Ismael Arana
Mark Lee

Excellence in Teaching in the Bachelor of Science in Public Health Teaching Assistant

Jasmin Duehring (Doctor of Philosophy in Biostatistics)
Shanzeh Iqbal (Master of Public Health)
Rachel Koehler (Master of Public Health)
Luan Nguyen (Master of Public Health)
Mia Thomas (Master of Public Health)

Bachelor of Science in Public Health Instructional Apprentice Award

Lauren Gumarang	Aime Nguyen
Sandy Lian La	Matthew Gregory Yam

Bachelor of Science in Public Health Golden Apple Excellence in Teaching

Chadwick Campbell, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor

Gene S. Tan, PhD
Assistant Professor

Outstanding Master of Public Health Scholar

Valerian Catanzarite
Chase Kornacki

Awards Continued

Outstanding Master of Public Health Teaching Assistant

Monica Bañuelos

Faculty Excellence in Teaching in the Master of Public Health

Suzi Hong, PhD
Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Mentoring

Bachelor of Science in Public Health Poster Showcase Awards

1st Place (tied)

- Fiona Fisher, Catalina Jones, Jessica Jatiram, Michelle Griffith and Raigan Johnson
Balancing Books and Paychecks: The Impact of Student Employment on UCSD Students
- Sophia Davit, Daniela De La Torre and Vianca Zavala
Not Built for Me: Exploring Student Perspectives on Accessibility and Inclusion at UCSD

2nd Place

- Dora Durán, Jen Gonzalez and Hannah Ng
A Retrospective Qualitative Analysis of the Dynamic Experiences Faced by Youth Serving as Interpreters for Family Members in Medical Settings

3rd Place

- Fhujjen Barroga, Tu La and Prechelle Ramirez
From the Birds and the Bees to UCSD Degrees: Association Between One's Upbringings and Sexual Health Literacy Among Undergraduates

Awards Continued

Chancellor's Dissertation Medal

Michael Warren Cheung

Chancellor's Dissertation Medal recipient

Doctor of Philosophy in Biostatistics

A Pre-Post, Repeated Measures, Cluster-Randomized Clinical Trial Analysis
and Exploration of Treatment Effect Heterogeneity

Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health Impact Award

Hannah Johnson

Co-Chair, Board of Advisors, Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health
and Human Longevity Science

Chag Lowry, MEd

Executive Director, Indigenous Futures Institute UC San Diego

Recognitions

Public Health Graduate Organization Leadership

- Co-President: Roberta Duarte Fonseca Gomes da Silva
- Co-President: Yasmine Shindy
- Vice President: Naomi Guy
- Executive Chair: Rachel Koehler
- Program Chair: Dheya Pillai
- Secretary: Paulina Munoz
- Financial Chair: Angelique Ghadishah
- Membership Chair: Theresa Lane
- Community Outreach Chair: Valerian Catanzarite
- Mentorship Chair: Ali Punsalan

American Statistical Association Leadership

- Student Chapter President: Michael Cheung
- San Diego Chapter Treasurer: Margaret Elliott

Bachelor of Science in Public Health

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health at the UC San Diego Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science is the first undergraduate program offered by the UC San Diego Health Sciences and it is one of the first undergraduate public health degrees in the country to be positioned at the critical intersection of public health and primary care medical specialties. The Bachelor of Science in Public Health emphasizes training in biological sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and quantitative skills and prepares students for graduate school and careers in public health, healthcare and related fields.

Bachelor of Science in Public Health graduates:

Cristina Alvizo	Colton Lomanto
Jennisa Bangal	Patrick Alden Luntney
Anaitzel Barajas Montijo	Jamie Ly
Claudia Boghdady	Harout Malyan
Denise Boyzo	Yiselle Martinez
Maggie Bria	Emely Melendez
Leslie Calderon	Maheek Naowar
Sergio Contreras	Jennifer Nguyen
Justin Corpuz	Kacey Nguyen
Minh Danh	Katherine Ochoa
Fiona Fisher	Jocelyne Orta
Kim Garcia	Hamid Naweed Popal
Christian Gaylord	Zahrah Rauf
Dena Issam Ghreiwati	Sophie Sahiri
Liliana Gomez	McKayla Dasha Sarmiento
Jen Gonzalez	David Tadros
Bertha Hernandez	Jeanclaude Teko
Isabel Hoffman	Helen Tran
Joseph Holloway	Jessica Tran
Autumn J Hughes	Anh Truong
Juliette Jordan	Venus Velasco
Sandy La	Chelsea Vu
Hai Lam	Harshiv Vyas
Katelyn Lane	Lauren Wightman
Gerilynne Laraya	Vicky Wu
Jeanne Lee	Natalie Yousefi
Kristina Little	Yiwei Yun
Rebecca Litvinsky	Giselle Zamudio

Bachelor of Science in Public Health Continued

Bachelor of Science in Public Health with a concentration in Biostatistics graduates:

Imani Elenor Beckett	Ding Ding
Katie Paige Brewster	Shannon Nguyen
Derrick Cha	Jiawei Yao

Bachelor of Science in Public Health with a concentration in Climate and Environmental Sciences graduates:

Mason Schaerer	Taketo Chen
Elsa Schmidt	

Bachelor of Science in Public Health with a concentration in Community Health Sciences graduates:

Sarinajoy Belarmino Amon	Daphne Neilan
Jackie Aviles	Aime Nguyen
Gissella Baldovinos	Hinal Patel
Daisy Campos	Gladys Rodriguez
Gabriela Cruz Sanchez	Brandon Roy
Jocelynn Garcia	Yingyin Tan
Emily Lee	Rachel Yang
Nadia Lintag	Julia Yu
Maai Lozano	Leila Yu
Lauren Medina	

Bachelor of Science in Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology graduates:

Briana Anongdeth	Sumaita Iqbal
Enrique Bracamontes	Jessica Jatiram
Jaylene Camarillo	Maya Krispin
Evelyn Chavez	Sixuan Li
Kirsten Christensen	Anthony Lopez
Lindsay Cuc Hernandez	Joshua Milgram
Karina Desai	Olivia Mock
Christopher Fructuoso	Gage Mowrey
Mier Fu	Manjari Muruganandam
Claudia Garman	Parsa Naghshineh
Michelle Griffith	Bunthon Nath
Zitlaly Hernandez Jimenez	Samantha O'Donnell

Bachelor of Science in Public Health Continued

Julie Peou
Lyka Perez
Lily Rose Ponsa
Caitlin Rillo
Sokuntheari Son
James Sun

Dominic Tran
Faith TuMendoza
Laurel Valdez
Hans Viola
Nathalee Yang
Jeanna Yi

Bachelor of Science in Public Health with a concentration in Health Policy and Management Sciences graduates:

Ana Castillo
Kristen Chen-Eng
Sarah Christie
Dora Duran
Lala Esmailian
Karla Garcia
Andy Gonzalez
Gabriela Gonzalez
Jacqueline Hermanto
Jennifer Ngoc Ho
Sakina Jaffery
Emma Johnson
Raigan Johnson
Catalina Jones
Ellie Kim
Ajay Kumar
Mark Lee
Shannon Lee
Siying Li

Farangiz Malikova
Jade Martinez
Katrina Isabelle Minaya
Christina Morgan
Melina Munoz
Hannah Ng
Stephanie Nguyen
Shiv Puliady
Geselle Pulido
Nereytha Rivas
Mariah Rodriguez
Kylie Saal
Elyse Samson
Anoushka Savgur
Carol Tran
Isabella Vito
Matthew Yam
Jenna Yamami
Zhiying Zhou

Bachelor of Science in Public Health Continued

Bachelor of Science in Public Health with a concentration in Medicine Sciences graduates:

Madeline Alford
Joshua Lee Aquino
Kendy Arana
Hovig Arissian
Noah Leo Atkins
Melissa Barajas
Fhujjen Barroga
Cristian Berkes
Marseel Bolis
Ryan Both
Mariam Botross
Victoria Bui
Canbin Cai
Daniela Carrillo Gomez
Samantha Chan
Ethan Chay
Zuhayr Choudhry
Elisha Chung
Althea Kyla Columna
Caroline Courtois
Cheyenne Danielle Dadat
Sophia Davit
Daniela De La Torre
GabriElla Felix
Isabel Flores
Natalia Flores-Navarrete
Elana Friedlich
Melanie Gallegos Martin
Kai Gan
Katheryne Garcia
Mary Anne Garcia
Aide Gomez
Vinny Gonzales
Ashley Gutierrez
Allyson Ho
Brent Hsueh

Karen Huang
Idaly Iturralde
Sehwa Jung
Dylan Justice
Claire Kang
Harsimran Kaur
Miranda Somphors Kreal
Cindy La
Tu La
Eric Landin
Leanne Liaw
Michael Liang
Brandon Lin
Rongye Liu
Melinda Lu
Melissa Lupian
Jenny Luu
Eliza Ly
Carly Ann Magpantay
Melad Emaan Majid
Jenny M Martinez Juan
Emily McDaniel
Ava McInnes
Walter McMahon
Audree Melekyan
Paul Mikhail
Valerie Miranda Serena
Aisha Mohamed
Gabriel Morales Garrido
Cristian Moreno
Samantha Moynihan
Priyanka Naik
Stella Neuschul
Haley Nguyen
Phuong Nguyen
Sharon Nguyen

Bachelor of Science in Public Health Continued

Jacob Nunag-Sumner
Faith Ogene
Clarissa Otero
Jesse Taylor Ott
Diya Patel
My Trinh Pham
Nikki Piansay
Kalize Pittman
Sarah Plummer
Alexia Polatyan
Brett Pursley
Athira Rajiv
Rima Rami
Prechelle Ramirez
Ashley-Nicole Ratcliff
Nicholas David Rigo
Lindsey Ruiz
Paulina Salazar
Jaiden Saykham
Hannah Schellenberg
Arianna Shaikhvand Del Pielago
Emily Smith
Ramtin Sufipur

Priscilla Tan
Nathan Terrado
Emily Tinoco
Melody Torres
Tiana Tran
Krischia Uson
Shierica Vea Veloria
Andre Villamil
Peter Vu
Rachel Walkup
Elsabella Wang
Tara Wang
Allison Wong
Emily Wulfert
Kenneth Xu
Jenna Yassine
Julie Ye
Ashley Yeh
Priscilla Yi
Julie Yoon
Monica Yu
Vianca Zavala
Luolan Zhao

Master of Public Health

The Master of Public Health at the UC San Diego Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science is a program, with a thesis option, which provides instruction in public health disciplines: biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health sciences, health policy and management, and social and behavioral sciences. We also collaborate with other disciplines across our campus to address 21st century public health challenges including population health, mental health, climate change, social justice and data science.

Master of Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology graduates:

Zachary Blundell	Natasha Mortera
Valerian Catanzarite	Paulina Munoz
David Du	Samantha Perera
Claire Evanishyn	Ali Punsalan
Daniela Hannah	Diana Alvarado Salceda
Rachel Koehler	

Master of Public Health with a concentration in Health Behavior graduates:

Vivian Han	Dheya Pillai
Noura Diwouta Loth	

Master of Public Health with a concentration in Public Mental Health graduates:

Monica Bañuelos	Yassmine Shindy
Chase Kornacki	Roberta Duarte Fonseca Gomes da Silva
Theresa Lane	
Samantha Mendoza	Denise Tamashiro

Master of Public Health with a concentration in Technology and Precision Health graduate:

Angelique Ghadishah

Master of Public Health with a concentration in Health Policy graduates:

Naomi Guy	Elijah Mosley
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Master of Public Health Continued

Master of Public Health with a concentration in General Public Health graduates:

Aman Chishti	Julian Nicholas
Isabel Gandarilla	Anna Ou
Cheyenne Mercer	Sonu Thomas
Lily Nguyen	

Graduates in Biostatistics

The UC San Diego Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science offers a Master of Science and a Doctor of Philosophy in Biostatistics.

Master of Science in Biostatistics

Graduates:

Jiarui Chen	Zhaner Mou
Kyle Robert Michael Chen	Siyuan Ping
Yuhang Chen	Hongjie Qian
Yuyao Huang	Weiwei Shi
Eva Rose Aviva Jason	Lingsong Tian
Kate Ellen Johnson	Shengjia Tu
Nicole Kimberly Kam	Haoze Wang
Tannavee Kumar	Mengxue Xia
Kevin Yukang Li	Zhichao Zhang
Zhiyi Lu	Rongzhe Zhao

Doctor of Philosophy in Biostatistics

Graduates are listed with graduation year, doctoral committee chairs and dissertation titles:

Michael Warren Cheung (winter 2025; Florin Vaida, PhD, and Tarik Benmarhnia, PhD) A Pre-Post, Repeated Measures, Cluster-Randomized Clinical Trial Analysis and Exploration of Treatment Effect Heterogeneity
Yuwei Cheng (spring 2025; Sonia Jain, PhD) Bayesian Approaches in Precision Medicine Clinical Trials
Christian Beronilla Pascual (spring 2025; Sonia Jain, PhD) Applications of Bayesian Models to N-of-1 Designs for Optimizing Individual Treatment Choice
Anubhav Nikunj Singh Sachan (winter 2025; Armin Schwartzman, PhD) Estimating Genetic Effects Under Different Data Complexities
Xinran Wang (spring 2025; Armin Schwartzman, PhD, and Steven Edland, PhD) From Sleep to Aging: Statistical Tools for Understanding Time-Dependent Health Patterns in Clinical Trials

Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health

A Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health with a concentration in epidemiology, health behavior or global health is offered by the joint faculties of the UC San Diego Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science and the San Diego State University School of Public Health, with assistance from departments in the UC San Diego School of Medicine.

Graduates are listed with graduation year, doctoral committee chairs and dissertation titles:

Jennifer Bailey (summer 2025; Tarik Benmarhnia, PhD)
From Impacts to Adaptation: Heat and Urban Transportation in the Context of Climate Change in California

Sandy Shu-Ya Bohan (summer 2025; Elva Arredondo, PhD, and Vanessa Malcarne, PhD)
A Comprehensive Analysis of Patient Screen Failures in Personalized Cancer Therapy Trials: The UCSD-PREDICT Experience

Danielle Campbell (summer 2025; Jamila Stockman, PhD, MPH)
iSEE: An Intersectionality-Informed Mixed Methods Study to Assess Sociostructural Factors and Syndemic Conditions on HIV Research Participation Among Black Women in the US

Arnab Kumar Dey (fall 2024; Tarik Benmarhnia, PhD)
Understanding the Effects of Extreme Temperature on the Uptake of Maternal Health Services and Neonatal Survival in India

Patricia Dionicio (spring 2025; Sara Gombatto, PhD)
Evaluating Multilevel Factors that Predict Physical Activity Among Latinos with Chronic Spine Pain: A Mixed-Methods Study

Nicole Karongo (spring 2025; Cheryl Anderson, PhD, MPH)
Culturally Responsive Nutrition Interventions for Cardiometabolic Health Amongst an East African Immigrant Population in San Diego, California

Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health Continued

Adrienne Rose Suazo Lee (fall 2024; Andrea LaCroix, PhD, MPH)
Prospective Studies of Childhood Trauma and Mid to Late Life Neighborhood Deprivation with Cognitive Trajectories and Dementia Outcomes

Marian Marian (fall 2024; Ramona Perez, PhD)
Assessing Different Forms of Structural Violence Against Women in Mexico

Rose Naigino (spring 2025; Susan Kiene, PhD, MPH)
Alcohol Use and HIV Viral Load Suppression Among Ugandan Adolescent Girls and Young Women: Exploring Alcohol Use Patterns, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Stakeholder Perspectives

Nhat Quang Nguyen Thai (summer 2025; Rany Salem, PhD, MPH, and Jeffrey Schwimmer, MD)
Assessing Longitudinal Risk Factors for Adverse Liver Outcomes in Children with Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease: The Roles of Liver Chemistries in Type 2 Diabetes, Body Mass Index in Liver Health, and Alcohol Use in Disease Progression

Rowena Mok Tam (spring 2025; Sheri Hartman, PhD)
The Role of Pelvic Floor Dysfunctions and Barriers to Utilizing Pelvic Floor Physical Therapy and Its Impact on Quality of Life in Breast Cancer Survivors

Anais Elise Teyton (spring 2025; Tarik Benmarhnia, PhD)
Contemporary Challenges in Measuring Heat-Related Impacts on Health in Context of Climate Change: A Multi-Level International Comparison

Marisa Sue Torres-Ruiz (summer 2025; Elva Arredondo, PhD)
Linking Physical and Mental Health: Multilevel Perspectives on Health Behaviors and Coping Among Latino Families and Communities (tentative title)

Jessica Swartz (summer 2025; Lori Tuttle, PhD)
Understanding Postpartum Physical Therapy along the Inpatient-Outpatient Continuum: A Vital Step to Improve Comprehensive Maternal Healthcare in the United States

Jijiang Wang (fall 2024; Shu-Hong Zhu, PhD)
Adolescents' Exposure to Anti-Vaping Media: Its Effects on Attempt to Quit Vaping and Susceptibility to Future Vape Use

Support Public Health

Help us continue transforming public health by giving to the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health online.



Alumni

Register as an alumni of the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health to receive invitations to upcoming events, participate in panels and career presentations, and more.



Vision

Creating and promoting public health innovations to advance equity, justice and well-being for all.

Mission

With a commitment to equity and justice, rooted in a culture of respect, the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science will lead in innovations to improve public health locally and globally by:

- Cultivating new generations of diverse public health professionals
- Advancing scientific discovery, dissemination and implementation
- Collaborating with diverse partners to develop community-led health solutions

Values

Respect, Humility, Compassion

We support our members and encourage collaboration over competition. We invest time in creating connections within the school and larger community, providing mentorship and celebrating successes. We develop structural mechanisms that promote respectful and caring behaviors. We remove barriers such as top-down thinking and competition fueled by lack of resources.

Integrity, Justice, Trust

We encourage and ensure integrity throughout the school and weave our values into our daily routines and systems.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

It is first and foremost our mission to ensure good and equitable health outcomes through the idea of prevention and solving upstream issues so that downstream problems do not present themselves in the first place. We strive to remove structural barriers to success and help everyone achieve the goals they set as members of the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health.

About

Since 1966, the discipline of public health has been a part of UC San Diego's academic landscape. Growing over time, a school of public health was proposed to unify public health education and research across the campus. The Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science at UC San Diego was established on Sept. 19, 2019 to leverage the university's existing research strengths and build on a rich history of public health and preventive medicine to advance well-being and social justice for all. The founding of the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health also elevates the university's public health curriculum, as it cultivates the next generation of diverse public health professionals and leaders through innovative and transformational programs including a preventive medicine residency and bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.



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