

# 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

### **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



## Recognitions Continued

### **Completion of the 2024-2025 Honors Practicum in the Bachelor of Science in Public Health Major**

Madeline Alford	Catalina Jones
Jackie Aviles	Mark Lee
Derrick Cha	Leanne Liaw
McKayla Dasha Sarmiento	Melissa Lupian
Fiona Fisher	Sarah Plummer
Melanie Gallegos Martin	Shiv Puliady
Karla Garcia	Lindsey Ruiz
Michelle Griffith	Mason Schaerer
Jessica Jatiram	Elsa Schmidt
Raigan Johnson	Jiawei Yao

### **Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award in the Bachelor of Science in Public Health Major**

Madeline Alford	Sixuan Li
Sarinajoy Belarmino Amon	Michael Liang
Jennisa Soliven Bangal	Brandon Lin
Enrique Bracamontes	Nadia Lauren Lintag
Elisha Chung	Rebecca Jessica Litvinsky
Nathan Cudiamat Terrado	Emily Elizabeth McDaniel
Ding Ding	Olivia Chantal Mock
Elana M Friedlich	Christina Buena Morgan
Mier Fu	Manjari Muruganandam
Karla Garcia	Priyanka Naik
Michelle Griffith	Sharon Vy Nguyen
Jacqueline Hermanto	Lyka Perez
Allyson Ho	Sarah Plummer
Brent Wei-Keng Hsueh	Lily Rose Ponsa
Catalina Jones	Athira Rajiv
Sehwa Jung	Caitlin Flavia Rillo
Maya Krispin	Mason Schaerer
Cindy La	Hannah Schellenberg
Sandy Lian La	Elsa Schmidt
Tu Gia La	Emily Ramonna Smith
Mark Lee	Tiana ThanhThanh Tran

## Recognitions Continued

Elsabella Yihan Wang	Julie Stephanie Ye
Tara Hong Tien Wang	Ashley Danielle Yeh
Allison Mei Wong	Julie Yoon
Kenneth Xu	Yiwei Yun
Matthew Gregory Yam	Luolan Zhao

## 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.

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### **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 Romina Shaikhvand Del  
Pielago  
Emily Smith

Ramtin Sufipur  
Priscilla Tan  
Nathan Terrado  
Emily Tinoco  
Melody Torres  
Tiana Tran  
Kriscia 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.

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### **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	Denise Tamashiro
Samantha Mendoza	

### **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.

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### **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.



## 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.

## 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.



## 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.



*Academic Year*  
**2024 - 2025**



[publichealth.ucsd.edu](https://publichealth.ucsd.edu)



UC San Diego Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health