

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HEALTH POLICY

COMMENCEMENT
2022

JUNE 2, 2022 | 3:00 – 5:00 PM

THE APOLLO THEATER



Dear graduates, family, and friends,

My sincere congratulations on the achievements of our graduates!

It takes immense dedication and focus to earn your graduate degree in public health, as you know. For working professionals, many of you with families of your own to care for, the mountain is even higher to climb. I am deeply impressed, and frankly, quite proud of all of you.

Communities in New York City and beyond will benefit from the knowledge, skills, and determination you will bring as you join the public health workforce. With all due humility, as a graduate of the rigorous programs provided by CUNY SPH, you can boast freely of your professional preparation and skills. You have earned your place as a fully-fledged member of the esteemed community of CUNY alumni. Know that you have a network of peers, public health professionals, faculty, and administrators who remain dedicated to helping you achieve your goals. We share your commitment to a healthier future. I encourage you to remain connected to our network. It will be an invaluable resource as you take each step in your career.

You are embarking on your professional lives at a moment when your chosen field is central on the global stage. I have enormous faith that now, more than ever before, CUNY SPH graduates will shape our future city and our future world for the better.

Finally, on the occasion of this significant life and career milestone—and the many more to come—take a moment to commend yourself. This is an epic achievement. And please acknowledge all those that helped you along the way.

Again, on behalf of the CUNY SPH faculty, staff, and administrators, I applaud your profound achievement and wish you all the best.



Ayman El-Mohandes
DEAN

PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

Honored guests,
CUNY SPH deans,
faculty, and graduates

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Alyse Gamble

WELCOME

Ayman El-Mohandes, *Dean*

REMARKS

Dr. Félix V. Matos
Rodríguez, *Chancellor of the
City University of New York*

Herminia Palacio,
CUNY Trustee

Lyndon Haviland,
*DrPH, MPH, Chair,
CUNY SPH Foundation*

HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Vice Admiral
Vivek H. Murthy, *MD,
MBA, U.S. Surgeon General*

DEAN'S CHAMPION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

Dr. Dave A. Chokshi,
*43rd Health Commissioner
of New York City*

INAUGURAL CUNY SPH LEGACY AWARD

Ashish Joshi, *Senior
Associate Dean of Academic
and Student Affairs*

GRADUATE HONORS

DELTA OMEGA HONORARY SOCIETY IN PUBLIC HEALTH, EPSILON CHI CHAPTER CANDIDATES

Pavan Lohia, *President*

FACULTY HONORS

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

Christopher C. McLaughlin

PRESENTATION OF DOCTORAL GRADUATES

Doctoral Program Directors

Stacey Plichta, *Departments
of Community Health and
Social Sciences, Health
Policy and Management*

Ghada Soliman,
*Department of Environmental,
Occupational, and Geospatial
Health Sciences*

Heidi Jones, *Department of
Epidemiology and Biostatistics*

Department Chairs

Christian Grov,
*Department of Community
Health and Social Sciences*

Andrew Maroko,
*Department of Environmental,
Occupational, and
Geospatial Health Sciences*

Elizabeth Kelvin,
*Department of Epidemiology
and Biostatistics*

Terry Huang,
*Department of Health
Policy and Management*

PRESENTATION OF POSTHUMOUS MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN COMMUNITY HEALTH DEGREE

Sabine Nord-Joseph,
accepted by Ms. Flauberta Nord

PRESENTATION OF MASTER'S GRADUATES

Lynn Roberts,
*Associate Dean for
Student Affairs and
Alumni Relations*

PUBLIC HEALTH PLEDGE

CUNY SPH graduates,
led by Dr. Dave A. Chokshi

REMARKS FROM THE GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Shawon Shahriar,
GSGA Vice President

ALUMNI NETWORK WELCOME

Pavan Lohia,
MPH Class of '20

CLOSING REMARKS

Ayman El-Mohandes,
Dean

HONORARY DOCTORAL AWARDEE & KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy

MD, MBA, U.S. Surgeon General

Dr. Vivek H. Murthy was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in March 2021 to serve as the 21st Surgeon General of the United States. As the Nation's Doctor, the Surgeon General's mission is to help lay the foundation for a healthier country, relying on the best scientific information available to provide clear, consistent, and equitable guidance and resources for the public. And as the Vice Admiral of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, Dr. Murthy commands a uniformed service of over 6,000 dedicated public health officers, serving the most underserved and vulnerable populations domestically and abroad.

While serving as 21st Surgeon General, Dr. Murthy is focused on drawing attention to and working across government to address a number of critical public health issues, including the growing proliferation of health misinformation, the ongoing youth mental health crisis, well-being and burnout in the health worker community, and social isolation and loneliness. Additionally, he serves as a key advisor to President Biden's COVID-19 pandemic response operation.

During his previous tenure as 19th Surgeon General, under President Obama, Dr. Murthy created initiatives to tackle our country's most pressing public health challenges. The first Surgeon General of Indian descent and the youngest active duty flag officer in federal uniformed service, he helped lead the national response to a range of health challenges, including the Ebola and Zika viruses, the opioid crisis, and the growing threat of stress and loneliness to Americans' physical and mental wellbeing. Dr. Murthy also continued the office's legacy on preventing tobacco-related disease, releasing a historic Surgeon General's report on e-cigarettes and youth. And in 2016, he issued the first Surgeons General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs and Health, in which he challenged the nation to expand access to prevention and treatment, and to recognize addiction as a chronic illness, not a character flaw.



Prior to his second confirmation, Dr. Murthy co-chaired President-elect Joe Biden's COVID-19 Advisory Board from November 2020 to January 2021. Before entering government service, Dr. Murthy co-founded VISIONS, a global HIV/AIDS education organization; the Swasthya Project, a rural health partnership that trained women in South India to become community health workers and educators; TrialNetworks, a technology company dedicated to improving collaboration and efficiency in clinical trials; and Doctors for America, a nonprofit mobilizing physicians and medical students to improve access to affordable care. His scientific research has focused on vaccine development and the participation of women and minorities in clinical trials. And as an internal medicine doctor at Brigham and Women's Hospital and at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Murthy cared for thousands of patients and trained undergraduates, medical students, and medical residents.

Raised in Miami, Dr. Murthy received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard, his MD from the Yale School of Medicine, and his Masters in Business Administration from the Yale School of Management. A renowned physician, research scientist, entrepreneur, mango aficionado, and author of the bestselling book *Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World*, Dr. Murthy is today among the most trusted voices in America on matters of public health. He lives in Washington, DC with his wife, Dr. Alice Chen, and their two children.

DEAN'S CHAMPION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

Dr. Dave A. Chokshi

43rd Health Commissioner of New York City

Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc, FACP was the 43rd Commissioner at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, one of the leading health agencies in the world. He led the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including its historic campaign to vaccinate over 6 million New Yorkers, saving tens of thousands of lives. Dr. Chokshi architected treatment strategies, navigated school and economic reopenings, and served as principal public spokesperson. Under his tenure, the Health Department's budget grew to its highest-ever level, reflecting investment in signature initiatives such as the Public Health Corps, Pandemic Response Institute, and New Family Home Visiting program. In 2021, the Department also stewarded the launch of the nation's first publicly-authorized overdose prevention centers—as well as a landmark Board of Health resolution on racism as a public health crisis.

From 2014–2020, Dr. Chokshi served in leadership roles at NYC Health + Hospitals (H+H), including as its inaugural Chief Population Health Officer, where he built an award-winning team dedicated to transforming the largest public health care system in the country. He was also Chief Executive Officer of the H+H Accountable Care Organization (ACO), one of the few ACOs in the nation to achieve high quality and cost performance for eight consecutive years. He has been a practicing primary care internist at Bellevue Hospital since 2014 and is also Clinical Professor of Population Health at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine.



Previously, Dr. Chokshi served as a White House Fellow at the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, where he was the principal health advisor in the Office of the Secretary. His prior work experience spans the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Dr. Chokshi has written on medicine and public health in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA*, *The Lancet*, *Health Affairs*, *Science*, *The Atlantic*, *Harvard Business Review*, and *Scientific American*. In 2016, President Obama appointed him to the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health.

He trained in internal medicine at Brigham & Women's Hospital, where he received the Dunne Award for Compassionate Care, and was a clinical fellow at Harvard Medical School. During his training, he did clinical work in Guatemala, Peru, Botswana, Ghana, and India. He received his MD with Alpha Omega Alpha distinction from Penn. He also earned an MSc in global public health as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, and graduated summa cum laude from Duke.

GRADUATE HONORS

VALEDICTORIAN AND DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Christopher C. McLaughlin

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Sadaf Ahmad

Chung Sheung Chan

Xiaoqing Chen

Magdalen Harris

Emily Henderson

Abida Kabir

Julia Kolmakova

Samantha Lang

Rachel Murro

Shriya Patel

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR COMMITMENT

Emily Henderson

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR RESEARCH

John Croft

Magdalen Harris

Lisa Hitch

Abida Kabir

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR SERVICE

Man Nga Chan

Scout Silverstein

DEAN'S DISSERTATION AWARD

QUALITATIVE

Gabrielle de Fiebre

QUANTITATIVE

Ellen Brazier

SPECIAL DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Environmental, Occupational, and Geospatial Health Sciences

DEPARTMENTAL DISSERTATION AWARD

David Goldfarb

EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

Jonathan Corbin

Community Health and Social Sciences

DEPARTMENTAL DISSERTATION AWARD

Kimberly Kamara

CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Sindy Stewart

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY HEALTH & SOCIAL SCIENCES AWARD

Rachel Murro

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY HEALTH & SOCIAL SCIENCES PUBLIC ADVOCACY

Monique Jacques

Epidemiology and Biostatistics

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Bushra Amreen

Elena Finver

Emaly Ciubotaru

Health Policy and Management

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Daniela Shill

Kelly Taylor

Megan Wilson

Kevin Chin

FACULTY HONORS

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR TEACHING

P. Christopher Palmedo,
*Clinical Professor of Community
Health and Social Sciences* (SENIOR)

Meredith Manze,
*Assistant Professor of Community
Health and Social Sciences* (JUNIOR)

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR MENTORSHIP

Luisa N. Borrell,
*Distinguished Professor of
Epidemiology and Biostatistics*

Christian Grov,
*Professor of Community
Health and Social Sciences*

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR RESEARCH

Bruce Y. Lee,
*Professor of Health Policy
and Management* (SENIOR)

Brian Pavilonis,
*Associate Professor of Environmental,
Occupational, and Geospatial
Health Sciences* (JUNIOR)

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Sean Haley,
*Assistant Professor of Health
Policy and Management*

**DOCTOR OF
PUBLIC HEALTH****Environmental and
Occupational Health****Bae Philavan Chu**

Radiation isolation and the impact of care: Nursing knowledge and perception of radiation risks

Subraham Singh

Assessment of spatial and temporal trends of exposure to ambient fine particulate matter and ozone in New York/New Jersey metropolitan area

**Health Policy and
Management****Jennifer Carmona**

Assessing the association among hospital ownership penalties assessed under the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program and 30-day risk standardized mortality rates for selected conditions, 2016-2018

Noemi Rodriguez

Association between childhood obesity, family meals, and dietary quality among US children aged 6 to 17 years residing in SNAP-eligible households

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN PUBLIC HEALTH****Community Health
and Health Policy****Gabrielle Defiebre**

Contraceptive use and sterilization among people with disabilities

Marie Donaldson

Improving national health management information systems: Stakeholder views in selected sub-Saharan African countries

John Gravina

Episode-based payment models and the hospital safety net: An evaluation of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Comprehensive Joint Replacement bundled payment program

Kimberly Kamara

Assessing psychosocial factors that influence water, sanitation, and hygiene behavior in the Amhara region of Ethiopia

Laena Orkin ▲

Neighborhood predictors of e-cigarette density in New York City

Nandini Shroff

Examining contraceptive use and family planning decision-making among South Asians in NYC

**Environmental and
Planetary Health Sciences****Briane Ciferri**

Genomic epidemiology of *Clostridium difficile* colonization and transmission in an intensive care unit cohort

Jonathan Corbin

Associations between diabetes, cardiovascular disease and occupational hearing loss, in a cross-sectional analysis of Department of Energy Nuclear Workers, with Mendelian randomization of publicly available data to enhance observational findings

David Goldfarb ✦ ▲

Investigation of the association of exposures to fire-related hazards with the pulmonary function of firefighters

Epidemiology**Ellen Brazier ✦**

Factors associated with racial and ethnic disparities in Cesarean delivery among women with low-risk pregnancies at New York City hospitals, 2012-2017

Priscilla Lopez

School-based sex education in the United States and its association with sexual and reproductive health outcomes, 2000-2020

Matthew Romo

The global implementation of dolutegravir for HIV treatment

GRADUATES

✦ 4.0 GPA Δ CANDIDATE FOR INDUCTION INTO EPSILON CHI CHAPTER OF DELTA OMEGA HONOR SOCIETY

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN COMMUNITY HEALTH

Auwal Ahmed
Afi Akakpo
Morshed Alam
Daviann Andrews
Marilyn Baculima
Jaleela Badamasi
Stella Billings ✦ Δ
Lillian Brinkley
Maria Campo Δ
Samantha Carpen
Analucia Castillo-Cano
Gabrielle Cavazos
Antonia Charles
Xiaoqing Chen ✦ Δ
Clarissa Class
Roselynda Conn Δ
Rachel Cullen
Kimberly Desrosiers
Genesis Dominguez
Taylor Drost ✦ Δ
Tonianne Druckman
Fatma Eldomyati
Ayah Elsayed Δ
Faith Fasakin
Rada Galeb
Shaili Gandhi
Julian Garcia

Terence Gilmore
Mira Gor
Meghan Hampsey Δ
Taylor Hard
Margaret Herring
Sarah Izzo
Monique Jaques Δ
Karyn Kennedy
Stella Kwofie
Carla Lewis-Peter
Dailee Louis
Tiffany Manley
Arlene Mejia Juan
Charlotte Miller ✦ Δ
Rachel Murro ✦ Δ
Julia Nansikombi
Eveline Nobre Carrion
Sabine Nord-Joseph ✦
Claire Ogburn
Marcia Olivo
Onyedikachukwu Orogbu
Claudia Orozco-London
Karen Ortiz Δ
Sandra Paguay
Shanella Palmer
Shimul Patel ✦
Hazel Paul
Devjani Paul
Farma Pene
Andrew Phinney ✦

Preeti Potdar
Kelly Powell
Phoebe Rosenheim
Samantha Santoscoy
Muntasir Sayeedi
Scout Silverstein ✦ Δ
Sindy Stewart
Wanda Tejada Lizardo
Neta Topor
Aniyah Turner
Destiny Valdes
Wandeth Van Grover
Noli Vega
Colette Watson
Jaylen Williams
Grace Yip

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES

Adesola Adewale
Susmita Baral
Emily Ebert
Abdulrahman Ezzeddine
Lindiwei Farrow-Harris
Christine Gargano
Vivian Igwilo
Abida Kabir ✦ Δ
Nandha Nambi
Maha Obeidallah

Jaasmine Stephens
Kate Sullivan ✦

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIostatISTICS

Bushra Amreen ✦ Δ
Naima Ashraf
Chung Sheung Chan ✦ Δ
Shaina Collazo
Alexander Condis
John Croft Δ
Ananya Dhanya
Leen Feliciano
Elena Finver ✦ Δ
Clare Grieve
Abigail Hintermeister
Jordan Kerwin
Samara Khan
Fareeha Mannan
Martha Marin
Mina Metry
Iman Mohammed
Thae Aient Aient Oo Δ
Adriana Padilla
Shriya Patel ✦ Δ
Riyaad Rahim
Maksudur Rahman
Adrian Rivera
Patricia Trowbridge

GRADUATES

✦ 4.0 GPA Δ CANDIDATE FOR INDUCTION INTO EPSILON CHI CHAPTER OF DELTA OMEGA HONOR SOCIETY

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Bisola Ademuyiwa

Sherline Altidor

Alexis Amico

Kweku Amoo

Ayah Ashour

Nanahawa Bagigah

Farida Batchi

Lexxus Brown

Melissa Carreno

Emerald Cazeau

Adrian Cheung

Kevin Chin ✦

Laura Connolly

Jayden Davidson Δ

Angela Deoleo

Anne Dorcilien

Mallory Dubowsky

Malika Emin

Olamide Fadamiro

Merl-Carme Fanfan

Jaynemie Ferrari

Charles Francillon

Diandra Grinage

Yuyuhita Guzman

Edwin Hernandez

Lisa Hitch ✦ Δ

Mahnour Jaura

Neriah Jones

Miriam Jovanovic

Lily Kolb Δ

Ousman Laast-Maiga

Samantha Lang ✦ Δ

Josephine Ledda

Karina Lopez

Carlie Lubin

Ticharwa Makura

Antonino Maltese

Osman Mariano

Julio Martinez

Chanel Martinez

Zarmina Mashaikh

Tier McCullough Δ

Christopher McLaughlin
✦ Δ

Roselyn Mendez

Farida Mutawakil

Daniel Osifo

Adanna Otuechere

Grismeldy Paulino Δ

Mimi Pearle

Sonia Persaud

Diana Pesantez

Lillian Picou Δ

Magdalena Popkowski

Anya Predich Δ

Marie Raffington

Kimberly Ramos

Craig Rijkaard

Karen Rojas

Drushanie Sayroo

Julie Schonfeld

Aashni Shah

Pime Sherpa

Brooke Sherry

Daniela Shill ✦ Δ

Navkaran Singh

Dilshoda Sultanova

Natalia Surujnath

Patricia Sutherland

Astou Talla

Kelly Taylor ✦ Δ

Momodou Tekanyi

Thalia Thony

Tenzin Trinley

Haleigh Tutrow

Megan Wilson ✦ Δ

Ashley Young

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION

Natural Assam

Brilderly Boatswain

Rhonda Brown Δ

Natalie Caparelli

Man Nga Chan

Alyssa Costa

Brittany DeLaurentis ✦

Udita Dutta

Paulina Espanola

Jennifer Ferrera

Luis Galvan

Grace Holcomb

Harriet King

Manoja Kumarage

Julie Lin

Melissa Mattern

Amber Narcisse

Angelica Orbegozo
Romero

Tony Porter

Elyse Shulman

Faeth Sussman

Amanda Suszczynska

Lauren Wieder

Yaneika Williams

Shao Mei Zhang

GRADUATES

✦ 4.0 GPA Δ CANDIDATE FOR INDUCTION INTO EPSILON CHI CHAPTER OF DELTA OMEGA HONOR SOCIETY

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES

Rafhael Gandolff
Jillian Harvey
Emily Henderson ✦
Youssef Khadili
Azal King
Julia Kolmakova ✦ Δ
Kristina Lena ✦
Erica Madrid
Brendan O'Grady ✦
Jovana Radosavljevic
Kim-Lin Ramsawak
Michelle Rodriguez ✦ Δ
Justin Seetaram
Vimal Soomai
Rashi Vashishta

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GLOBAL AND MIGRANT HEALTH POLICY

Alanna Cruz Δ
Emily Kaminsky
Juan Jose Mejia Palacios

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Saif Choudhury
Jennifer Fanelli
Magdalen Harris ✦
Shanaz Hosein
Camilo Parra
Leticia Sanchez
Lauren SwanPotras ✦

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN POPULATION HEALTH INFORMATICS

Sadaf Ahmad ✦ Δ
Jason Armstrong
Kiyante Beaugris
Emaly Ciubotaru ✦ Δ
Rafael Escobar
Ghazal Khaqan
Xuan Peng
Erica Rowe Owen

PUBLIC HEALTH PLEDGE

I pledge to do all within my power to safeguard human and environmental health through prevention, protection, promotion, and educational efforts. I will accept the responsibility to use my talents, training, and professional experience to instill public trust in all my public health endeavors. It is my personal commitment to serve my community with integrity and pride.

ALUMNI NETWORK

Welcome to the CUNY SPH Alumni Network!
Join our “CUNY SPH Alumni Network” pages on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram to stay connected. Look out for emails from the CUNY SPH Alumni Network about upcoming events and activities. You can share your preferred contact information with us at alumninetwork@sph.cuny.edu so we can keep you abreast of campus and alumni happenings.

Congratulations on your achievement.
We look forward to celebrating with you!

CUNY SPH FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2022 CUNY SPH Commencement Ceremony is proudly sponsored by the CUNY SPH Foundation Board of Directors.

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Michael Meng, TREASURER

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IN NEW YORK CITY AND ACROSS THE GLOBE
THROUGH INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP**

