

2020

Annual Report



GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HEALTH POLICY

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

It is my privilege to share
with you our annual
report for the 2019-2020
academic and fiscal year.

Despite the challenges of the past year, CUNY SPH has continued to make strides in creating and maintaining a rich, innovative, and supportive learning environment for our students, preparing them for the rapidly evolving terrain they will navigate as future public health professionals.

New degree programs are filling unmet needs in public health education and new 4+1 collaborative master's degrees make it possible for us to equip a wider range of professionals with public health skills.

We continue to build the vibrancy of our body of faculty, adding two outstanding new professors to the seven we recruited last year.

Student evaluations of faculty remain stellar, and students also gave the School high ratings for its smooth management of the abrupt transition to fully online learning in March. An increased investment in student services has yielded excellent results, with higher ratings and greater engagement in our dedicated staff advising, writing and quantitative skills tutoring, experiential learning opportunities, and enhanced career services.

The CUNY SPH research portfolio continues its impressive upward trajectory, with a 25 percent increase in research expenditures over the previous year. Our faculty and students responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with an extremely robust and creative surge in research and advocacy that is already informing public health policy and practice.

I am deeply grateful to the students, faculty, staff, and supporters who have responded to this challenging year with resilience and dedication. I look forward to working, learning, and serving together in the year to come.



A handwritten signature in black ink.

Ayman El-Mohandes,
MBBCh, MD, MPH
DEAN

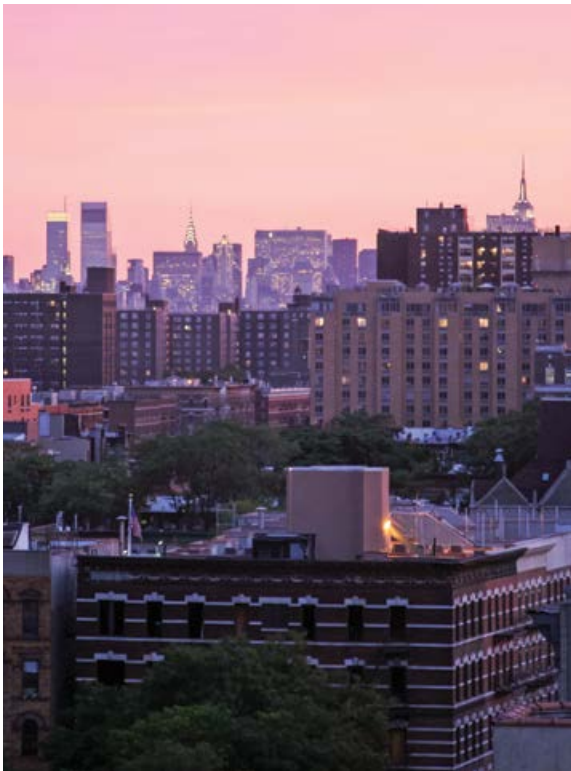
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A New Strategic Framework

1

The CUNY SPH Strategic Framework for academic years 2021-2023 was finalized this June after an eight-month process. This framework is the product of a broad collaborative effort that engaged faculty, staff, and students through a school-wide survey and a structured series of meetings and workshops. The mission, vision, and values presented are truly representative of our collective identity as New York's premiere public school of public health.



The goals set for the next three years reflect our understanding of our role within a fast-changing public health environment and the turbulent times in which we find ourselves. We have already begun our work to organize and develop strategies for the action and implementation phase of the framework, which will kick off in September. It is a tribute to the dedication of our community that, during an extended period of difficulty for the school, we were able to deliver on schedule a professional, cohesive, and representative Strategic Framework that will structure and guide the school's academic and administrative trajectory for years to come.

Vision

To improve health and social justice in New York City and across the globe.

Mission

To promote and sustain healthier populations in New York City and around the world through excellence in education, research, and service in public health and by advocating for sound policy and practice to advance social justice and improve health outcomes for all.

Values

We strive to incorporate health equity into everything we do.

We apply a health equity approach to our work and acknowledge the legacy of health inequities and racism experienced by marginalized populations. In order to address the public health needs of society we must first acknowledge the origins and impact of unequal treatment.

We provide access to excellent educational programs for all students.

As New York City's premier public school of public health, we deliver rigorous and affordable in-class and online graduate education that prepares our graduates for professional success. We provide access for people who have historically been excluded from higher education, celebrate the broad diversity of our community of learners, and build meaningful relationships between students and faculty that support student achievement.

We believe that public service is a duty and a responsibility.

As a public school of public health located in Harlem, we believe that responsible engagement with our surrounding communities is a priority and an essential part of our identity. We also believe that an important tenet of the school's mission is to use our intellectual resources and talent to advance global public health efforts and improve well-being.

We are a respectful, diverse, and inclusive community.

We believe that diversity strengthens our school and offers essential insights into public health problems and solutions. In all of our efforts, we endeavor to center the voices of those who have been historically excluded and respect the dignity of each individual.

We believe collaboration leads to innovative and impactful research, programs, and policies.

Our collaborative approach reaches across academic departments and disciplines within CUNY SPH and throughout CUNY, and extends to research, education, and practice with national and international schools of public health. We collaborate with community groups, NGOs, and other organizations to improve public health at home and abroad.

Read more online <http://cunysph.me/strategic>



2 | New degree programs meet the needs of a changing public health landscape



This is the only fully online health communications program offered by a CEPH-accredited school of public health. ”

CUNY SPH has continued to enhance its degree offerings to provide students with the skills to address the public health needs of the 21st century.

Communication is integral to achieving public health goals

Two online Master of Science degrees, one in Population Health Informatics and the other in Global and Migrant Health Policy, were launched in the previous academic year. In early 2020 the third and latest online MS, Health Communication for Social Change, began accepting applications for the Fall 2020 semester.

Students in the Health Communication for Social Change program will gain core public health competencies and receive training in health literacy, strategic mar-

keting, social media strategy, multimedia production, and health entrepreneurship along with other critical communications domains. Public health in the coming decade requires partnership-building between government, business, and the nonprofit sectors to solve the most pressing local, national, and international issues. This program is unique in its approach, preparing students to apply entrepreneurial and other innovative solutions to the most complex health challenges.

Students will have opportunities to take advantage of the extensive CUNY SPH networks, which include NYC public agencies, communications firms, multinational corporations, and international NGOs.

Because this program emphasizes building technical skills, graduates will have access to a wide variety of employment opportunities at city, county, and state health departments, at advertising and marketing agencies; non-governmental organizations, at philanthropic organizations, and more through our engaged faculty. Students will also have opportunities to apply for research and project positions at CUNY SPH centers and institutes, which work throughout New York City and around the world.

This is the only fully online health communications program offered by a CEPH-accredited school of public health.

New collaborative degrees allow us to equip students from a range of fields with the tools to understand and contribute to the health of populations.

In Fall 2019, CUNY SPH and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine announced a new collaborative 4+1 degree program, which will allow medical students to complete a five-year program resulting in an MD from Einstein and an MPH from CUNY SPH.

“We are delighted to partner with such a highly regarded and nationally-ranked program in order to extend the training and career opportunities for our medical students,” said Joshua Nosanchuk, MD, senior associate dean for medical education and professor of medicine and of microbiology and immunology at Einstein. “CUNY SPH’s MPH will naturally extend the thread of social justice that is

woven throughout Einstein’s culture and curriculum, which includes a strong emphasis on understanding the social and structural determinants of health and how to help mitigate them for our patients and communities.”

In early 2020 CUNY SPH announced a 4+1 master’s program with Macaulay Honor College that will allow Macaulay students at every senior college within CUNY to take graduate level courses at CUNY SPH during their junior and senior years, enabling them to complete a bachelor of arts degree from Macaulay and an MPH or MS degree from CUNY SPH in five years rather than six. Joe Ugoretz, senior associate dean and chief academic officer at Macaulay noted that “Graduates of the program will understand the drivers of health and disease in populations while adding to their personal credentials and advancing their academic achievement.”

“We are very excited about this partnership and look forward to welcoming Macaulay Honors students,” said Ashish Joshi, senior associate dean of student and academic affairs. “This new 4+1 program will enable them to enroll in any of our nine master’s degrees and graduate with the knowledge and tools to solve the complex public health challenges of the 21st century.”

Transitioning to the PhD

Last fall our doctoral program transitioned from the DPH to PhD, and introduced PhDs in Community Health and Health Policy, Environmental and Planetary Health Sciences, and Epidemiology. Current eligible DPH students were invited to switch to the PhD, and eighty percent of them did so. The first cohort of students in this program achieved a 100 percent graduation rate in Spring 2020.

Flexible learning modalities

All five of our MPH programs are now offered in traditional, hybrid, and fully online modalities.

- Community Health
- Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
- Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Health Policy and Management
- Public Health Nutrition



Our three newest MS degrees are fully online.

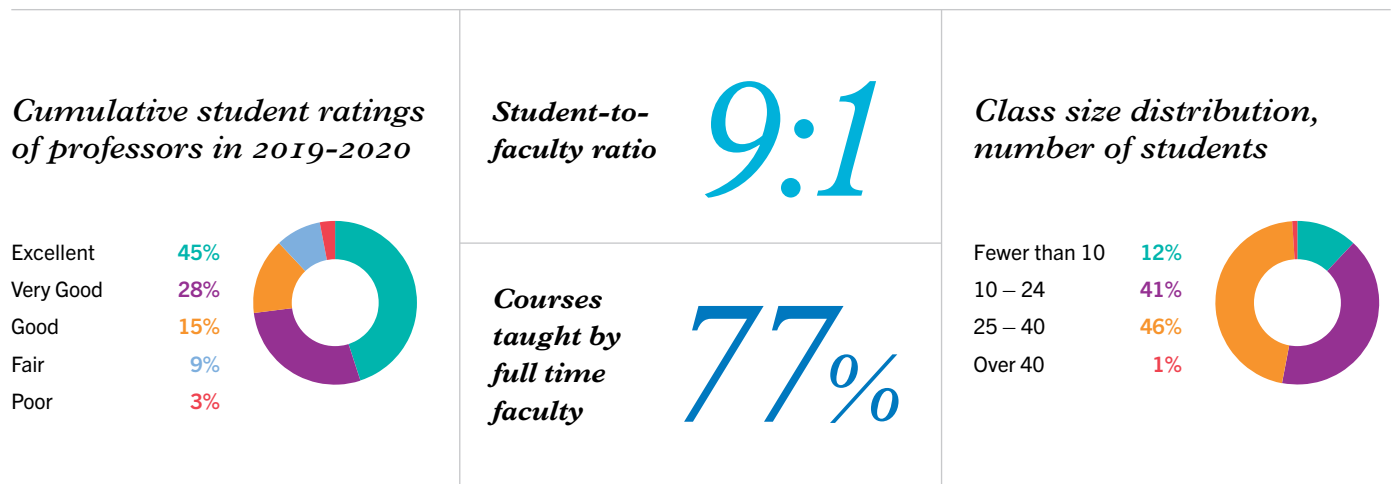
- Global and Migrant Health Policy
- Health Communication for Social Change
- Population Health Informatics

3 | Faculty excellence



Excellence in teaching

In the past academic year, nearly 90 percent of students ranked their professor as excellent, very good, or good. We've kept our student to faculty ratio low, at 9:1, one of the lowest across CUNY, and 77 percent of our courses are taught by full time faculty.



Outstanding research productivity

CUNY SPH outperforms all other CUNY colleges in terms of the value of research grants per full time faculty member (measured by grant expenditures). CUNY SPH also leads the University in scholarly productivity, with more than twice the number of pieces of scholarship/creative activity per faculty than any other CUNY college.

Strength in faculty diversity



The percentage of full-time faculty who are from minority groups rose from 23.9 percent in 2018 to 29.5 percent in 2019, and our records show that we have achieved 33 percent as of June 2020.

Welcoming new faculty

We continue to enjoy success in recruiting high caliber faculty. Our two newest faculty members are *Associate Professor Sasha Fleary*, an expert in health literacy and preventive health, and *Professor Suzanne McDermott*, who has 25 years of experience in researching and teaching about the lifelong intersection of disabilities and health.



Associate Professor Fleary comes to us from Tufts University where she founded and directed the Child Health Equity Research Lab in the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development. Her mixed methods research focuses on empowering parents, adolescents, and children to engage in healthful behaviors through developmentally and culturally appropriate interventions, programming, and outreach responsive to the risk and protective factors for health disparities in underserved groups. Currently, Dr. Fleary's research focus is on research health literacy and preventive health. She is an NIH-funded Building Interdisciplinary Research Collaborations in Women's Health (BIRCWH) Scholar and a PI on an NIH NIDDK R21 grant. These awards support her measurement and intervention development research focused on adolescents' health literacy and health behaviors. Fleary is the co-founder/co-chair of the Child and Family Health Literacy Special Interest Group of the International Health Literacy Association. Her scholarship has been published in *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, *American Journal of Health Behavior*, *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, and *Appetite*.

Professor McDermott is an environmental epidemiologist who joins us from the University of South Carolina School of Public Health. During her career she has applied epidemiology, biostatistics, and health services research methods to answer questions about risk factors for neurodevelopmental disability and health outcomes for people with lifelong disability. Dr. McDermott has maintained an active research agenda that is two-pronged. The first focal area is discovery of chemical and infectious risk factors during pregnancy associated with neurodevelopmental outcomes in children. Her second focal area is understanding the intersection of health and disability in order to discover ways people with lifelong disability can maintain or regain optimal health and to develop and evaluate health promotion strategies that are protective. McDermott is the co-editor of the *Disability and Health Journal* which is in its twelfth year. She has over 130 peer reviewed publications and is the Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator on three active grants that are funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



4 | Ensuring student success

The background of the slide is a solid blue color. Overlaid on this is a large, low-poly sphere that appears to be composed of many small, translucent triangles. The sphere is positioned in the lower half of the frame, with its top edge curving upwards towards the right. The triangles are in various shades of blue and teal, creating a textured, crystalline effect. In the bottom right corner, there is a small white rectangular area.

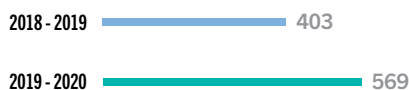
Our increased investment in student services is paying off. Student satisfaction with our dedicated staff advisement has nearly doubled in just three years, and more students than ever are taking advantage of our writing and quantitative skills tutoring service.

New data driven protocols now enable us to identify and reach out to 100 percent of students who are struggling and intervene early to keep them on track and graduating on time. Our Office of Experiential Learning is seeing increased satisfaction in fieldwork placements from both students and preceptors.

Dedicated Staff Advising

The number of dedicated staff advising sessions with students for Fall 2019-Spring 2020 jumped over 40 percent from the previous year.

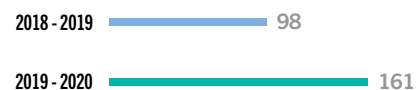
of Advising sessions



Quantitative skills tutoring

Students are flocking to our highly effective quantitative skills tutoring service. Uptake increased by 64 percent over the previous year.

of Tutoring sessions



Experiential Learning: Fieldwork

Student satisfaction with fieldwork placements continues to grow; ratings went from 6.3 (of a maximum score of 7) in fall 2018 to 6.7 in fall 2019. Ninety seven (97) percent of students would recommend their placement site to other students. Fieldwork preceptor satisfaction also increased, with 85 percent willing to host another student in the future, up from 80 percent in fall 2018.

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences student Jovana Radosavljevic assesses radiation levels in Grand Central Station



5 | Supporting students through an unprecedented spring

Mitigating disruption during the transition to online instruction

In March of 2020, COVID-19 necessitated our abrupt transition from a curriculum characterized by flexible, mixed modalities to 100 percent online instruction.

Faculty, administrators, and staff worked swiftly to bolster online teaching and learning skills, expand technical support across the board, and provide a steady, clear communications process that kept the entire community informed.



We asked students who were enrolled in face-to-face courses to share their impression of that sudden conversion.

How would you describe your transition from face-to-face to online learning amidst the outbreak of this pandemic?

91% rated their experience as excellent, very good, or satisfactory.

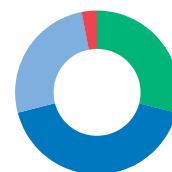
Excellent	19%
Very Good	38%
Satisfactory	33%
Poor	9%



How would you rate the School's performance in moving courses online following the government mandate?

97% rated the School's performance as excellent, very good, or satisfactory.

Excellent	29%
Very Good	43%
Satisfactory	26%
Poor	3%



The Student Emergency Fund: A Safety Net in a Time of COVID

Back in April, the CUNY SPH Foundation reached out to its networks to provide urgent relief for our students to help them pay bills, put food on the table, and continue their public health education amidst the economic fallout of COVID-19.



Friends of CUNY SPH quickly came together over three short days and raised more than \$56,000 for the Student Emergency Fund. We are heartened by the outpouring of support, and grateful for every donor who supported our students during this challenging time.

Student Emergency Fund grants have enabled dozens of students to stay in school and complete their public health training by helping to fund basic needs such as overdue rent or utility bills, medical costs, transportation, and groceries. As acute emergencies became chronic situations for many students, the CUNY SPH Foundation Board of Directors lifted the cap on funding to ensure that the money raised reached those facing financial uncertainty.

One recipient, an MPH student on the Health Policy and Management track, found relief through the Student Emergency Fund after being laid off from her job during the height of the COVID-19 outbreak. “Unfortunately, the funds from the severance package were running out and I did not have enough money for next month’s rent,” she said. “The Emergency Fund grant

covered my rent, and I could breathe easier for the next month. I greatly appreciated the support provided by CUNY SPH in my time of need. It gave me hope and strength during a very stressful time in my life.”

The majority of CUNY SPH students rely on full or part-time jobs to fund their graduate education, and many are the head of their households with families to support. For one MPH student in the Community Health program, the grant meant the difference between continuing her studies and taking a leave of absence to support her child who has special needs.

“As a single mother with a special needs child, I already carry a heavy financial burden,” she explained. “My difficulties were compounded when I suffered a medical emergency requiring hospitalization and incurred related expenses unexpectedly in March 2020. Additionally, the COVID-19 crisis added a financial burden when the meager amount of child support I receive had evaporated and the closure of schools required me to purchase school supplies and therapy materials to support his academic and therapy needs at home. The unexpected

financial assistance in the form of the Student Emergency Fund was a godsend. It allowed me to take care of these expenses without taking out a loan or taking a leave of absence from school in order to address the urgent financial need. The grant was instrumental in allowing me to continue my progress towards my degree without interruption, and I am very grateful to the CUNY SPH Foundation for creating this fund to support students in crisis.”

CUNY SPH depends on the generosity of private donors to keep this program funded and ready to support students when they need it most. In just the first three months since the height of the pandemic in New York City, more than \$28,000 in emergency grants was awarded to alleviate the financial emergencies of over 30 CUNY SPH students. The Student Emergency Fund Committee continues to review applications and award grants on a rolling basis.

To learn more, visit:
http://cunysph.me/emerg_fund

Fostering resiliency: Sherry Adams, LCSW

Less than a month after licensed clinical social worker Sherry Adams joined CUNY SPH, COVID-19 appeared on the horizon.

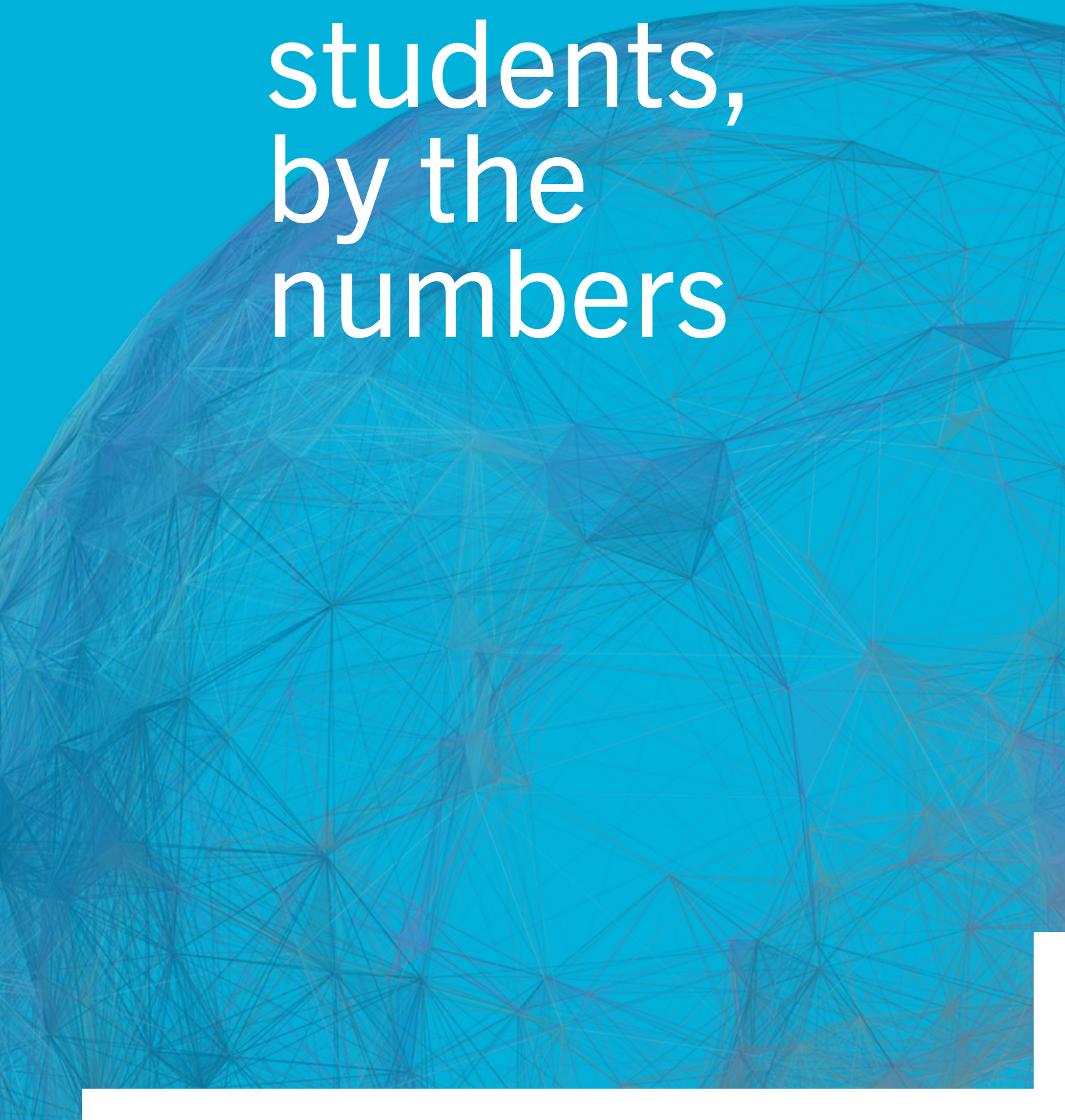
As our School community faced the triple onslaught of the pandemic, the resulting economic crisis, and nationwide protests against racial injustice, she moved into action quickly, setting up a HIPAA-compliant Zoom account for virtual one-on-one counseling, organizing town hall events to bring students together and learn about the challenges they were facing, and creating a workshop series on Remaining Resilient During the COVID-19 Pandemic, with sessions devoted to stress management and attending to grief. She established support groups for Frontline Health Workers and Students for Racial Justice, which met regularly throughout the spring and summer.

Sherry has over twelve years of experience in the field of social work, addressing the needs of culturally diverse clients in schools, hospitals, community-based organizations, and intensive outpatient programs for substance abuse treatment. She has facilitated programs aimed at teaching life skills, including a therapeutic creative writing group and psychoeducational groups such as Skills Training in Affective Interpersonal Regulation (S.T.A.I.R.). Sherry is trained in Cognitive Processing Therapy, an evidence-based modality used to treat PTSD.

“I’m here to offer support to anyone who may be experiencing heightened anxiety related to COVID-19,” says Sherry. “Please don’t hesitate to reach out.”



6 | Our students, by the numbers





TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT

26.7% INCREASE
BETWEEN 2018
AND 2019



TOTAL ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM

MPH

Community Health	132
Environmental and Occupational Health	47
Epidemiology and Biostatistics	84
Health Policy and Management	174
Public Health Nutrition	54

MS

Population Health Informatics	17
Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences	36

PhD

Community Health and Health Policy	48
Environmental and Planetary Health Science	9
Epidemiology	27

DPH

Community, Society, and Health	7
Environmental and Occupational Health	7
Epidemiology	4
Health Policy and Management	8

Nutrition and Dietetic Internship	11
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Advanced Certificate

Public Health	73
Industrial Hygiene	8

STUDENTS EMPLOYED FULL AND PART TIME



STUDENTS ATTENDING FULL TIME VS PART TIME



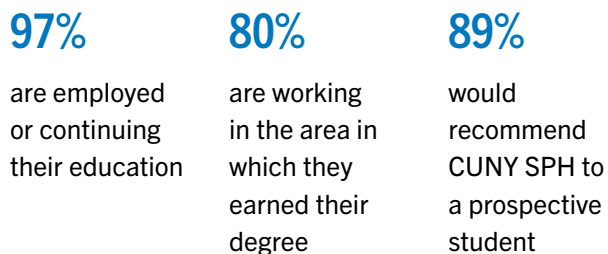
GRADUATION RATES



AVERAGE YEARS TO COMPLETE DEGREE



ALUMNI OUTCOMES ONE YEAR AFTER GRADUATION

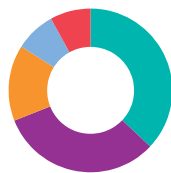


A look at CUNY SPH Fall 2019-Spring 2020 matriculants

Diverse in age, race/ethnicity, gender, and background

Age

< 25	37%
25-30	33%
31-35	15%
36-40	8%
> 41	8%



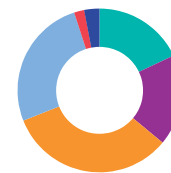
Gender

Female	77%
Male	23%



Race / Ethnicity

Hispanic	18%
Asian	18%
Black	33%
White	26%
2+ races	2%
Unspecified	3%



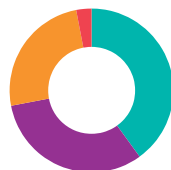
Previous Institution

CUNY	34%
SUNY	4%
Other	62%



Previous Degree

Health/Medical	39%
Social Science	32%
Natural Sciences	25%
Business/Other	3%





7

THE CUNY SPH FOUNDATION BOARD

Fulfilling a commitment to excellence

In its sophomore year, the CUNY SPH Foundation's leadership sought to reaffirm its commitment to students and the school. Thematically, the Board of Directors manifested this commitment in three ways: increasing student opportunities, partnership within the school, and setting mission and objective focus to guide the foundation over the next several years.

Despite the challenges of fundraising during a global pandemic, the CUNY SPH Foundation has had a remarkable year of growth and progress, raising over \$750,000 to support our students through scholarships and emergency funds, introduce new career-building programs and fieldwork opportunities, and launch the school's first-ever philanthropic initiative to promote enhanced community health in Harlem.

To maintain a strong foothold in the application of public health, CUNY SPH welcomed five dynamic individuals to our Board of Directors:

Gil Addo, *Co-Founder and CEO of RubiconMD*

Toyin Ajayi, *Co-founder and Chief Health Officer of Cityblock Health*

Saqib Rahim, *Strategy & Innovation, Immunology Data Science at Johnson & Johnson and Board-Certified Attending Physician at New York Presbyterian*

Ken Shubin Stein, *Founder and Chair of Spencer Capital Holdings*

Ruth Wooden, *marketing and public policy communications professional and Former President of Public Agenda.*

These new members will advocate for the school and help to grow the school's reach in the philanthropic and business communities, as well as to increase the representation of public health interests on the board. With their broad range of expertise in the areas of digital health, business and finance, community health, and marketing, this group has collectively doubled the size of our Board to further deepen our impact on the school and students.

With a pledge to raise funds, the foundation also fulfilled its promise to invest. The board distributed over \$145,000 to students in the form of new scholarships, student support funds, and fieldwork placements that enhance opportunities for students to learn and grow in their careers. CUNY SPH



NEW MEMBER **Gil Addo**



NEW MEMBER **Toyin Ajayi**

Board Chairman Dr. Lyndon Haviland and the Community Health and Health Policy doctoral program welcomed Erinn Bacchus, MPH, as the school's inaugural Haviland Fellow in Migrant Health. Additionally, 10 new students were welcomed into the Industrial Hygiene MS program through the New York Community Trust Scholarship.

Throughout the year, the foundation worked to grow and nurture programs within the school. In February, we welcomed Deborah Levine, LCSW, ACSW, as the full-time Director for the

NEW MEMBER **Saquib Rahim**NEW MEMBER **Ken Shubin Stein**NEW MEMBER **Ruth Wooden**

Harlem Health Initiative, the school's first-ever philanthropic venture to support community health in Harlem. Thanks to a two-year grant from the Booth Ferris Foundation and generous support from CUNY SPH, the Harlem Health Initiative (HHI) kicked off a robust first year of planning and is playing an integral role in supporting the public health of the Harlem community in the wake of COVID-19. The Dean's Advisory is playing an advisory role on the HHI. Additional efforts to bolster public health programming took shape with Healthy CUNY's work to understand and evaluate food security programs on CUNY campuses, and with the Urban Food Policy Institute's initiative to understand and evaluate food security programs and to train students as advocates for food justice.

When the pandemic abruptly closed businesses, threatened jobs, and demanded an unprecedented shift to fully remote learning and working, the board rallied their networks and raised over \$56,000 in 36 hours for the Student Emer-

gency Fund thanks to an outpouring of support from high-profile donors, faculty, friends, and alumni. Since April, these funds have enabled dozens of CUNY SPH students to stay in school by providing financial support for basic needs such as housing costs, medical bills, and groceries.

At the final meeting of the 2020 academic year, the Board of Directors restated its mission to *promote the School's mission and value as New York City's public school for public health through fundraising, and to champion the students and alumni we serve as they embark in public health careers.*

In the year ahead, the board will focus its attention on the critical areas of scholarship, emergency funding and workforce readiness to ensure students can afford their education, remain in school without worry of acute financial emergencies, and be competitive in the workforce after graduation. ”

In the year ahead, the board will focus its attention on the critical areas of scholarship, emergency funding and workforce readiness to ensure students can afford their education, remain in school without worry of acute financial emergencies and be competitive in the workforce after graduation.

The Foundation is grateful to the individuals and organizations who believed in the work and supported them throughout the year. Together, we continue to further the mission, vision, and values of CUNY SPH as New York City's only public school of public health.

8 | Sustaining dramatic growth in research



Research and Service

CUNY SPH faculty research spans the domains of infectious disease, chronic disease, mental health and substance abuse, migrant and refugee health, genomics, maternal and reproductive health, and environmental health, to name just a few. Our approach is interdisciplinary and examines health over the life-course at levels from the molecular to the societal, and is conducted through a lens of social justice.

Total research expenditures rose substantially this year, to nearly \$13M, a 25 percent increase over the previous year.

Total research awards, at \$16.7M, promise even greater growth in the year to come. We saw robust activity across all faculty ranks.

Total award amount in 2019-2020

Assistant Professor	\$1,396,637
Associate Professor	\$5,489,099
Full Professor	\$9,849,336
All	\$16,735,072



Faculty research generates invaluable employment and learning opportunities for our students, allowing them to practice hands-on public health through data collection, instrument development, data analysis and manuscript preparation. More than 40 percent of our research employees were our own students.

Shaping careers through research opportunities

An accomplished NYC chef with a passion for food justice, *Lauren Rauh* made a decision in 2018 to change her career and pursue a master's degree in public health.



Lauren Rauh with home office mate Junebug

In her first year at CUNY SPH, she leapt at the chance to engage in research and advocacy with the CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute and the Healthy CUNY initiative. But after taking Distinguished Lecturer Scott Ratzan's *Multisectoral Engagement for Sustainable Health: Local to Global Development, Implementation and Measurement* course during her second year, she became interested in health literacy and took a position as Ratzan's research assistant. Fascinated and compelled by the issue of vaccine hesitancy and its impact on populations, she decided to do her master's thesis on the topic.

Then COVID-19 hit New York City, and Ratzan worked with Dean Ayman El-Mohandes and others to quickly field a weekly survey to assess how New Yorkers were being affected by the pandemic. Rauh swiftly became a player in this effort, working with the team to design new survey questions each week in response to the rapidly changing circumstances, analyzing the data, and producing

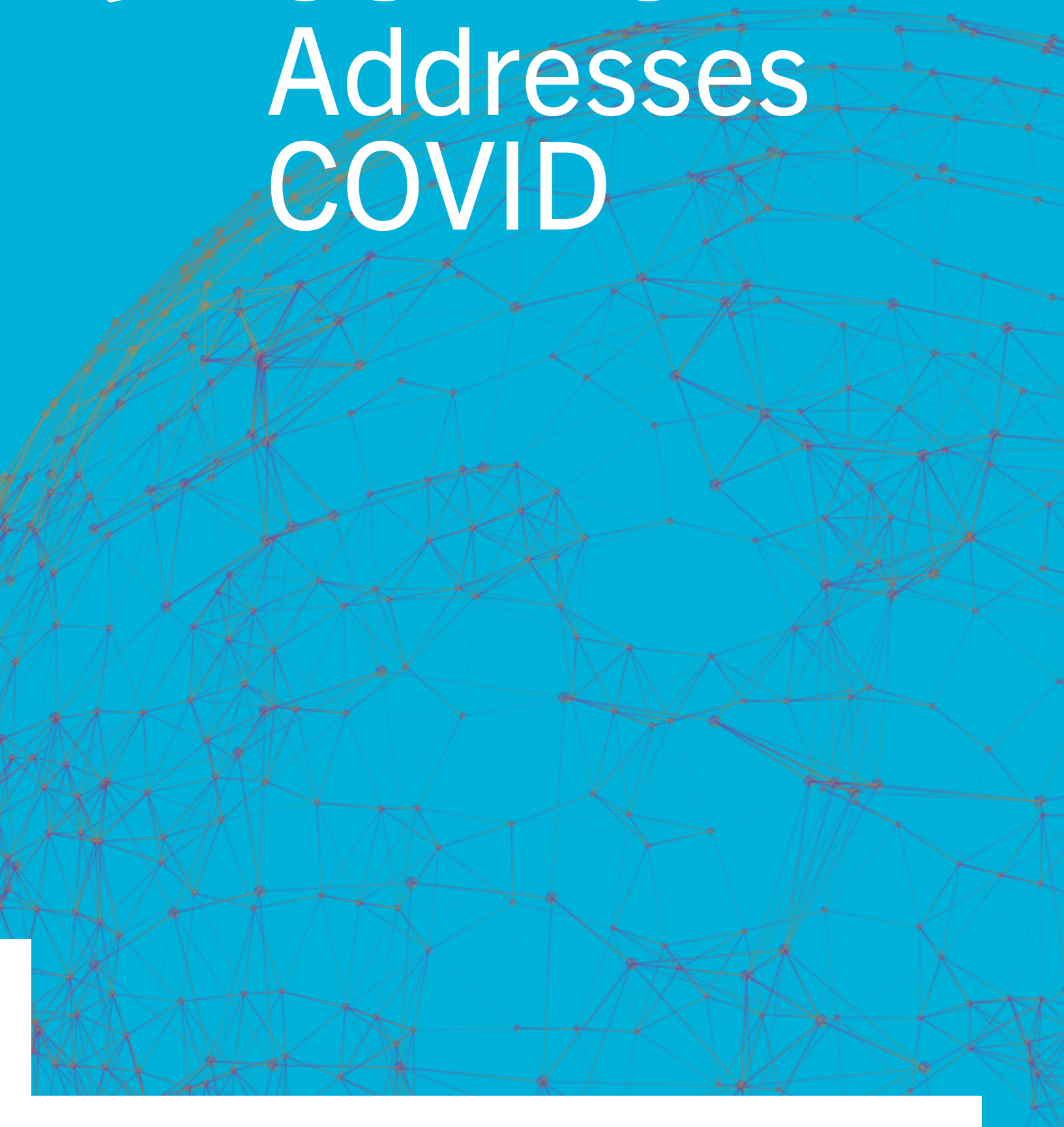
weekly press releases from March through June. At her Spring 2020 graduation, Rauh received the Dean's Award for Commitment. Her master's thesis described the process and procedure of coordinating and implementing a public health public opinion poll during a crisis. She is co-author on an op-ed in the *American Journal of Public Health* about the health disparities revealed by the weekly survey, with more papers in the pipeline. As a graduate, Rauh continues to work with Ratzan. Among their current projects is convening a global coalition to build confidence in a COVID-19 vaccine. Known as CONVINCE, this collaboration will focus on producing tools to build trust and vaccine literacy.

"My time at CUNY SPH exceeded all my expectations, mostly because of the students and faculty I've had the pleasure of learning and working with," says Rauh. "I've found nothing but enriching and welcoming opportunities here, and I have confidence in my ability to chart a new and impactful career path."

My time at CUNY SPH exceeded all my expectations, mostly because of the students and faculty I've had the pleasure of learning and working with.

”

9 | CUNY SPH Addresses COVID





Assessing COVID-19's impact on populations

COVID-19 Tracking Survey: Beginning in March of this year, CUNY SPH has been leading a tracking survey to assess how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the lives of New Yorkers. The survey, which paused at the end of June, will resume in September and continue through January.

CHASING COVID: CUNY SPH and the Institute for Implementation Science in Population Health (CUNY ISPH) launched the Communities, Households and SARS/COV-2 Epidemiology (CHASING) COVID study to track the U.S. public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

TEACCH: Researchers from the Institute for Implementation Science in Population Health (CUNY ISPH) launched a national study to understand how schools and districts are preparing for remote or in-person instruction in the upcoming school year, and how educators feel about the instructional and safety plans.

Applying systems science and computer modeling to COVID-19

Professor Bruce Y. Lee and his Public Health Informatics, Computational, and Operations Research (PHICOR) team have been developing various computer models to help with decision making and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, a computer simulation model estimated the cost of medical expenses if different proportions of the U.S. population were to be infected with COVID-19. The PHICOR team also developed a computational model simulating the spread of the virus in the U.S. which found that a vaccine would have to be at least 80 percent effective to largely extinguish an epidemic.

Selected Policy Op-eds

Time to revive New York? No, it's still way too risky, and will bring disease and death. In a *New York Daily News* cover story in May, Dean Ayman El-Mohandes argued against reopening New York City without sufficient testing and contact-tracing capacity.

Keeping governments accountable: the COVID-19 Assessment Scorecard (COVID-SCORE). In *Nature Medicine* Dean Ayman El-Mohandes, Distinguished Lecturer Scott Ratzan, and others propose a system to assess governments' responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public health leaders call for coordinated communication response. In an editorial for the National Academy of Medicine's *Perspectives*, Distinguished Lecturer Scott Ratzan called for informed and active public policy leadership to employ strategically coordinated health communication and outreach on COVID-19 and other emerging global health threats.

What we've learned from the HIV pandemic. In an op-ed for CNN Distinguished Professor Denis Nash and HIV activist James Krellenstein apply lessons learned from the HIV pandemic to the current coronavirus pandemic.

Read more online

<https://sph.cuny.edu/research/working-to-address-covid-19/>

Confidence in a COVID-19 Vaccine

Business Partners to CONVINCE:

Distinguished Lecturer Scott Ratzan, as executive director of Business Partners for Sustainable Development (BPSD), helped launch a global communication and education initiative to promote COVID-19 vaccine acceptance among private sector employers and employees.

Combating food insecurity

Expanding food benefits during COVID:

The WT Grant Foundation and the Spencer Foundation have jointly awarded a grant to the Urban Food Policy Institute at CUNY SPH to study successful strategies for expanding enrollment, benefits, access, and impact of food benefit programs such as SNAP, WIC, and School Meals in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expanding SNAP to online grocery shopping:

In a study published in the journal *Sustainability*, Associate Professor Nevin Cohen examined the adoption of online grocery shopping by New York City public housing residents using SNAP benefits and the potential cost and time savings that result.

COVID-19's outsize impact on frontline healthcare workers

Large cohort study measures risk of COVID-19 infection among front-line healthcare workers:

A prospective population-based study of over two million healthcare workers by the Coronavirus Pandemic Epidemiology Consortium, including CUNY SPH Distinguished Professor Denis Nash, found that front-line healthcare workers were at substantially increased risk for reporting a positive COVID-19 test.

Read more online

<https://sph.cuny.edu/research/working-to-address-covid-19/>

CUNY SPH board member on the front

lines: Foundation Board Member and physician Dr. Saquib Rahim sat down with CUNY SPH to discuss life on the front lines of the pandemic at New York Presbyterian Hospital in Queens.

Gauging the origins of the pandemic

Fight Pandemics Like Wildfires. In an editorial for *Foreign Affairs*, 2020 doctoral graduate Catherine Machalaba called for a more unified international response to pandemics such as COVID-19.

Study shows NYC COVID-19 outbreak had European and U.S. origins:

Researchers including CUNY SPH PhD student Brianne Ciferri conducted the first molecular epidemiology study of SARS-CoV-2, which showed that the outbreak in New York City arose mostly through untracked transmission between the United States and Europe.

Not an equal opportunity pandemic

Exploring COVID-19 health disparities using spatial analysis:

For a study published in the *Journal of Urban Health*, faculty Andrew Maroko and Brian Pavilonis examined the spatial and demographic nature of reported SARS-CoV-2 diagnoses in New York City and Chicago as of April 13, 2020.

Focusing Beyond Disparities In Patient Outcomes:

CUNY SPH doctoral student Jacqueline Chiofalo won this year's Academy Health Disparities Interest Group student essay contest with an editorial urging greater research focus on structural and process measures of health to allow for comparisons between institutions.

My face shield, mask and hospital scrubs cannot protect me.

In an op-ed for CNN, CUNY SPH doctoral student and DACA recipient Juan Carlos (JC) Alejandre shares his experience working at the Emergency Department at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center during the height of the pandemic.



Student provides PPE

In April, CUNY SPH student and president of the Graduate Student Government Association **Pavan Lohia** (above) teamed up with colleagues on a fundraiser to provide personal protective equipment to frontline healthcare workers and first responders, raising over \$7,000. They delivered surgical masks, 3D printed reusable mMask kits, gallons of hand sanitizer and more to hospitals and agencies in New York, New Jersey, Washington DC, and Maryland, among others. "Despite being on the frontline myself, there are many people who need help all over," Lohia said. "I just wanted to help those on the frontline and share an uplifting moment in the midst of this pandemic."

Lohia graduated in June with an MPH in Community Health.

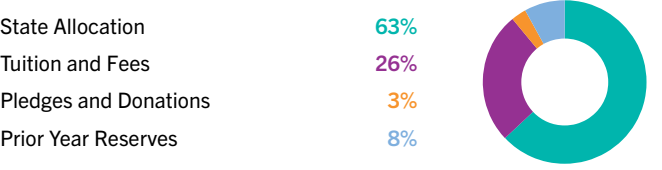
Our total tax levy budget for 2019-2020 was \$24,575,036. Sixty three percent of that budget came from our New York State allocation.

As such, we consider ourselves accountable to the taxpayers of New York City and New York State. This shapes our mission as a *public* school of public health, committed to educate New York’s future public health workforce and to conduct the research that helps inform public health policy in our state and beyond.

Consistent with past years, the majority of our tax levy spending in 2019-2020 was on personnel, with the greatest portion of that going to faculty.

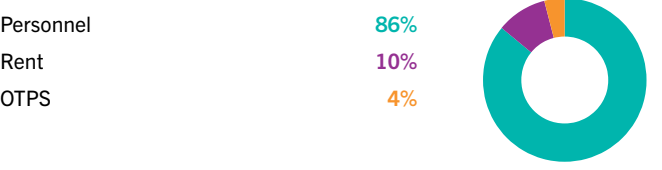
Where did our tax levy funding come from in 2019-2020?

Sources of tax levy administered funds

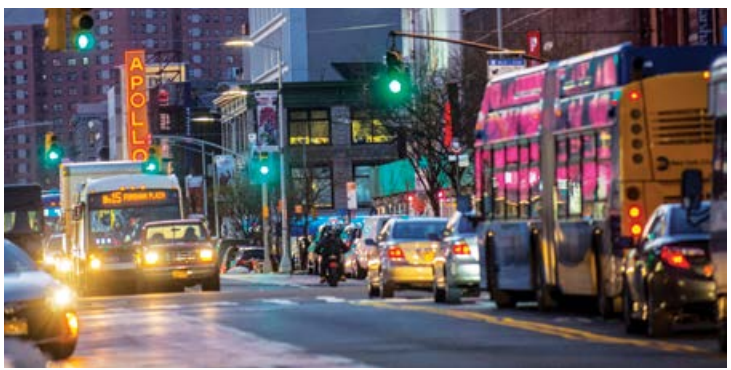
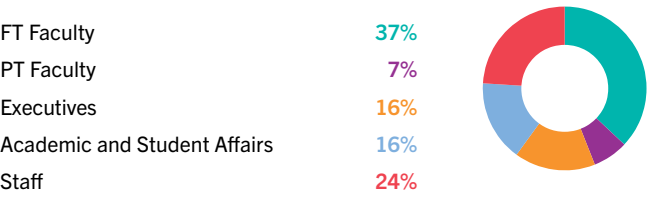


How did we spend it?

Expenditure breakdown



Personnel expenditure breakdown



Appendix

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