



MAY 30, 2023 | 2:00 – 5:00 PM

COMMENCEMENT

— 2023 —

THE APOLLO THEATER

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

DEAN'S MESSAGE

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. Mohamed Attalla
*Vice Chancellor of Facilities Planning,
Construction and Management of
the City University of New York*

Dr. Herminia Palacio
CUNY Trustee

Michael Meng
*Co-founder & Chief Executive
Officer of Stellar Health,
Treasurer of the CUNY SPH
Foundation Board of Directors*

HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Peter Jay Hotez, MD, PhD

DEAN'S CHAMPION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

Richard N. Gottfried
*Retired New York State Assembly
Member, Former chair of the New York
State Assembly Health Committee*

GRADUATE HONORS

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

Pavan Lohia
*President of the Epsilon Chi Chapter,
MPH Class of '20*

FACULTY HONORS

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

Julia Green

PROGRAM (CONT.)

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

Emma Tsui

*Interim Chair, Department of
Community Health and Social Sciences*

Ilias Kavouras

*Chair, Department of
Environmental, Occupational,
and Geospatial Health Sciences*

Elizabeth Kelvin

*Chair, Department of Epidemiology
and Biostatistics*

Betsy Eastwood

*Interim Chair, Department of
Health Policy and Management*

PRESENTATION OF MASTER'S GRADUATES

Lynn Roberts

*Associate Dean for Student
Affairs and Alumni Relations*

PUBLIC HEALTH PLEDGE

CUNY SPH graduates,
led by **Richard N. Gottfried**,
*Retired New York State Assembly
Member, Former chair of the New York
State Assembly Health Committee*

REMARKS FROM THE GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Zaire Ali

GSGA Vice President

ALUMNI NETWORK WELCOME

Pavan Lohia

MPH Class of '20

CLOSING REMARKS

Ayman El-Mohandes

Dean

HONORARY DOCTORAL AWARDEE AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Peter Jay Hotez

*Dean, National School of Tropical
Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine*

Peter J. Hotez, MD, PhD is dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine and professor of pediatrics and molecular virology & microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine where he is also co-director of the Texas Children's Center for Vaccine Development (CVD) and Texas Children's Hospital endowed chair of tropical pediatrics. He is also university professor at Baylor University, fellow in disease and poverty at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, senior fellow at the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs at Texas A&M University, faculty fellow with the Hagler Institute for Advanced Studies at Texas A&M University, and health policy scholar at the Baylor Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy.

Dr. Hotez is an internationally recognized physician-scientist in neglected tropical diseases and vaccine development. As co-director of the Texas Children's CVD, he leads a team and product development partnership for developing new vaccines for diseases affecting hundreds of millions of children and adults worldwide, while championing access to vaccines globally and in the U.S.

He obtained his undergraduate degree in molecular biophysics from Yale University in 1980, followed by a PhD degree in biochemistry



from Rockefeller University in 1986, and an MD from Weil Cornell Medical College in 1987.

Dr. Hotez is founding editor-in-chief of PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases. In 2006 at the Clinton Global Initiative he co-founded the Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases to provide access to essential medicines for hundreds of millions of people. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine (Public Health Section) and the American Academy of Arts & Sciences (Public Policy Section). He served in the Obama Administration from 2014-2016 as U.S. envoy, focusing on vaccine diplomacy initiatives.

In 2022 Hotez and his colleague Dr. Maria Elena Bottazzi were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for “their work to develop and distribute a low-cost COVID-19 vaccine to people of the world without patent limitation.”

DEAN'S CHAMPION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

Richard N. Gottfried

Retired New York State Assembly Member; Former chair, New York State Assembly Health Committee

Richard N. Gottfried retired as a member of the New York State Assembly in December 2022. He had chaired the New York State Assembly Committee on Health since 1987. He was a Democrat representing a Manhattan district including Chelsea, Hell's Kitchen, Midtown and part of the Upper West Side. He was first elected to the Assembly in 1970 at the age of 23, while in law school, and served in the Assembly for 52 years. He was the longest-serving member of the Legislature in New York State history.

Gottfried worked to protect funding for Medicaid, community health centers, school health clinics and other health concerns, and to create and expand public health insurance programs in New York, including Child Health Plus and the Essential Plan. He sponsored the New York Health Act to create a universal "improved Medicare for all" single-payer health plan for the state. He was a leading proponent of patient autonomy and reproductive freedom. He sponsored the law to allow medical use of marijuana in New York and the HIV Testing and Confidentiality Law.

Gottfried's legislative work included promoting primary and preventive care; creating and expanding the Child Health Plus program, the Health



Care Proxy Law and the Family Health Care Decisions Act; managing care reforms; giving patients access to information about a doctor's background and malpractice record; establishing midwifery as a licensed profession; insurance coverage for midwife services and expanding and strengthening the professional stature of nurse practitioners, physician assistants and midwives.

He is a graduate of Cornell University (BA, 1968) and Columbia Law School (JD, 1973). He is licensed to practice law in New York but did not maintain a private practice; his only occupation was assembly member. He is a member of the New York Academy of Medicine, the National Academy for State Health Policy, the Public Health Association of New York City, the New York Civil Liberties Union and the China Institute.

GRADUATE HONORS

VALEDICTORIAN AND DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Julia Greene

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Lara Balick

Madelyn Carlson

Pasani Dharmasena

Hannah Grunfeld

Victoria Isquith

Abigail Lyons

Gerald Mastroianni

Mukta Mohnani

Elizabeth Orlandini

Chelsea Rose

Shawon Shahriar

Victoria Sunseri

Nina Zadushlivy

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR COMMITMENT

Kimberley Mitchell

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR RESEARCH

Daniela Cruz Salazar

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR SERVICE

Tracy Sun

Ann Winters

DEAN'S DISSERTATION AWARD

Claudia Calhoun
(QUALITATIVE)

Christina Nieves
(QUANTITATIVE)

DEAN'S DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Community Health
and Social Sciences

Anna Szilagyi

Environmental,
Occupational,
and Geospatial
Health Sciences

Nicholas Dalzell

Epidemiology
and Biostatistics

Madelyn Carlson

Health Policy
and Management

Pasani Dharmasena

FACULTY HONORS

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR TEACHING

Pedro Mateu-Gelabert

*Associate Professor of Community
Health and Social Sciences (Senior)*

Mustafa Hussein

*Assistant Professor of Health Policy
and Management (Junior)*

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR MENTORSHIP

Kathleen Cravero

*Distinguished Lecturer of Health
Policy and Management*

Suzanne McDermott

*Professor of Environmental, Occupational,
and Geospatial Health Science*

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR RESEARCH

Nevin Cohen

*Associate Professor of Health Policy
and Management (Senior)*

Chloe Teasdale

*Assistant Professor of Epidemiology
and Biostatistics (Junior)*

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Sasha Fleary

*Associate Professor of Community
Health and Social Sciences*

DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COMMUNITY, SOCIETY, AND HEALTH

Mary Cheruvillil

A mixed methods approach to understanding the links between mining, climate change and selected health outcomes in India

Wendy Vaughn

Understanding disruptive change in health care: Perspectives from the front lines of COVID

DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Sarah Walters

Evaluation of a place-based asthma reduction initiative on asthma-related morbidity among children in East Harlem and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health care utilization and medication adherence among Medicaid-enrolled children

DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Claudia Calhoon

The health impacts of the Trump Administration among California immigrants

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PUBLIC HEALTH

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HEALTH POLICY

Vivian Cortes

Nothing about youth without youth: Involving youth in participatory action research conducted with health departments

Carlos Devia

Obesity risk and comorbidities among Colombians in New York City and in Colombia

Tailisha Gonzalez

Working conditions, Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, and health behaviors in Latino and other minoritized groups living in the United States

Lillian Mehran

I stayed there the whole night: Exploring caregivers' experiences with the healthcare system when caring for a parent at the end of life

Emilia Vignola

Investigating and mitigating the harmful impact of precarious employment on the health and well-being of New York City food workers

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PUBLIC HEALTH

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Kezhen Fei

Effect of BMI, testosterone, and insulin on breast cancer—a Mendelian randomization study

Chloe Mirzayi

Improving microbiome research through enhanced reporting and modeling the effects of antibiotic usage

Christina Nieves Δ

Inequalities In infant birthweight by social position and residential neighborhood characteristics In New York City, 2012-2018

**MASTER OF
PUBLIC HEALTH IN
COMMUNITY HEALTH**

Sadia Alam
 Meena Ardebili
 Avery Arsenia-
 Armstrong
 Mercedes Azcona
 Hernandez
 Yaas Azmoudeh
 Lara Balick Δ
 Elise Ballan
 Sarah Bargnesi Δ
 Pratiksha Basnet-
 Rayamajhi
 Talia Baurer
 Heidi Bayer
 Sara Birnel
 Henderson Δ
 Kailyn Broughton
 Grisel Campbell
 Andrea Carazas
 Mary Carrion
 Jessica Carruthers
 Juliana Cavalcanti
 Campos
 Tyler Chan
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 Nancy Deleon
 Rachel Donaldson
 Asmaa Fajri
 Daniel Farrokh
 Cara Frances Δ
 Skylar Gill

Amanda Gottlieb Δ
 Jalelah Graham
 Derrecia Graham
 Hannah
 Grunfeld Δ
 Kori Hambric
 Gabrielle
 Hernandez
 Annaclete Hilton
 Darrel Isaac
 Mhina Johnbaptiste
 Carmen Jones
 Dexter Jones
 Anqa Khan
 April Koehler
 Vivian Le
 Anna Leidecker
 Carla Lewis-Peter
 Edwarden Logie
 Gena Lucien
 Hannah Marcus
 Stefanie Mignone
 Vernessa Mitchell
 Khizra Nadeem
 Elizabeth
 Orlandini Δ
 Brooke Parker
 Devjani Paul
 Ashleigh Petillo
 Nathalie Rivera
 Anjelica Romero
 Jordan Rosario
 Chelsea Rose Δ

Rachel Saunders
 Zyair Simpson
 Anusuya Singh
 Ilkia Solano
 Kimberley Sterling
 Keziah Sterling
 Anna Szilagyi
 Jana Taoube
 Neta Topor
 Aniyah Turner
 Krysta Vesely
 Evan Wilson
 Tatiana Woodburn
 Kim Woseley
 Konrad Zawojwski
 Adina Zeth
 Nicole Ziogas

**MASTER OF
PUBLIC HEALTH IN
ENVIRONMENTAL
AND OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH SCIENCES**

Brittanie Fils
 Faith Forde
 Bradley Griminger
 Estefani
 Hernandez Flores
 Amy Lau
 Maykl Mosheyev
 Terene Neptune
 Dahiana Pimentel

**MASTER OF
PUBLIC HEALTH IN
EPIDEMIOLOGY AND
BIostatISTICS**

Ansu Abraham
 Sanjidha Akhthar
 Madelyn Carlson Δ
 Sagar Changela
 Sharmila Chunduri
 Christina Day
 Joyessa Dey
 Archana Dwivedi
 Magdalini
 Galanopoulos
 Aliyah Gayle
 Antonia Handy
 Kelly Hedger
 Tangirul Islam
 Tasmia Kabir
 Ifeanyi Kalu
 Shweta Karki
 Abigail Lyons Δ
 Elyse Maister Δ
 Emanuel Mejia
 Laura Moen
 Mukta Mohnani Δ
 Jumoke Opeyemi
 Priya Phatak
 Jacqueline Ryder Δ
 Leyra Santiago
 Rivera
 Rosemarie Sapigao
 Fahmid Sarwar

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Jessica Shudy | Jason Felder | Ryan Martinez | Jordan Smilan-Goldstein Δ |
| Michalah Simon-Chae | Farahnaz Ferreira | Bradley Meacham | Victoria Sunseri Δ |
| Tracy Sun Δ | Rachel Ferster | Mili Mehta | Joseph Tannuzzo |
| Aysha Tabassum | Michelle Forero | Lila Menard | Asheley Taylor |
| Lucila Vilela | Angelica Foronda | Makenna Milano | Christina Torres |
| Trisha Williams | Linda Forrester | Oscar Molina | Allison VanInwegen |
| Ann Winters Δ | Jennifer Hegarty | Karielys Morales | Nicole Vasquez |
| Umadevi Yokeeswaran | Orane Henry | Kamrun Nahar | Jennifer Verna |
| Ommer Zisan | Tanisha Herrera-Pearce | Sayamatun Nayeem | Juliette Walle |
| | Ruth Hia | Jason Nietzschmann | Shanee Weir |
| | Tomisha Hicks | Megan Nilon | Keith White |
| | Chase Holiman | Tara O'Rourke | Anna Xing Δ |
| | Pharjana Hoque | Erica Onuoha | Maryem Zaki |
| | Liat Hotz | May Oo | |
| | Nija Howard | Antoine Oris Esguerra Δ | MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION |
| | Kayla Hutchings | Oluwatosin Oyewo | Madison Bohlman |
| | Sayra Ilyas | Nicole Padilla | Wing Yee Cheung Δ |
| | Victoria Isquith Δ | Kishauna Parkes | Jesmin Chowdhury |
| | Eligerta Isufi | Akash Pillai | Daniela Cruz Salazar |
| | Navneet Kaur | Joycelyn Ramnarain | Aroosha Durrani |
| | Ayele Kessouagni | Katarzyna Rodchenko | Udita Dutta |
| | Prea Khan | Vanessa Rodriguez | Paulina Espanola |
| | Destiney Kirby | Gabriela Samayoa Manzanares | Josephine Farshi |
| | Yao Kra | Catherine Sansarricq | Julia Greene Δ |
| | Vincent Law | Aashni Shah | Murielle Houssou |
| | Daniel Levy | Shawon Shahriar Δ | Satwinder Kaur |
| | Liliana Huier Li Ruan | Stacy Shapiro Δ | Sheniyah Mckoy |
| | Rima Mansour Basha | Marveen Sidhu | Madelyn Nieves |
| | Deborah Manu | | Maria Peterson |
| | Osman Mariano | | |

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Adebola Adefioye
 Alexander Ahn
 Maria Bailon
 Tess Baldwin
 Alana Bartley
 Micah Bookman
 Anna Budhu
 Kaitlyn Campbell
 Neika Chery
 Sally Chow Δ
 Mondia Chu
 Crystal Clarke
 Stephanie Correa
 Kaitlin Cox
 Andreia Da Silva
 Pasani Dharmasena Δ
 Anne Dorcilien

Shanay Porter
 Eric Ramirez
 Fanni Sampson
 Stephanie Schmeltzer
 Susan Shockett
 Jemir Toussaint
 Sabrina Venegas Suazo

**MASTER OF SCIENCE
 IN ENVIRONMENTAL
 AND OCCUPATIONAL
 HEALTH SCIENCES**

Ryan Burns
 Ryan Cirillo
 Nicholas Dalzell Δ
 Emir Garilao
 Michael Lateef Δ
 Gerald Mastroianni Δ
 Juan Pablo Medina Guevara
 Alexis Vrontakis
 Tayvon Williams
 Mohammed Zeanalabdeen

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
 GLOBAL AND MIGRANT
 HEALTH POLICY**

Alanna Cruz
 Georgio Desmornes
 Talyann Glenn

Clara Hernandez
 Pawandeep Kaur
 Maabo Kludze
 Stephanie Mao
 Mei Zhou

**MASTER OF
 SCIENCE IN HEALTH
 COMMUNICATION FOR
 SOCIAL CHANGE**

Beverly Bradley
 Denise Brauner
 Ranita Campbell
 Abigail Franken
 Anne Imbornone
 Charlene Kaloki
 Annie King Δ
 Isabel Levey-Swain Δ
 Jenny Louis-Charles
 Aida Martinez Δ
 Kimberly Mitchell
 Caroline Polacheck
 Michele Rains
 Tanja Schub Δ

**MASTER OF SCIENCE
 IN POPULATION
 HEALTH INFORMATICS**

Arjeta Balidemaj Δ
 Irene Boso
 Melissa Ditmore
 Brendan Egan Δ

Amber Finocchi
 Shanese Flemming
 Claudia Funez
 Joshua Gallo
 Tyrik Gibbs
 Alyssa Lau
 Silas Lee
 Nithula Mariam Jose Δ
 Felicia Newland
 Ilse Siguachi
 Jenille Simon
 Michael Vizcaino
 Mengting Wang
 Glory Williams
 Nina Zadushlivi Δ

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!

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*The 2023
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proudly sponsored
by the CUNY SPH
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PROMOTING HEALTH
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
IN NEW YORK CITY
AND ACROSS THE GLOBE
THROUGH INNOVATION
AND LEADERSHIP

