



COMMENCEMENT

2024

JUNE 4, 2024 | 2:00 – 5:00 PM

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 who 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

Félix V. Matos Rodríguez
Chancellor, CUNY
(RECORDED MESSAGE)

Lorraine Cortés-Vásquez
CUNY Trustee

Lyndon Haviland
*President of Lyndon Haviland and
Co. LLC, and Chair of the CUNY
SPH Foundation Board of Directors*

HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Byllye Yvonne Avery
*Founder, Black Women's
Health Imperative*

DEAN'S CHAMPION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

Alan Shapiro, MD, FAAP
*Senior Medical Director & Assistant
Professor of Pediatrics, Montefiore
Medical Center, and Chief Strategy
Officer of Terra Firma National*

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

Adrian Blader

PROGRAM (CONT.)

PRESENTATION OF DOCTORAL GRADUATES

Doctoral Program Directors

Meredith Manze

*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

*Chair of Department of Community
Health and Social Sciences*

Ilias Kavouras

*Chair of Department of
Environmental, Occupational, and
Geospatial Health Sciences, and
Interim Chair of Department of
Epidemiology and Biostatistics*

Terry Huang

*Chair of 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
Alan Shapiro, MD, FAAP,
*Senior Medical Director & Assistant
Professor of Pediatrics at Montefiore
Medical Center, and Chief Strategy
Officer of Terra Firma National*

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

Byllye Yvonne Avery

*Founder, Black Women's
Health Imperative*

Byllye Yvonne Avery, is a trailblazer in advancing sexual and reproductive justice, particularly for Black women and girls across the world.

Born on October 20, 1937 in Waynesville, Georgia, Avery spent her formative years in DeLand, Florida. After completing her Bachelor of Arts at Talladega College in Alabama, she went on to earn a Master of Arts in special education from the University of Florida in 1969. In 1970, her husband suffered a massive heart attack at the young age of 33. His tragic death propelled her lifelong passion for improving health in the Black community.

Over the years, Avery became a fierce advocate for the sexual and reproductive health of Black women, co-founding the Gainesville Women's Health Center, an abortion clinic, in 1974 and Birthplace, an alternative birth center also in Gainesville, Florida, in 1978. In 1983, she convened the first national conference on Black women's health at Spelman College, a historically Black college for women, which over 2,000 women attended. Following the conference, Avery founded the National Black Women's Health Project, now known as the Black Women's Health Imperative (BWHI), the only national



organization exclusively dedicated to improving health and wellness among Black women. The BWHI is still serving Black women and celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2023.

In addition to her activism, Avery is an educator. She has served as a visiting fellow at the Harvard School of Public Health, and co-led classes on reproductive health and advocacy in the Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health at Columbia University.

Avery has served on the Charter Advisory Committee for the Office of Research on Women's Health of the National Institutes of Health and has received numerous awards for her work, including the prestigious MacArthur Genius Award for Social Contribution, the Essence Award for Community Service, and the Audre Lorde Spirit of Fire Award from Fenway Health.

DEAN'S CHAMPION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

Alan Shapiro, MD, FAAP

Senior Medical Director & Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Montefiore Medical Center, and Chief Strategy Officer of Terra Firma National

Alan Shapiro, MD, FAAP is the Senior Medical Director of the Bronx Health Collective and Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine/ Montefiore Health Systems. In 2013, he co-founded Terra Firma, a holistic wrap-around model of service delivery that focuses on the complex needs of unaccompanied migrant children and migrant families. This model integrates legal services into the healthcare setting to improve outcomes for those served. He has been leading Terra Firma's latest response to the recent surge of newly arrived migrant families sent to NYC from the border, bringing mobile medical care directly to the shelters where migrant families are residing.

In 2021, Terra Firma National was launched, with the aim of replicating this holistic model across the country. He is currently the Chief Strategy Officer of Terra Firma National after serving as its first Executive Director.

An ardent advocate for migrant children, Dr. Shapiro has contributed to the ACLU's case against the government for separating children from their parents in a written declaration. He has also participated in humanitarian groups monitoring



the migrant detention facilities and migrant camps at the border.

He co-authored a policy statement for American Academy of Pediatrics' (2017), *Detention of Immigrant Children*. More recently he co-authored an article in the New England Journal of Medicine (2021), *When Undoing is Not Enough – Repairing Harms Inflicted on Immigrant Children*, and in the Journal of American Medical Association (2023), *Persistence of Emotional Distress in Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents Primarily From the Northern Triangle of Central America*.

He received a BS from Emory University, a doctorate of medicine from State University of NY Health Sciences Center at Brooklyn, and completed a Pediatric residency at Montefiore's Residency Program in Social Medicine in 1990.

GRADUATE HONORS

VALEDICTORIAN AND DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Adrian Blader

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Hind Akasbi

Kayla Bharat

Lauren Buscarino

Laura Clemente

Isabel Curro

Jessica Dennehy

Melani Ellison

Alexandra Kern

Jonathan Martinez

Trichelle Phillips-
Gardner

Fazel Powell

Xin Yan Zhu Jiang

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR COMMITMENT

Jose Mazariego

Anne Van der Veer

DEAN'S EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR RESEARCH

Isabel Curro

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR RESEARCH

Turner Canty

Nimra Rahman

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR SERVICE

Malika Christopher

Tala Mansi

DEAN'S DISSERTATION AWARD

Mary Cheruvillil
(MIXED METHODS)

Lauren Cybulska
(QUALITATIVE)

Sarah Pickering
(QUANTITATIVE)

DEAN'S DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Community Health
and Social Sciences

Michelle Dearolf

Environmental,
Occupational,
and Geospatial
Health Sciences

Aikaterini Stamou

Epidemiology
and Biostatistics

Valeri Schwartz

Health Policy
and Management

Rifa Ehsan

FACULTY HONORS

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR MENTORSHIP

Terry Huang
*Distinguished Professor of
Health Policy and Management*

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR RESEARCH

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

Sean Haley
*Associate Professor of
Health Policy and Management
(Junior)*

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR TEACHING

Elizabeth Kelvin
*Associate Professor of
Epidemiology and Biostatistics
(Senior)*

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

GRADUATES

Δ 4.0 GPA AND DELTA OMEGA CANDIDATE

* SPECIALIZATION IN MATERNAL, CHILD, REPRODUCTIVE, AND SEXUAL HEALTH

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

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PUBLIC HEALTH

COMMUNITY HEALTH
AND HEALTH POLICY

Helen Arteaga

Understanding influenza vaccine hesitancy and uptake among U.S. Hispanic adults during the Covid-19 pandemic

Erinn Bacchus

Strengthening U.S. jail systems' response to infectious diseases: An evaluation of the COVID-19 pandemic

Pedro Carneiro

Exploring opportunities to expand and improve PrEP uptake in vulnerable U.S. communities

Sarah Pickering *

Restoring, protecting, and expanding abortion access in the United States: Seeking consensus through the Delphi method

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PUBLIC HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL AND
PLANETARY HEALTH
SCIENCES

Lauren Cybulska

A one health approach to enhancing SARS-CoV-2 surveillance

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PUBLIC HEALTH

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Saba Qasmieh Δ

Application of methods to population-based surveys to reduce bias in estimates of SARS-CoV-2 infection burden in the population

GRADUATES (CONT.)

Δ 4.0 GPA AND DELTA OMEGA CANDIDATE

* SPECIALIZATION IN MATERNAL, CHILD, REPRODUCTIVE, AND SEXUAL HEALTH

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Annabelle
Abbadessa
Jamal Alsarraj
Nichole
Andoh-Baidoo
Fedeline Aristide
Sarah Asjad
Kathleen Barth Δ
Adrian Blader Δ
Bayan Boulad *
Claudia Brown *
Alexandra Cardia
Annette Cheng
Jennie Chenkin
Janett Chung
Nailah Cummings
Michelle Dearolf
Stephanie
Demoliere
Colleen Doherty
Shelomithe
Dorcelly
Sarah duRivage-
Jacobs *
Natalie Echavarria
Mathew Elder
Joshua Espada
Patricia Fernandez
Pinos
Fatimata Fofana *
Saira Gallo

Christiana Harry
Kara Hoaglund
Sakinah Holmes
Quinn Hood Δ
Angela Inglis
Aida Issaka
Paloma Jones
Jiffry Kolonda
Logan Lyons
Jennifer
MacMartin
Tala Mansi *
Dejah Mayfield
Brennan Meagher
Leslie Melo
Juan Mendieta
Valeria
Michailovich Δ
Marc Miller
Laura Moya
Adames
Bernice
Obiri-yeboah
Chalia Orellana
Herrera
Jasmine Parks
Pankti Patel
Siana Perez
Dominique Perkins
Trichelle Phillips-
Gardner Δ
Marie Piersaint
Nimra Rahman
Bisma Rahman

Anna Raykov
Arthur Registre
Maryam Roosta
Bonnibel Rosario
Sandra Rubio
Cinthy
Salcedo Farro
Tishonie Sam
Sara Shakkour
Whitney Stan
Francesca
Theodore
Tasnim Tisha
Rushna
Tubassum Δ
Alexandra Ullrich
Anne Van
der Veer Δ
Ingrid Williams
Sarah Wurzer Δ

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES

Kayla Bharat Δ
Siddharth Dholiya
Amy Ferry
Bhumikaben
Gondaliya
Jose Gonzalez
Victoria Jones
Athanasios
Kamberis
Nicholas Lupo
Ellison Mellor Δ

Howard Miller
Suzanne Myklebust
Folashade
Olatunbosun
Sange Palden
MD Rahman
Michael Reitano
Jafrin Sultana
Dedeou Toure
Xin Yan
Zhu Jiang Δ

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIOSTATISTICS

Arwa Abdelhamid
Rinol Alaj
Jasmine Amigon
Stephanie Arbelaez
Danya Birnbaum
Lauren
Buscarino Δ
Kinsey Cantrell Δ
Doris Chiu
Jin Choi
Stella Chong Δ *
Sheetal Chowdhary
Melissa Compaore
Isabel Curro Δ
Rebecca Gordon
Dawa Gyentsang
Sahar Hamid
Siddarth Dora
Hanumanthu
Michael Hawkins

GRADUATES (CONT.)

Δ 4.0 GPA AND DELTA OMEGA CANDIDATE

* SPECIALIZATION IN MATERNAL, CHILD, REPRODUCTIVE, AND SEXUAL HEALTH

Sumaya Ibraheem	HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT	Arismel Gonzalez	Brittany Nkashama
Benjamin Jagt	Aminou Alfa	Jenee Grannum	Gazi Ohl
Kavya Jetani	Joel America	Fariha Hanif	Luis Olivera Leon
Harry Kimball Δ	Eleanora Amoyaw	Mickella Hardy	Adama Tatiana Ouedraogo
Nisha Kochar	Kirssis Arias	Sabah Hashmi	Sabine Ovide
Justine Maffei	Allia Baird *	Janry Henriquez	Xiomara Perdomo
Alexandra Martocci	Candace Barbato	Teuta Hoxha	Shania Persaud
Jose Mazariego	Andrea Belfast	Kamilah Hutchinson	Fazel Powell Δ
Pa Malick Mbye	Anshini Niravbhai Bhatt	Afia Islam	Sadiqur Rahman
Mansi Mhatre	Ashley Brodigan	Awosely Jacob	Scarlet Rodriguez Soldevilla
Mahruz Minhuz	Cibelle Burgos	Babita Jamkatel	Luis Saavedra
Liza Morales Δ	Kiren Butt	Yetunde Junaid	Kittikorn Sathong
Nancy Padsala	Turner Canty	Woo Jin Jung	Bukhari Shah
Avani Patel	Ashley Castillo	Alexandra Kern Δ	Sara Simon
Zoey Przekurat	Ali Cernea-Novac	Kristen Kolb	Alexis Simonetti
Alva Rodriguez Nunez	Nirjhar Chakraborty	Anna Kyeremateng	Dawn Smith McKay
Saskia Rueda	Malika Christopher	Jenna Larry	Constantious Stavroulakis
Muhammad Salim	Laura Clemente Δ	Caroline Layme	Vivian Tam Δ
Sanjaykumar Saliya	Sasha Davis	Adam Mackey Δ	Anna Taylor-Shih
Fahmid Sarwar	Naana Dei	Osman Mariano	Alexandra Tsintsifas
Valeri Schwartz Δ	Jessica Dennehy Δ	Jonathan Martinez Δ	Sunnykumar Ukani
Yakov Shevin	Johanny Dickson	Tamara McDonald	Julia Ukazu
Eliana Spiess	Yegisel Echevarria	Allen Mena	Tahmin Ullah
Sasha Vergez	Rifa Ehsan	Dayana Mirzaliev	Eleni Vasilakos
Lucila Vilela	Sydney Ellis	Daniel Morales Δ	Kahlen Washington
Alexandria Wilkins	Melani Ellison Δ	Chelsea Mungroo Δ	Analisa Wills
Sandra Wood	Jacqueline Erb	Juliana Musonda	
Zachary Zuchowski	Abbey Foote	Radha Nakarmi	
	Erin Gaffney	Jessica Nestor	

**PUBLIC HEALTH
NUTRITION**

Bushra Aziz
Andrew Bhola
Sofia Gilary
Reyna Gobel
Emma Gutierrez
Safwat Hossain
Lauren Iacono
Izadora Joseph
Augustin
Md. Saiful Khan
Fatimatujjohra
Mim
Moutushi Moral
Caitlin Schnack
Aikaterini Stamou
Cynthia Vazquez

**MASTER OF
SCIENCE**

**ENVIRONMENTAL
AND OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH SCIENCES**

Kyle DeGennaro
Theresa Gannon
Syed Jaffery
David Mohamed
Monica Nguyen
Florence Odigie
Phoebe Champ Δ

**GLOBAL
AND MIGRANT
HEALTH POLICY**

Carolyn Anello
Rocco Bagnarol
Roger Carrillo
Samiha Hossain
Stephanie Mao

**HEALTH
COMMUNICATION
FOR SOCIAL CHANGE**

Gwendolyn
Bouchie
Kerri Casey Δ
Iriana Clemmons
Joseph Garst
Konul Karimova
Dunstanette
Macauley-Dukuly
Melissa Weiss

**POPULATION HEALTH
INFORMATICS**

Shpresa Ahmeti
Hind Akasbi Δ
Tamara
Densmore Δ
Andrew
Goodman Δ
Kami-Sue Grant
Tesfaye Haile
Jalisha Hanshaw
Helen Huynh-
Trinh
Jennifer Kulkarni Δ
Juliet Monclova
Mark Tam
Julissa Valerio
Ivy Zeng

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

Let's keep in touch! Let us know your preferred contact info so that we can stay in touch with you about alumni matters after graduation.

EMAIL alumninetwork@sph.cuny.edu

VISIT cunysph.me/alumni2024



Don't forget to follow CUNY SPH Alumni Network on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#) to stay connected!



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PROMOTING HEALTH
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
IN NEW YORK CITY
AND ACROSS THE GLOBE
THROUGH INNOVATION
AND LEADERSHIP

