



COMMENCEMENT 2025

JUNE 5, 2025 | 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 entering the profession at a time when public health is shaping conversations and decisions across the globe—from local neighborhoods to international policy rooms. 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

Herminia Palacio
CUNY Trustee

Alfonso Chang
*Co-founder and Managing
Director, AC3 Group;
Vice Chairman of the
CUNY SPH Foundation
Board of Directors*

HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Laura Magaña
*President and CEO,
Association of Schools and
Programs of Public Health*

DEAN'S CHAMPION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

Michelle Morse
*Acting Health Commissioner
and Chief Medical Officer,
NYC Department of Health and
Mental Hygiene (NYC Health)*

GRADUATE HONORS

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

Pavan Lohia
*President of the Epsilon Chi Chapter
of Delta Omega Honor Society,
MPH Class of '20*

FACULTY HONORS

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

Aaishah Mahadeo
and Alisha Mahadeo

PRESENTATION OF DOCTORAL GRADUATES

Doctoral Program Directors

Meredith Manze

*Departments of Community
Health and Social Sciences &
Health Policy and Management*

Jean Grassman

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

Chloe Teasdale

*Department of Epidemiology
and Biostatistics*

Department Chairs

Spring Cooper

*Chair of Department of Community
Health and Social Sciences*

Glen Johnson

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

Levi Waldron

*Chair of Department of
Epidemiology and Biostatistics*

Terry Huang

*Chair of Department of
Health Policy and Management*

PRESENTATION OF POSTHUMOUS DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN COMMUNITY HEALTH & HEALTH POLICY

David Lee

Accepted by his brother, Alan Lee

PRESENTATION OF MASTER'S GRADUATES

Lynn Roberts

*Associate Dean for Student
Affairs and Alumni Relations*

PUBLIC HEALTH PLEDGE

CUNY SPH graduates, led by
Michelle Morse, MD, MPH,
Acting Health Commissioner
and Chief Medical Officer,
NYC Department of Health and
Mental Hygiene (NYC Health)

REMARKS FROM THE GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Muniyat Choudhury

GSGA President

ALUMNI NETWORK WELCOME

Pavan Lohia

*Student Alumni Network Steering
Committee, MPH Class of '20*

CLOSING REMARKS

Ayman El-Mohandes

Dean

HONORARY DOCTORAL AWARDEE AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Laura Magaña

PhD, MS

*President and CEO, Association of
Schools and Programs of Public Health*



Dr. Laura Magaña is a globally recognized academic public health leader known for her commitment to transformation, innovation, and social justice. She serves as President and CEO of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), representing more than 150 academic institutions dedicated

to advancing public health. Additionally, she is the founding President of the Global Network for Academic Public Health (GNAPH), an alliance of seven regional associations that support public health education worldwide.

Under Dr. Magaña's leadership, ASPPH has strengthened its role as a catalyst for excellence and innovation across education, research, and practice in academic public health. She has overseen the launch of strategic initiatives, including the Academic Public Health Leadership Institute, the ASPPH Workforce Development Center, and a robust advocacy platform that elevates the voice of academic public health in key policy arenas. She has also expanded the association's global reach and membership, positioning ASPPH as a central force in shaping the future of public health education.

Dr. Magaña is leading ASPPH's Vision 2030 agenda, which addresses critical public health challenges through initiatives focused on Dismantling Racism in Academic Public Health, Climate Change and Health, Framing the Future 2030, Gun Violence Prevention, Healthy Longevity, and the Integration of Artificial Intelligence in Public Health.

Before joining ASPPH, Dr. Magaña spent over 35 years transforming public and private universities in Mexico and leading educational, multilateral, and nonprofit organizations across the United States, Central America, and Europe. Most recently, she served as dean of the School of Public Health at the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico. A prolific scholar, Dr. Magaña has authored over 90 academic publications, with a focus on learning environments, educational technology, and the advancement of public health education globally.

DEAN'S CHAMPION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

Michelle Morse

MD, MPH

*Acting Health Commissioner
and Chief Medical Officer,
NYC Department of Health
and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health)*

Dr. Michelle Morse is the Acting Health Commissioner and Chief Medical Officer of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health). She leads the agency's work in bridging public health and health care to reduce health inequities and serves as a key liaison to clinicians and clinical leaders across New York City. She previously served as Deputy Commissioner for the Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness where she led place-based and cross-cutting health equity programs.

Dr. Morse is an internal medicine and public health doctor who works to achieve health equity through global solidarity, social medicine and anti-racism education, and activism. She is a general internal medicine physician, part-time hospitalist at Kings County Hospital, Co-Founder of EqualHealth, and Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Morse's continued commitment to advancing health equity and justice is informed by her experience in leadership roles as Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Partners In Health, as a Soros Equality Fellow launching a global Campaign Against Racism, and as a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy fellow with the Ways and Means Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 2024, Dr. Morse was named a TIME100Next honoree.



GRADUATE HONORS

VALEDICTORIAN AND DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Aaishah Mahadeo

Alisha Mahadeo

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR COMMITMENT

Abdoul-Rahamane
Bako Bagassa

Waldemar
Morety-Thomas

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR SERVICE

Destini McMillan-Foster

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR RESEARCH

Juan Diego Lecona Garcia

DEAN'S PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT DISSERTATION AWARD

Alexa D'Angelo

Hanish Kodali

Aprielle Wills

DEAN'S DEPARTMENTAL SCHOLAR AWARDS

Community Health and
Social Sciences

Pearl McAndrews

Environmental, Occupational,
and Geospatial Health Sciences

Scott Weiner

Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Maria Urrea Suescun

Health Policy and Management

Elizabeth Kane

FACULTY HONORS

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR MENTORING

Emma Tsui

*Associate Professor of
Community Health
and Social Sciences*

(SENIOR)

Zach Shahn

*Assistant Professor of
Epidemiology and Biostatistics*

(JUNIOR)

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR TEACHING

Mary Schooling

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

(SENIOR)

Thomas Rouyard

*Assistant Professor of
Health Policy and Management*

(JUNIOR)

DEAN'S MERIT AWARD FOR RESEARCH

Katarzyna Wyka

*Associate Professor of
Epidemiology and Biostatistics*

Suzanne McDermott

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

DEAN'S COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION / RELATIONSHIP AWARD

Meredith Manze

*Associate Professor of
Community Health
and Social Sciences*

(SENIOR)

Matthew Lootens

*Research Assistant
Professor, Health Policy
and Management*

(JUNIOR)

DEAN'S SPECIAL MENTION

SRJ Hub

New Mentoring Model

Lisa Hitch

*Adjunct Lecturer,
Epidemiology and Biostatistics*

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PUBLIC HEALTH

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HEALTH POLICY

Saskia Shuman

The patient and provider experience of the pelvic exam: Exploring communication and implications for practice

Sergio Rivera

Rodriguez

Medicare Advantage dominance in Puerto Rico's healthcare system: Exploring its financial landscape, marketing strategies and quality measures through the commercial determinants of health framework

Jeffrey Wilhite

Development of recommendations for the future of telehealth use among sexual and gender minorities (SGM)

Alexa D'Angelo

How do health insurer practices affect health equity for gay and bisexual men and transmasculine individuals? A qualitative and health policy assessment

Dima Masoud

The ecology of gender-based violence for Syrian refugee women in Tripoli and Akkar

Thinh Toan Vu

Mental health concerns, resilience, and quality of life among family caregivers of hospitalized lung cancer patients in a lower-middle income country

DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Carice Craffey

Occupational stress: Lifestyle and health in blue- and white-collar workers in the United States

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PUBLIC HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANETARY HEALTH SCIENCES

Daryle Campbell- Blackstock

Geospatial and descriptive analysis of interstitial lung disease and COVID-19 outcomes during the initial pandemic in New York City

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PUBLIC HEALTH

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Hanish Kodali

Telomere length as a biomarker of mortality among U.S. adults

Aprielle Wills

Control and management of type-II diabetes among people living with HIV (PLWH) compared to HIV-negative patients and by clinic type in the Bronx, New York City

**MASTER OF
PUBLIC HEALTH****COMMUNITY HEALTH**Eman
Abdelfadeel Δ

Ayesha Adnan

Mahad Aga

Ilhuicatl Akatl *

Yazhisai Aruchamy

Franklin
Aucapina Δ

Parisa Ayoubi

Claire
Baker-Laurents

Deanna Berlin *

Ayesha Bhola Δ

Cordelia Blair

Joselyn Calderon
Guallpa *

Ricardo Charriez

Brianna Christie

Aminata Coulibaly

Ethan Daniel

Anelisa Defoe

Francesca DePalo *

Cassia Dockery

Karen Garcia

Sara Gelb Δ

Abigail Goldberg Δ

Jennifer Gonzalez

Joy Harewood Δ

Shaun Hui

Roxanne Hunte

Andrea Intriago

Raveena Jhaj Δ

Danielle John

Hyowoun Jyung

Pei Wen Kuang

Edison Lei Δ

Juliana Lopez
Rendon

Mark Makiling

Javad Malik Δ

Allison Mapes

Pearl McAndrews Δ

Destini
McMillan-FosterMariam
Mohammed

Waldemar Morety

Patricia Muether

Nirvana Narayan

Ronald Ng

Jennifer Ojilere

Sixtus Onyeché

Caroline
Praderio Δ

Telsha Prince

Alejandro
Rendon Δ

Sivan Rosenthal

Alexander
Sarmiento

Paul Sawadogo

Reynaldine Simeon

Lina Sinisterra

Charles Smith

Cara Stock

Natasa Vuljevic

Kellie Ward

Claudia White

Camila Yepes

**ENVIRONMENTAL
AND OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH SCIENCES**

Subhiksha Arani

Sobia Atif

Richard Bennett

Cecilia Fernandez

Tatsuya Hondo

Mark John

Shauna John

Shelley Luong

Jhonny Ordóñez

Elizabeth Pasnik Δ

Breck Richardson

Delaney Romeo

Aksh Shah

Sachin Tiwari

Dhairya Yadav

**EPIDEMIOLOGY
AND BIostatISTICS**

Khadija Adula

Khushboo
Agarwal Δ

Nazija Akter

Rawda Alaswad

Tenzin Amdo

Angelos Arfaras
MelainisAnanya
Asraf-SiddiquiKavya
AyalasomayajulaAbdoul-Rahamane
Bako Bagassa Δ

Carly Beach

Mary Bearkland Δ

Brianna Clarke

Katelyn D'Costa

Shamonti
Das SharmaOnyinyechi
Emerole

Bailey Frohlich

Margueritta
Fuentes

Elizabeth Furth

Melissa Gallanter

Alana Gomez

Jeanetta Green

Evan Gumas

Zelfa Hamadiéh Δ

Emily He

Leslie Hernandez

Ula Isleem

Wilson Jacobs

Yoon Ji Jung

Riley Koch

Nisha Kochar

Kimberly Kolsch

Tova Kruss

Irene Kyei

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Diki Lama | HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT | Jacob Federman | Roshini Mudunuru |
| Juan Diego Lecona Garcia | Annabella Adragna | Tanmayee Gadde | Ariana Naraine |
| Jenna Levine | Anjum Agsa | Iuliia Glushchenko | Julia Narovlyanskaya Δ |
| Anika Lewis | Sidra Ahsan | Neville Green | Sandra Neri |
| Morgan Loschiavo | Ariani Alemzadeh | Jyoti Grover | Nika Norvila |
| Julian Lucero | Zarah Anvery | Alison Halayko | Leslie Nunez Δ |
| Vanshika Lulla | Rashid Archbald | Yaroslav Herin | Mharuya Nury |
| Aaishah Mahadeo Δ | Mariana Barajas | Christine Hickey | Gazi Ohi |
| Alisha Mahadeo Δ | Tyler Barbadillo | Jeenera Hossain | Melanie Ortiz |
| Alexandra Martocci | Gwendolynne Beaussejour | Shantel Howell | Esther Osafo |
| Mahrucz Minhuz | Jessica Bergman Δ | Diana Iheanatu | Leidy Poveda |
| Rebecca Monachelli | Kella Bolton | Bradley Jacques | Samuel Pugo |
| Sussana Oad | Paula Bontempo | Nawshin Jerin | Yaquta Quaizar Δ |
| Isaiah Osei-Gyening | Fatma Zohra Assia Bourib | Niisa Jones | Hemang Rana |
| Avani Patel | Mikhailia Boyd | Frank Julca | Diane Reformina |
| Britney Pheng | Princess Brooks | Elizabeth Kane * Δ | Mabelly Rodriguez |
| Daniella Pierre | Peter Ch'en | Cindy Ko | Stephanie Ruano Maldonado |
| Akib Rahman | Domonique Chaplin | Nicola LaGuardia | Patrycia Sek |
| Hisieni Sacasa Wisniewski | Claudia Charles | Kavita Lalchan | Anna Steto |
| Christopher Sanchez | Rebecca Cheriza | Charlisa Lawrence | Michael Tamimi Δ |
| Jhanvi Solanki | Dwayne Cloud | Stephanie Lemus | Chrystal Thomas |
| Akarsha Sundaeswaran | Celided Colon | Emily Li Δ | Binta Touray |
| Maria Urrea Suescun | Kevin Danishefsky | Biwei Li | Bryant Tufino-Flores |
| Paul Villafuerte | Wesley Day Δ | Aleea Lopez | Nerlande Ulysse |
| Aqsa Waseem | Kristoffer Dela Pena Δ | Natalie Lovinsky | Richkisha Walcott |
| Jessica Weinburger | Julia DeWalt | Maham Mallick | Antionette Wearing * |
| Katrina Wong | Malak Diouri | Blima Marcus | |
| | Stephen Dolgin Δ | Vanessa Mareno | |
| | | Jerson Mejia Castro | |
| | | Marisa Miller | |
| | | Izza Mozaffar | |

GRADUATES (CONT.)

Δ 4.0 GPA AND DELTA OMEGA CANDIDATE
★ SPECIALIZATION IN MATERNAL, CHILD,
REPRODUCTIVE, AND SEXUAL HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION

Yanir Cedeno
Leondra Craig
Kaili Delos Santos

Jatin Gurung
Maliha Hoque
Tiffany Kyan

Ava Marsich
Frank Mikuszewski
Keauna Parkinson
Mengxue Qu

Raisa Rahman Δ
Rachel Silver

Rebecca Steinmetz
Sharmin Sultana
Matthew Torak
Cynthia Vazquez

MASTER OF SCIENCE

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES

Krista Bhagwandin
Nathalie Breary
Maanal
Chowdhury
Maryana Edward
Nicola Frasca
Roma Gurung
Benjamin
Hildebrand
Shonelle Hurry

Zachary Keefe
Manfred Magloire
Maribel Montijo
Scott Weiner Δ

GLOBAL AND MIGRANT HEALTH POLICY

Ardita Alija
Cindy Chen Δ
Ly Inda Hamilton
Reianna Peets

HEALTH COMMUNICATION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Gemily Abadines
Nicole Aber Δ
Jennifer Castoro
Mark Emmerich
Jennifer Feldman
Stephanie Gonzalez
Nadia Jubran
Zainab
Kareemuddin
Coumba Keita
Melissa Lauro
Haleema Mohsen
Stephanie Odigie
Ludmila
Pacheco Ramos
Mi Hui Pak Δ
Anistla Rugama
Jessica Sanchez

Khalid Siddig
Kenechukwu
Umeasor
Samantha Wellner Δ

POPULATION HEALTH INFORMATICS

Abir Bhuiyan
Berissa Harrigan
Floribel Pena
Kyle Sellers Δ
Jenille Simon
Mahdia Zaman

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/alumni2025



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



CUNY SPH FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*The 2025
CUNY SPH
Commencement
Ceremony is
proudly sponsored
by the CUNY SPH
Foundation Board
of Directors.*

Lyndon Haviland
Chair

Alfonso Chang
Vice-chair

Ruth Wooden
Secretary

Michael Meng
Treasurer

Ayman El-Mohandes
Dean

Adam M. Doyno
Executive Director

Marilyn
Aguirre-Molina

Austin Cheng

Innocent Clement

Margaret Crotty

Cesar Herrera

Jordana Kier

Daniel Knecht

Daniel Lowy

Saqib Rahim

Nicole F. Roberts

CUNY SPH DEAN'S PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Freida D. Foster
Council Chair

Curtis L. Archer

Barbara Askins

Joseph Awadjie

Susan J. Beane

Deneane
Brown-Blackmon

Duclas Charles

Wellington Chen

Lyndon Haviland

Khary Lazarre-White

Shatic Mitchell

Pat Wang

Jennifer Walden Weprin

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

