Outstanding Educational Program Awardee

Laura Rudkin, PhD

Professor and Vice Chair for Education
Preventive Medicine and Community Health (PMCH)
University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston
Galveston, Texas

The Preventive Medicine and Community Health (PMCH) is the academic unit at UTMB that provides educational programs focused on prevention and population health. They develop and deliver public health and prevention courses and curricula in the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and also offer a Preventive Medicine Residency program. PMCH has been active in educating medical students since the department was formed in 1912 and have offered graduate education programs since the 1950s. In more recent years, they have expanded their education programs to reach an even broader population on the UTMB campus.

PMCH now offers training in public health to interested students, fellows, and faculty members through the accredited MPH degree program and the newly approved Public Health Certificate program. Departmental activities are unified by a population health perspective and a quantitative analytical approach. Research and educational programs focus on the interplay of individual biological and behavioral factors with aspects of the physical, social, and policy environments. The PMCH faculty complement represents multiple disciplines—epidemiology, biostatistics, social sciences, clinical sciences, and preventive medicine and public health practice—and they expose students to relevant aspects of all of these disciplines. Two broad functional areas are defined within PMCH: (1) professional training and provision of professional preventive services and (2) clinical and population health graduate education, research, and academic partnerships. Education programs are central to both functional areas. PMCH provides professional and practice focused education in the Preventive Medicine Residency Programs, the generalist MPH Program, and the medical school Public Health Track and electives. PMCH educates future researchers through their MS and PhD programs in Population Health Sciences, Clinical Science, and Rehabilitation Sciences. Doctoral students, fellows, and faculty in all schools are eligible to apply for the MPH or certificate programs.

Furthermore, PCMH is making their online prevention and population health educational resources available for courses in all four UTMB schools. PMCH has developed an education program that provides a range of opportunities for UTMB students and the campus community to learn more about clinical prevention and public health.