From our TPHA president, Dr. Raouf Arafat:

**TPHA Annual Education Conference 2021: Shining a Light on Public Health**

On behalf of the Texas Public Health Association, our TPHA leadership wants to celebrate and thank you for your tireless commitment to public health during this unprecedented global pandemic. We know these have been trying times and that you all, no matter what capacity or role you work in under the umbrella of Public Health, your community’s health and well-being has been and will continue to be your focus, passion, and priority.

Our TPHA Governing Council members and the Executive Board leaders are moving our 2021 Annual Education Conference (AEC) to a virtual format. TPHA is the official professional organization for those engaged or interested in public health services. Our TPHA AEC provides an optimal venue for health professionals representing diverse service areas to meet and share ideas in an effort to maintain high standards of quality in all aspects of public health. Continuing education credit for multiple disciplines will be provided for this event. At a time when it’s more important than ever for the public health community to share the latest science, best practices and lessons learned, TPHA is proud to announce that we are planning our 2021 virtual Annual Educational Conference from May 17-19.

We will have great speakers for this event. Oral presentations and posters will cover various public health topics including original research, program implementation and evaluation, community assessments, public health methods, theories, and issues relating to health promotion and disease prevention, the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccination efforts, public health nursing, outbreak investigations, disaster preparedness and response, epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health, social determinants of health and social justice, population health, health administration, public health partnerships, public health accreditation, school health, vision health, oral health, aging, community health, planning, and health policies that affect individuals, groups, communities, and populations at any age or stage in life. Basically, something for almost everyone!

We encourage you to attend so you can hear from influential leaders who are making an impact on the health of the community, make connections with hundreds of public health professionals in Texas, get involved with member sections, and learn from other unique activities and events. We will make the event a statewide opportunity for discussion, allowing our public health community to share best practices, and network.

Here are some highlights of the conference agenda:

**DAY ONE, May 17, 2021**
9:00 am-11:30 am Health Authority Workshop 2021
12:00 pm-12:45 pm Local Health Official Meeting
1:00 pm-3:30 pm Opening Session Plenary 1 to include the State of the State Address as well as a panel discussion on Immunizations.

1:00 pm Opening of Exhibits and Posters

**DAY TWO, May 18, 2021**
9:00 am-10:00 am Video Mobile Workshop “Shine a Light on Healthy Living”

DAY THREE, May 19, 2021

Breakout Sessions 17-24 will continue discussion on different public health topics.

Then we will close by having the internal Presentation of Awards and Recognitions by TPHA President; Dr. Raouf Arafat for: Immediate Past President, Legislator of the Year, TPHA Outstanding Service Award, President’s Award and Thinking Progressively for Health Award. We will close the session with the Transfer of Gavel and Introduction of Lisette Osborne, TPHA President 2021-2022

Looking forward to “seeing” you at the conference. Please stay safe.

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!

SAVE THE DATE
May 17-19, 2021
(H-CPH Hosted/Sponsored)
From our TPHA Executive Director, Terri Pali:

Welcome to our Newest TPHA Members!

We are so thankful you chose TPHA as your professional association! Please take a couple of minutes to browse our website and see what we have to offer you. We offer this newsletter as a method of networking with your fellow TPHA members. We have a quarterly peer-reviewed, indexed journal for professional development, and many public health-oriented groups we align with.

Our strength is our membership and the diversity among our members. Member diversity spans race/ethnicity, levels of experience, and disciplines of expertise. Again, welcome and please contact Terri at txpha@aol.com with any questions or comments.

Name | Section
--- | ---
Kayode Aguda | Aging & Public Health
Brittany Akl | Unaffiliated
Christina Aubert | Student
Nicole Avellanet | Unaffiliated
Halimatou Barry | Public Health Nursing
Michelle Bradley | Administration
Chloe Denham | Student
Madeline Dixon | Student
Joshua Dufresne | Administration
Kimberly Elliott | Aging & Public Health
Jessica Escareno | Administration
Arianne Felicitas | Student
Deanna Hammond | Vision Care
Vivienne Heines | Epidemiology
Yun-Ting Huang | Vision Care
Roslin Jose | Aging & Public Health
Laurie Long | Health Education
Connie Ly | Student
Ijeoma Nwaigwe | Administration
Andrew Okemwa | Administration
Jasmine Opusunju | Health Education
Dianna Pierson | Epidemiology
Shelbie Powell | Health Education
Damien William Reed | Health Education
Haneen Salous | Unaffiliated
Puja Shah | Epidemiology
Sitara Weerakoon | Epidemiology
Alexis Whittington | Administration

***

Policy and Advocacy Committee
Call for Committee Chair

The Texas Public Health Association continues to seek a member to serve as the Policy and Advocacy Committee Chair. The position is appointed by the President and approved by Executive Board in absence of Governing Council.

The Committee on Policy & Advocacy duties shall include, but not be limited to: actively solicit ideas and proposed resolutions from the membership, policy statements from the Governing Council, and maintain records of resolutions and policy statements in order to assist the governing bodies of the Association in determining the policies of the Association.

Additional duties include coordinating legislative functions for the Annual Conference; tracking legislation that may impact TPHA and public health; tracking policy issues and developments; liaison with other public health and local policy committees and groups; development of government affairs plan; policy forum planning; provide information to TPHA members on impending policy issues and recommending policy direction to Governing Council; monitoring State and national policy events and developments; educating elected officials and the public on matters of public health interest; and building coalitions with other health-related organizations. Other duties shall include making recommendations to the Governing Council concerning proposed resolutions and policy statements.
If policy and advocacy for public health issues is an area of interest for you and you are willing to serve please send a brief paragraph outlining your qualifications and interest to TPHA at txpha@aol.com Attn: Policy and Advocacy Committee.

***

TPHA AWARDS

Be sure to nominate those you feel are deserving for a TPHA Award! Awards include the James E. Peavy Memorial, TPHA Honorary Life Member, Legislative Excellence, Dr. Ron J. Anderson Thinking Progressively for Health, and Public Health Award for Media Excellence Award. To learn more go to: https://www.texaspha.org/page/Awards

News from TPHA Boards, Committees and Sections

TPHA Editorial Board Report

Submitted by Catherine Cooksley, Editor and Mathias Forrester, TPHA Editorial Board Chair

Due to the February deep freeze, and blackout, our first online quarterly meeting for 2021 was cancelled. However, rest assured that the TPHA editorial board continues to stay busy maintaining the quality of the publications available to our members. Our upcoming Spring 2021 Texas Public Health Journal (TPHJ) will be dedicated to our fabulous Texas public health workforce as we celebrate National Public Week! We plan to feature the TPHA Governing Council Position Paper, several exciting peer-reviewed public health research and practice papers, along with our public health poison control column, book review, an important public health commentary, and the published version of our early online brief report that was released in late January. For those of you who are new to the TPHA, please visit https://www.texaspha.org/page/Journal to become familiar with the editorial board of TPHA and to find out all we have to offer our TPHA members.

Here is a summary of our publications and the resources we have to offer.

About Our quarterly Texas Public Health Journal: To our knowledge, it is the only peer-reviewed journal in Texas that aims to provide science-based, Texas-focused public health research and practice information to our Texas public health workforce. We encourage widespread dissemination of the publication opportunity information below! We hope to see submissions from you and your
colleagues soon! Visit https://www.texaspha.org/page/Journal for links to author information and more!

About this TPHA Newsletter: In addition to our association conferences, this quarterly communication venue, provided in alternating months from the journal, is a fantastic member networking opportunity! Each edition brings you news from our leadership and members. We invite all members to share news about the exciting and important work you do. We know you are all busy helping Texans get and stay healthy, so we make it easy for you to submit your news to us. Encourage your colleagues who may not have joined our exciting association yet, to join so they too can share their news with us. The announcement below provides a few examples of what you might want to share with your co-members. We look forward to receiving your news items! Visit https://www.texaspha.org/page/Journal and scroll midway down for the page for submission information.

About Other Publication Resources: Let our TPHA editorial team use our publishing resources to work with you on your special projects. There are several ways we can publicize the important work you do and bring your group to the attention of public health professionals across our entire state! Visit the journal page, and scroll to the bottom of the page for more information and links to some examples of past special projects and publications. https://www.texaspha.org/page/Journal

Have questions about any of our publication opportunities or need some guidance to get started? Contact us and ask! Email Catherine Cooksley, DrPH, CPH at tphajournal@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you soon!
Membership Recruitment, Engagement, and Development Committee
Submitted by Ashley Rodriguez, Committee Chair

Calling All Students! Join us for the upcoming virtual student symposium! If you are a faculty member, an instructor, or know a student, please encourage them to register and attend! Either click on this link, or copy and paste it into your browser.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7Kto8Wp5TQu9qj7duW17uw

VIRTUAL STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

Want to learn more about being a Public Health Professional?

Join us for this FREE event to hear from Texas Public Health Association’s public health leaders on how to get involved, enhance your career, & all the opportunities TPHA has to offer!

Thursday, March 25, 2021
4:00 PM—6:00 PM

Register Here Today!

Learn more about TPHA at www.texaspha.org
TPHA Vision Care Section
Submitted by Dr. Bhagya Segu, Vision Care Section

Glasses wearers are three times less likely to catch COVID than people without spectacles because they rub their eyes less often.

Researchers in India studied 304 people with symptoms & checked their vision. They found lens wearers less likely to catch virus as they touch their face less. They say risk of Covid-19 is about two to three times less in spectacle-wearers.


Submitted by Wei-Chen Lee, PhD, Member of TPHA’s Community Health Worker Section

Register Now!!

4th Annual Conference on Migration and Health (Available in Four Languages!!)

Time: 9am to 1pm (CST), March 22-26, 2021
Location: Virtual
Languages: Arabic, English, French, and Spanish
Themes: (1) Social, economic and environmental determinants, (2) Health care access, quality, and efficiency, (3) Migration of health personnel (brain drain), and (4) Migrant detention.
Program Schedule: https://www.utmb.edu/migrants/program

Host Org: University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston
Partner Org: Culture of Health - Advancing Together (CHAT), Doctors for Change, Oxfam, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), Texas Medical Center - Health Policy Institute, UTHealth School of Public Health, and more.
Thank you to all who submitted their news! We look forward to receiving brief announcements about the work you, our members, are doing and the achievements you have made.

Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues and encourage them to join us so their important announcements can be shared as well! Check out the newsletter information and tips for posting on our TPHA website at www.texaspha.org/page/journal. Our next newsletter is due out around mid-May, 2021. Start gathering the information you want to share with the Texas public health community now. We love hearing what y’all are up to!

Thank you for the public health work you do! Please stay safe and healthy during these challenging times! Contact TPHA and let us know how we can help you keep your communities safe and healthy.

TPHA recommends....

• Wearing a Mask Over Your Mouth AND Nose!
• Keeping Your Distance – at least 6 feet!
• Cleaning Your Hands!
• Getting a Flu Shot!
• Getting the SARS-COV-2 (COVID19) Vaccine!

Stay Healthy Texas!

Disclaimer: The Editorial Board of the Texas Public Health Association has the right to exclude any materials, including but not limited to those that may jeopardize our non-profit status.