From our TPHA president, Lisette K. Osborne, RN-BC, MSN, CHEP (2021-2022)

I don’t know about you, but it’s either working from home or getting older that just makes the days go by faster. Wasn’t it just New Year’s Eve yesterday?

Our Annual Education Conference Program Planning Committee is working diligently to put together another superb conference May 18-20, 2022. The venue will be a virtual platform again this year. The theme is Resilience in Public Health— I’m sure we can all relate!

A sampling of our confirmed topics include:

- State of the State Address
- State of the Nation Address
- Resiliency in the General Population
- Building Resiliency in Rural Communities
- Characteristics and Healthcare Utilization of Hospitalized COVID-19 Vaccine Breakthrough Infections in Dallas County, TX, 2021
- YES Dallas Initiative: Promoting youth engagement in sports
- Literature Review of Physiological Strain of Personal Protective Equipment on Personnel in the Highly Infectious Disease Isolation Environment
- The Epidemiology of Fully Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Long-Term Care residents in Dallas County
- Addressing Obesity and Walkability in Texas communities through the Plan4Health Project
- Designing Vaccine Hesitancy Simulations for Nursing Students
- Implementing a County-Level Behavioral Health Needs Assessment Amidst a Pandemic: Lessons Learned
- Population health advocacy: Graduate students intervening to promote healthy communities
- DENT ECHO: A Tele-mentoring Model for Texas Dental Practitioners in Remote Areas
- Advancing the Knowledge, Skills and Abilities of the Long-term Care Workforce Through the Project ECHO Platform to Improve the Health of Older Adults
- Using a rapid qualitative approach to identify facilitators and barriers to implementation of an evidence-based screening and vaccination intervention
- Texas Violent Death Reporting System, Pilot Year and Forward
- Utilizing the Community Health Club Model to Improve COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence Amongst LatinX Women Living on the Texas-Mexico Border
- Relationship Between Dating Violence and Contraceptive Use Among Texas Adolescents
- Dental Caries, Obesity, and Asthma During Childhood: A Qualitative Case Study to Guide Collaboration
- No Falls Partnership: A Collaboration to Reduce Falls Risk among Older Texans
- Musculoskeletal pain and depression among healthcare workers providing direct patient care
- Price transparency and variation for cataract surgery and laser posterior capsulotomy at United States academic hospitals
- 21st Century Sex Education: Assessing Texas’ new curriculum standards and policies
• Cross-Sectional Analysis of Student Hesitancy to COVID-19 Vaccines across the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio
• Establishment of a Wastewater Surveillance Program in East Texas
• Evaluation of E-Mentoring for Public Health Capstone Courses

And, if you enjoyed last year’s mobile workshop presented in partnership with the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association and Bike Texas, you won’t want to miss this year’s offering by world renowned author and former host of PBS’s "America’s Walking".

**A complete list of presentations can be found in the Conference Agenda-COMING SOON!**

On another note, I’ve written quite a bit about perseverance and accomplishments in the past. I’ve been writing to you just as much as I was to myself. Those of you who know me, know I’ve always got something “in the works”, never sitting idle. After toying with the idea of going back to school, I finally did it. In the fall semester of 2020, I started work at Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA on an Executive Certificate in Public Administration. It hasn’t been easy balancing family, school, and work, but I’m excited to say I completed all the course requirements, and the Executive Certificate was conferred December 17, 2021. I’ve ordered my cap and gown and will “walk the stage” for graduation this May in Virginia.

Many years ago, there was an advice column in the newspaper (back when the news came in print form delivered on your doorstep). There were actually two – Dear Abby and Ask Ann Landers – twin sisters. In one installment of Dear Abby someone wrote that they were contemplating going back to school but that they would be 42 years old when they finished. Dear Abby’s response has stuck with me all these years. Her response: “And how old will you be if you don’t go back?” Don’t ever think you are “too old”, there’s “not enough time”, or you “just can’t” start and finish that “next thing” you want to do … because you absolutely can.

**From TPHA to you, Lisette, CONGRATULATIONS! Thank you for all you do for public health and TPHA!**

**From our TPHA Executive Director, Terri Pali:**

**Welcome to our Newest TPHA Members!**

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. To our current members, THANK YOU!! We are grateful for your continuing participation and contributions to our TPHA!

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**TPHA AWARDS**

It’s time to nominate someone 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

**A Call to Leadership**

The Texas Public Health Association is looking for dynamic new LEADERS and we need your help! We are looking for TPHA member volunteers to run for and, if elected, serve in the following positions: Governing Council (3 three-year positions available) and President-Elect. Become a voice for public health in Texas. Harness the energy of public health advocacy-run for office in TPHA! To learn more contact Terri Pali at txpha@aol.com
NEW-Institutional/Agency Affiliate

$1,000-$6,000 (based on number of employees): Organizations with a similar philosophy and intent as the Association. An organization may join as an Institutional/Agency Affiliate by paying dues as set by the Executive Board and approved by the Governing Council. In this class of membership. Designated institutional members shall enjoy all privileges of Association membership except for holding office and voting.

Agency size and cost:
1. Agency with 1-50 employees $1000 per year (includes membership for 8 designated staff)
2. Agency with 51-250 employees $2500 per year (includes membership for 20 designated staff)
3. Agency with 251-500 employees $4000 per year (includes membership for 30 designated staff)
4. Agency with 500+ employees $6000 per year (includes membership for 50 designated staff)

Benefits include:
- ¼ page advertisement in 4 issues of the Texas Public Health Journal to promote programs, events and activities;
- Promotion of programs, events, activities in quarterly newsletter;
- Complimentary job announcements on website;
- Listed as agency member on website;
- Opportunities for policy/advocacy;
- Representation on committees, sections, and leadership positions;
- Reduced registration fee ($20) for included staff members (non-transferable) at annual education conference

For more information contact Terri Pali at info@texaspha.org

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TPHA 2022 Virtual Annual Education Conference
“Resiliency in Public Health”
May 18-20, 2022

Continuing Education Credit for multiple disciplines will be provided for this event

The Texas Public Health Association (TPHA) annual education conference is the only one of its kind in the state and specifically targets local health authorities, directors and staff of local health departments, public health districts, academia, and the broader public health community. Because of the unpredictable waxing and waning of the COVID-19 pandemic and response, the TPHA annual education conference will be conducted virtually in 2022. There are no other comprehensive public health conferences targeting this audience that address the challenges and best practices in Texas. Given the state’s size, the use of the virtual platform increases the conference availability to this target audience.

Attendee Type & Fee
(1) Regular Member Attendee $200
(2) Regular Non-Member Attendee $265
(3) Regular Retiree/Honorary Member Attendee $60
(4) Student Member Attendee $60  
(5) Student Non-Member Attendee $85  
(6) Presenter Member $200  
(7) Presenter Non-Member $265  
(8) Presenter Student Member $60-Select this option if you are a TPHA student member and presenting in a breakout session or poster  
(9) Presenter Student-NON-Member $85 -Select this option if you are a non-member student presenting in a breakout session or poster  
(Day1) Health Authority Workshop $75-Select this option if you will ONLY be attending the Health Authority Workshop

EXHIBITOR OPTIONS

Standard Level Exhibitor $300  
Includes Virtual Exhibit, (1) staff attendance

Silver Level Exhibitor $1000  
Includes Virtual Exhibit, (1) staff attendance, ½ page ad in conference program, your company logo on TPHA website for one year, exhibitor signage in virtual lobby.

Gold Level Exhibitor $2,000  
Includes Virtual Exhibit, (1) staff attendance, full page ad in conference program, your company logo on TPHA website for one year, exhibitor signage in virtual lobby.

Platinum Level Exhibitor $3,000  
Includes Virtual Exhibit, (1) staff attendance, full page ad in conference program, your company logo on TPHA website for one year, ½ page ad in one issue of TPHA Journal, exhibitor signage in virtual lobby.

Annual Education Conference Volunteer Opportunities

We have many volunteer opportunities for our members to help with the annual education conference. Areas of service include:

- Coordinating Moderators/Training
- Host/Moderate the Networking Lounge
- Recruit Exhibitors and/or Sponsors
- Community Service/Fellows Project

To volunteer go to: https://www.texaspha.org/page/AECVolunteer

See page 11 for details!
News from TPHA Boards, Committees and Sections

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

The TPHA Editorial Board is excited about the upcoming spring 2022 Texas Public Health Journal! Just in time for National Public Health Week, this issue will feature a Special Section focused on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) All of Us Research Program – The Texas Story. The TPHJ team is extremely grateful to the team at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler and the group at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston for participating! We learned a great deal about this ambitious research program and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to share what we have learned with you! The goal of this collaboration with the American Public Health Association is to inform researchers in Texas and to encourage more to join this industrious endeavor.

Of course we will also have our signature columns including comments from our TPHA President, the Texas DSHS Commissioner, a poignant book review, and poison control information. Our Editorial Board Chair, Matt Forrester, will again provide a column about Public Use Data files. We invite you and your colleagues to submit similar columns related to public use data you work with or know about. Spread the word – you do not need to be a TPHA member to submit an article for consideration!

PUBLISH WITH US! As always we welcome general submissions for consideration of publication in our peer reviewed quarterly journal. Read more about our journal at https://www.texaspha.org/page/Journal. Be sure to scroll down the page to see all of the links! Please share the address with your non-member colleagues and peers so they can access complementary past issues, an up-to-date table of contents with abstracts, and detailed instructions on what and how to submit to us. Submitters do not need to be TPHA members! We look forward to receiving your submissions soon!

National Public Health Week will be April 4 – 10, 2022. Check out the websites at https://apha.org/ and https://nphw.org for daily themes and activities. Be sure to take pictures of your Texas events! Send those to us with a short summary of your celebrations and we will include your stories in our next TPHA News that is due out in May. Visit the newsletter page on our website for information on submitting your news items https://www.texaspha.org/page/Newsletters.

Submitted by Terri Pali, TPHA Executive Director

TPHA member and Affiliate Representative to the American Public Health Association (APHA) Governing Council, Dr. Kaye Reynolds, has been appointed Council of Affiliates (CoA) Representative to the APHA Speakers Ad Hoc Task Force on Governing Council Engagement.

The task force was approved at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the APHA Governing Council with two stated objectives:
1. Identify opportunities for improving the Governing Council experience, engagement, and activities.
2. Identify and disseminate best practices in the Councilor role to the member units by examining existing member unit activities.
The overarching purpose of the Ad Hoc Task Force, in line with APHA Your Way, is to identify best practices to ensure engagement throughout Governing Council Activities. The Ad Hoc Task Force began meeting in January and will meet monthly until the APHA mid-year meeting.

Congratulations to Kaye on her appointment!

Submitted by Wei Chen (Miso) Lee, PhD, TPHA Community Health Worker Section

5th Annual Conference on Migration and Health: The Health of Migrants in the Time of Pandemic: Recovery and Social Healing

Conference Dates: Mar 21-25, 2022 | 9am-2pm (CST) | Virtual
Deadline to Submit an Abstract: Feb 28, 2022

Migration is a determinant of health. Please join us to discuss how displacement and legal status expose people to vulnerability, deprivation, discrimination, violence, abuse, extortion, and limited access to healthcare. This conference also provides a platform for constructive policy dialogue and research dissemination. Translation will be available from English to Arabic, French, and Spanish during the plenary sessions. Registration is required to receive the zoom link.

More information can be found here https://www.utmb.edu/migrants/home

Submitted by Jeffrey J. Hatala, PhD, TPHA Administration and Management Section

When Jeffrey J. Hatala, PhD, joined the faculty at the Texas A&M University School of Public Health, he inherited the reins of the graduate capstone project in the Department of Health Policy and Management.

Hatala added an experiential component to the course by working with local, state and national organizations to develop projects for students.

One such project pertains to the United Way of the Brazos Valley, who, as a part of its community impact program, wanted to fill the gap in local transportation services impacting access to care for low-income residents.

Capstone students have worked over the last four years to develop Ride2Health, a program that involves volunteers recruited to serve as drivers to shuttle residents to health care appointments and pharmacies.

The Ride2Health program recently received a $25,000 grant from State Farm, which was one of 40 programs to receive funding, the only finalist from the Brazos Valley, and one of only 15 organizations in Texas to be selected.

The funds will be used to launch a pilot program with local partner organizations, the Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse (provides substance abuse prevention and treatment services), Health for All (free clinic) and HealthPoint (FQHC).

Hatala has worked with other capstone groups to complete a feasibility study for a patient navigator program in the community, help to develop two non-profit organizations, and help expand the infrastructure.
of another. These groups have also worked with coalitions to create local legislation and worked with state and national organizations to inform policy --- all with the goal of improving health outcomes.

*This story originally appeared on Texas A&M Health’s [Vital Record](#)*

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**Submitted by John Lin, TPHA Student Section**

The Medical Literacy and Access Project, founded by TPHA member and student section chair-elect John Lin, has developed a doctor finder tool in collaboration with *U.S. News & World Report*. We’ve translated this into eight languages (incl. Spanish, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Persian, Vietnamese) so far, and we’d love your help (less than 1 hour of your time) in translating this into more languages! Please contact john_lin@brown.edu if you’re interested.

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**Submitted by Melanie Stone, Health Literacy Texas Vice-President, TPHA Governing Council, and TPHA Health Education Section**

On behalf of Health Literacy Texas, I would like to announce our organization’s first anniversary. Health Literacy Texas is a coalition dedicated to supporting health literacy initiatives across the state to reach optimum health for our communities.

Low health literacy, which leads to under-utilization of preventive health services and worse health outcomes, is recognized by the American Public Health Association, Healthy People 2030, and others as a public health problem. Health Literacy Texas brings together health literacy advocates from around the state to pool expertise and resources in the areas of local and state legislation, research, and education for patients and providers. The organizations’ inaugural conference was held on June 24, 2021 and garnered over 200 participants.

Health Literacy Texas is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that meets monthly. Membership is free, and we welcome you to join our efforts by filling out the Contact Form on our website: healthliteracytx.org.

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**Submitted by Catherine Troisi, PhD, TPHA Epidemiology Section**

**New Preparedness Agency Funded at UTHealth!** The 2021 Texas legislature both created and funded the Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute (TEPHI) at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth). The overall goal of TEPHI is to guide our response to the next infectious disease outbreak/epidemic/pandemic by creating linkages to ensure the state is on the forefront of readiness and response. Funding will support core TEPHI functions at UTHealth as well as at other agencies of higher education across the state.

TEPHI’s objectives are outlined below:

- **RECRUIT AND TRAIN** a 3,100-member public health reserve (modeled after the National Guard) throughout the state that can be called to action swiftly in a pandemic or epidemic without employing a full-time workforce.
- **ESTABLISH AND EXERCISE** pandemic preparedness connections and protocols among the state’s major public health organizations, universities, and local health departments.
• ESTABLISH A RELIABLE AND SECURE DATA ANALYTICS INFRASTRUCTURE combining the strengths of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and institutions of higher education to provide data-driven, actionable guidance to state and local leadership to prevent, identify, monitor, and respond to an outbreak of infectious disease. Analyze the long-term impacts and health care costs of COVID-19 in Texas, including “long hauler” COVID-19 patients and the underlying behavioral health consequences of COVID-19, to improve overall pandemic-related health care response and efficacy.

• PRIORITIZE VULNERABLE, UNDERSERVED, AND RURAL POPULATIONS through pandemic preparation and response measures, prevention programs, and health literacy promotion.

• CREATE A NETWORK AND CATALOG of testing laboratories and best practices.

• DEVELOP “WORK AND LEARN SAFE” PROTOCOLS for small and rural businesses, schools, and essential food production.

Although just initiated, TEPHI has already accomplished key activities including:

• Interviewed leaders in the field to identify highly qualified candidates to serve as the agency’s inaugural director, created a title and developed a job description for the position, and launched a national search.

• Led a group of 10 other Texas institutions of higher education and was awarded federal funds to support training in public health informatics.

• Developing certificate courses in pandemic responses.

• Partnered with DSHS and academic laboratories across the state to launch a SARS-CoV-2 emerging variant program.

• Estimated the overall degree of protection (immunity derived through vaccination plus natural infection) for the current COVID-19 pandemic.

• Leading analyses to guide vaccine deployment in critical communities.

Submitted by Danielle Johnson, TPHA Health Education Section

The Kendall County Prevention Coalition, has monthly podcasts that educate and promote awareness of the health needs in Kendall County. The podcast is called Kendall County Connections and can be found on Apple Podcasts and Spotify. Below are the links to listen in:
https://open.spotify.com/show/36jjptSwZhkYrJyGWnyft

Submitted by Kim Rahebi, MPH, CPH, Chair of the TPHA Environmental and Consumer Health Section

Collin College is accepting applications for faculty for their iCollin Virtual Campus. Please apply using the following link: https://collin.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/ExternalFacultyCareerSite/job/iCollin-Virtual-Campus/Adjunct-Professor-iCollin-Virtual-Campus--Multiple-Disciplines--Applicant-Pool-2021-2022--_R-1290

Preferred qualifications: Master's degree from a regionally accredited institution. Academic preparation in teaching field to include eighteen (18) graduate semester hours in the discipline to be taught. For lab sections, bachelor’s degree in discipline/qualifying field. Teaching experience is desired.

Fields: environmental science; biology; geology; earth science; environmental health, conservation
The following are course descriptions for areas of pressing need:

**GEOL 1305 Environmental Science - Natural Disasters:** A survey of the forces, including humans, that shape our physical and biologic environment, and how they affect life on Earth. Introduction to the science and policy of global and regional environmental issues, including pollution, climate change, and sustainability of land, water, and energy resources. Prerequisite: Meet TSI standard for MATH 0310, and TSI college-readiness standard for Reading and Writing; or equivalent. 3 credit hours.

**GEOL 1401 Earth Sciences for Non-Science Majors I Lecture:** Survey of geology, meteorology, oceanography, and astronomy. Lab: Activities will cover methods used to collect and analyze data in geology, meteorology, oceanography, and astronomy. Lab required. Prerequisites: TSI Math score of 910-949 with a diagnostic score of 5, and TSI college-readiness standard for Reading and Writing; or equivalent. 4 credit hours.

**GEOL 1402 Earth Sciences for Non-Science Majors II Lecture:** Extension of the study of geology, astronomy, meteorology and oceanography, focusing on natural resources, hazards and climate variability. Lab: Activities will focus on methods used to collect and analyze data related to natural resources, hazards and climate variability. Lab required. Prerequisite: GEOL 1401 or GEOL 1403. 4 credit hours.

**ENVR 1401 Environmental Science I Lecture:** A survey of the forces, including humans, that shape our physical and biologic environment, and how they affect life on Earth. Introduction to the science and policy of global and regional environmental issues, including pollution, climate change, and sustainability of land, water, and energy resources. Lab: Activities will cover methods used to collect and analyze environmental data. Lab required. Prerequisites: TSI Math score of 910-949 with a diagnostic score of 5, and TSI college-readiness standard for Reading and Writing; or equivalent. 4 credit hours.

**ENVR 1402 Environmental Science II:** Continued interdisciplinary study of both natural (biology, chemistry, geology) and social (economics, politics, ethics) sciences as they apply to the environment. Focus on energy issues, global warming, ozone loss, land use, conservation and management, deforestation, biodiversity, the history of environmental law and regulation and local environmental problems. Lab required. Prerequisite: ENVR 1401. 4 credit hours.

*The lab and lecture are independent of one another-- meaning that a faculty member can teach only a lecture or only a lab at any given time, or they can do both and have them paired. This is true of any of the courses that have labs.*
REGISTRATION OPEN

May 18-20, 2022

Texas Public Health Association
Annual Education Conference (Virtual)

Resilience in Public Health

www.texaspha.org

"Continuing education credit for multiple disciplines will be provided for this event"

https://www.texaspha.org/event/TPHAAEC2022

Thank you to all who submitted their news! We look forward to receiving brief announcements about the work our members are doing and the achievements you have made! Our next newsletter is scheduled for late May of 2022. Start gathering the information you want to share with the Texas public health community now and let us know what is going in your area of this great state! Be sure to send us your National Public Health Week stories with pictures!

Check out the newsletter information and copies of past newsletters on our TPHA website at https://www.texaspha.org/page/Newsletters. 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!

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.
Stay Healthy and Safe Texas

The Texas Public Health Association encourages all Texans to continue practicing the recommendations for preventing and limiting the transmission of COVID-19. These recommendations include:

- wearing a mask in public places,
- washing your hands frequently,
- avoiding touching your face,
- disinfecting touched surfaces,
- Maintaining a safe distance as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and
- getting the COVID-19 vaccine

Learn more at:
https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/or https://www.cdc.gov/

Cold Weather Can Be Hazardous: HAVE A PLAN

Texas saw frigid weather this past year. Be prepared if we get dangerously cold weather again.

- Winterize your home.
- Protect people and pets.
- Get your car ready.

For more winter safety tips, visit https://texasready.gov/resources/