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

Thank you all for a successful year as TPHA President. So many new relationships and friendships were built, and fresh perspectives on so many things were gained. This year has been challenging. Certainly COVID-19 played a role in that, as does the fact that politics seem to increasingly be inserted into public health. Controversial public health topics, association decisions, and operating in our virtual world and working diligently to maintain relationships. It hasn’t been easy, but it has been worth every minute. As I say all the time, please consider getting more involved in TPHA – join a section, run for an office – we are a fun bunch.

If you missed the Annual Education Conference (AEC) you owe it yourself to watch the archives. So many topics and excellent speakers. If you missed it because you weren’t registered, you’ll need to register and pay the registration fee – well worth it I might add. You can register for the On Demand Conference here. The archives will be available only until July 19th.

If you were registered and missed sessions because of attending others, or other conflicts, then you still have access and just need to log in as if you were watching live. Follow the instructions provided for logging in to the virtual site. Feel free to reach out to Terri at txpha@aol.com if you need assistance.

DO NOT MISS the opening plenary session which set the tone and pace for our conference. Our opening panel featured Dr. Kaye Bender, the current President of the American Public Health Association, who discussed the State of the Nation’s Public Health. Dave Gruber, Associate Commissioner of Local and Regional Health Operations with the TX Department of State Health Services, updated us on the State of the State’s Public Health. Dr. Beck Munsey, Associate Professor at Tarleton State University, then presented his talk on Building Resiliency in Mental Health. Russell Hopkins, Director of Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Disease Surveillance with NET Health (the Northeast Texas Public Health District), closed us out with a presentation on Building Resiliency in Rural Communities.

Throughout the conference, breakout sessions presented a wide variety of topics and original research. Likewise, the two online poster sessions offered additional presentations that were extremely informative.

Our closing plenary, with Cody Kelly from NASA, was definitely something you won’t want to miss seeing when you review the archived presentations. This was probably one of the best presentations I’ve heard in a really long time. In “Persistence Builds Resilience” he shared his personal story of how his own chronic illness was an obstacle he overcame to make headway in chasing his dream of working for NASA. His presentation was truly motivational!

Two new features of the conference this year were a big hit! “Play It To Win It” featured folks working hard to earn points for participating in our AEC event and activities! AEC attendees (presenters included) earned points for logging in early as well as visiting the networking lounge, the auditorium, exhibit hall, poster halls, exhibit booths, and live sessions. A leaderboard kept a running points total. Congratulations to the winners!

TOP TEN WINNERS OF “PLAY IT TO WIN IT”:

- Adel Cunningham
- Mark Leonard
- Ronda Silmon
- Carol Davis
- Laura Porterfield
- Jennifer Smith
- Kwame Chery
- Lakshmi Sahini
- Lynette Williams
- Catherine Cooksley
The second new feature, “Coffee, Chat, and Cinnamon Rolls!” brought us great conversations with some deep dives on multiple topics. This is definitely a feature we intend to continue in future conferences! In fact, the conversation was so rich we’ve decided to start a similar MONTHLY chat on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, during the lunch hour, beginning August 9th. BYOBB (Bring Your Own Brown Bag) – “Lunch and Latte – The Chat Continues”. Watch for a link in your email.

Conferences don’t just fall together and so there are numerous folks to thank for bringing this event from concept to completion:

- The program planning committee – thank you all for serving and giving of your time and expertise
- The TPHA Governing Council, Executive Board, and fellow officers
- Special thanks to our sponsor – Regional and Local Health Operations of the Texas Department of State Health Services
- Our exhibitors:
  - Epilepsy Foundation of Central & South Texas,
  - Food & Drug Administration,
  - National Board of Public Health Examiners,
  - American Planning Association, Texas Chapter (co-host Mobile Workshop),
  - The University of North Texas Health Science Center,
  - Silver Exhibitor – CureMD, and
  - Platinum Exhibitor – Westat
- Our virtual site host, FORJ, and their incredible representative, Ivy Erazo, for her tremendous assistance in guiding us every step of the way,
- Our plenary, breakout session, workshop, and poster presenters for sharing your time and expertise,
- And YOU, our attendees.

**TPHA Election Results:** Thank you to the members who voted for those on our ballot of very qualified candidates. TPHA members have elected the following members to serve on our TPHA Governing Council for three-year terms each: Debra Flores, Ana Neuman, and Lynette Williams. Our new President-Elect is Dr. Melissa Oden, who, for the first time in TPHA history (at least as far back as we can find), returns to serve a second term as TPHA president. Additionally, Kim Rahebi was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Governing Council and Carol Davis, Laura Feghali and Kaye Reynolds were appointed to the Executive Board.

**Awards:** One the highlights of the closing session is the presentation of awards. I had the honor or presenting three very deserving individuals this year. The following is the verbiage from the award presentations.

**The Outstanding Service Award** is presented for service above and beyond to the association and in support of the association president. This year’s recipient, quite frankly, kept me on track every step of the way and I could not have had a successful presidential year without her guidance and support. At one point I joked about the virtual presidency and the gavel living in absentia. What showed up on my doorstep 2 days later…. My very own gavel. I am blessed not only to count her as a mentor and colleague, but also a friend. She is the absolute backbone of the association and the wheels on this bus do not turn without her firm grip holding the wheel. This year’s Outstanding Service Award is presented to Terri Pali, Executive Director of the Texas Public Health Association.

**The President’s Award** recognizes individuals within the association who have gone above and beyond in furthering the mission and goals of the association and public health. I met this year’s recipient when I became a member of the association and I was in awe at the things she was able to accomplish while maintaining an overflowing plate of activities outside the association. Some of us are really good at building and maintaining relationships and she is one of those people. Through her efforts, the association has developed strong relationships with other associations, civic organizations, and academic institutions. She has a passion for the future of public health and invests significant time with our student section even digging into
her own pocket for participation incentives. The student “hack-a-thon” in our recent in-person conferences, was her creation. The mobile workshops, presented by the American Planning Association, which you enjoyed during this conference, and in previous conferences, are a direct result of her efforts to build those relationships. She is an ongoing part of the association’s leadership and has served on the governing council, executive board, and is a past president of the association. I am pleased to present this year’s President’s Award to my esteemed colleague and dear friend, fellow lover of Mexican food, and who always moves at the speed of light, Dr. Melissa Oden.

Our final award is a special award. They’re all special, but this one is a first. This award is being presented for excellent in service. The recipient of this award has a long history with TPHA. She became a member in 1980 – that’s 42 years of active membership. She is a TPHA fellow and has served this association in myriad roles, she served as TPHA Chair of the Public Health Presentations Committee from 1994-1998, Chair of the Editorial Board for the Texas Public Health Association Journal from 1999 – 2007, in 2008 she became the Editor of the Texas Public Health Journal. In 2017 until 2019, she resumed the Chair position of the TPHA Journal Editorial Board carrying both the board chair and journal editor roles. She was elected as the 2003-2004 TPHA President and back then it was a 5-year commitment moving from second vice-president, to first vice-president, to president-elect, to president, concluding with a year as past president. She served as the Texas representative to the American Public Health Association Governing Council from 2000-2018. In 2008, she was awarded honorary membership – one of the greatest distinctions to be bestowed on a member. The honorary member must have been an active continuous member of TPHA for at least 20 years and attended 10 or more annual education conferences as well as service to the association through contributing to annual and regional meeting programs, holding office within the association, and participating on association committees. She is a past recipient of the James E Peavy Memorial Award which is presented to the public health worker in Texas who has made significant contributions to the advancement of public health knowledge or practice and who has demonstrated a genuine concern for the health needs of society. Her work with the TPHA journal including that of board chair exemplifies her pursuance of the advancement of public health knowledge. All those years working with the journal and the board. That’s a lot of research that’s crossed her desk. After 21 years in this role, she has decided to step back and pass the torch, although she intends to continue her work with the TPHA newsletter. So now many of you know who the recipient is, and if she’s watching, and I hope she is, she knows too. What she doesn’t know is that this special award being presented for the first time ever to Dr. Catherine D. Cooksley is titled now and into perpetuity in her honor. I am truly overwhelmed by her service to the association and have the honor to present the Dr. Catherine D. Cooksley Excellence in Service Award to its first recipient.... Dr. Catherine D. Cooksley.

I was in tears by the end of that and I know a few of you were as well. I extend sincere congratulations to all of our TPHA award recipients!

My final act as President 2021-2022 is the introduction of our incoming President, Dr. Elizabeth Cuevas. Dr. Cuevas is the Communicable Disease and Epidemiology Manager for the Texas Department of State Health Services, Public Health Region 4/5N. Elizabeth has served as the Incident Commander for the COVID-19 Pandemic Response, overseeing all aspects of response since January 2020. With her senior level management, she improved response workflow by creating and designing a system for addressing COVID-19 positive cases to maintain effective and real time situational awareness allowing for critical interventions to be implemented to protect public health. When not dealing directly with COVID-19, Elizabeth oversees operations and activities of the Communicable Disease and Epidemiology programs including Tuberculosis Elimination, Immunizations, HIV/STD, Zoonosis and Epidemiology. She serves as the regional liaison and consultant to local agencies, county government officials, and other personnel working in preparedness planning and assessment for their communities.

Dr. Cuevas earned her Bachelor’s degree in microbiology from Texas Tech, and a Master’s degree in Public Health - Epidemiology. She received her Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences from Texas A&M University in 2017. Her dissertation focused on the epidemiology of preventable traumatic morbidity and mortality, with a
focus on risk mitigation in an occupational field. Dr. Cuevas has extensive disaster response experience including responding to Hurricane Dolly, Hurricane Ike, the Bastrop Complex Fire, and a tornado event in Arkansas. Elizabeth’s professional background is diverse, including working on health and preparedness initiatives through university grant programs, working as a Paramedic in rural areas across the State of Texas, and serving as faculty in academic health programs prior to joining the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Welcome new Madam President!
And with that, I move to my new role as Immediate Past President! A heartfelt thank you to all!

From our current TPHA president, Elizabeth Cuevas, BS, MS, PhD, LP (2022-2023)

On behalf of the Texas Public Health Association, our TPHA leadership continues to celebrate our Texas public health professionals and we thank you for joining us for an exceptional Annual Education Conference (AEC)! The overall theme for this AEC focused on Resilience. The theme, “Resilience”, perfectly summarizes how public health has adapted, overcome, and persevered through the past two years. As we see COVID-19 changing and becoming more manageable within existing public health programs, there will always be new challenges coming to light. I have no doubt that through your preparation, professionalism, and perseverance, our communities have been made healthier through your efforts. As a state, Texans are now more prepared and better able to overcome those new hurdles.

Regardless of our preparations, events occur. The Texas Public Health Association was deeply saddened to learn the news of the senseless shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and to the entire Uvalde community. Please see our website at https://www.texaspha.org/ for a list of resources for parents and professionals following a mass shooting event.

As summer arrives and we look forward to more family activities, travel and adventures, please always be safe!

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!

Name/Section
Liena Abdelwahab, Student
Rosalie Aguilar, Oral Health
Brittany Ajoku, Community Health Worker
Fanny Bassey, Student
Mia Carter, Student
Magda de la Torre, Oral Health
Kristina DePhilippo, Vision Care
Olivia Dominguez, Student
Ella Ewart-Pierce, Administration & Management
We have two (2) new Institution/Agency Members, The Texas Health Institute and the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District:

**Texas Health Institute Members:**
- Andy Miller, Agency Representative
- Katie Bradley

**Waco-McLennan County Public Health District Members:**
- April Snyder, Agency Representative
- Kodi Arnold
- Stephanie Alvey
- Alyssa Avalos
- Emily Bradford
- Tamaya Browder

Encourage Your Colleagues to Join Us!
https://www.texaspha.org/general/register_member_type.asp?
Texas Public Health Association WELCOMES our new Institution/Agency Member

Join as an institution/agency member here:

Texas Public Health Association WELCOMES our new Institution/Agency Member

Waco-McLennan County Public Health District

Join as an institution/agency member here:

Your Group Can Become an Institution/Agency Member of TPHA also! See next page!
For more information contact Terri Pali at info@texaspha.org

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A Call to Leadership for 2023!

Harness the energy of public health advocacy-run for office in TPHA!

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 will be available) AND President-Elect.

The TPHA Bylaws provide the following descriptions of and the requirements for each of the Association leadership positions.

**President-Elect:** The office of the President-Elect shall be responsible for the development of programs which will occur during his/her year as president. (S)He shall function as ex-officio member of the program committee. The President-elect shall, in consultation with the Policy & Advocacy committee, establish legislative policy for the coming year. **Requirements to run for President-Elect:** For nominations to the office of President-elect, an individual shall be an Active Member in good standing for the preceding five (5) consecutive years, a current Fellow in the Association, a present or past member of the TPHA Governing Council, and a participant in two or more annual meetings.
**Governing Council: Three positions available (3 year term each):** There shall be a Governing Council which shall consist of the officers of the Association; the Executive Board; nine (9) members to be elected from the membership consistent with Article Two for three (3) year terms that are staggered so that one-third (1/3) retire each year; the Chair of each Section; one (1) representative to be appointed by each affiliated society; and the affiliate representative to the Governing Council of the American Public Health Association. Such representatives to Governing Council shall be members of the Association. The President of the Association shall serve as Chair of the Governing Council.

The terms of the Governing Council members shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected and terminate at the close of the annual meeting at which their respective terms expire.

A quorum of the Governing Council shall consist of a majority of the Council members.

Once a quorum is determined to be present, that quorum shall be assumed for the remainder of a meeting. If a member must leave a meeting prior to the finish of business, (s)he should, if possible, select a proxy from qualified Association members in the audience.

A proxy must be written by the Governing Council member and shall be presented to the Executive Director prior to the meeting, or during the meeting for members excused as described in Section 4.03.1 of the bylaws.

There shall be three (3) regular meetings (one in the Spring, one in the Fall, and one during the Annual Meeting) of the Governing Council annually to be designated at the first regular meeting of the incoming Governing Council at the annual meeting by the incoming Governing Council at its organizational meeting during the Association’s annual meeting.

Special meetings of the Governing Council may be called by the President, the Executive Director at the request of the President, or at the request in writing by twelve (12) Governing Council members. In the latter case, the call-to-meet shall be issued at least thirty (30) days in advance and shall state the purpose of the meeting.

The Governing Council is the governing body of the Texas Public Health Association. Functions of the Council shall include but not be limited to the following:

- The Governing Council shall establish and amend the bylaws of the Association.
- The Governing Council shall establish the goals, policies, and procedures for the Association.
- The Governing Council shall establish the Sections of the Association, combine or discontinue them when necessary to maintain coordination among them, and to approve general rules governing the policies of the Sections.
- The Governing Council shall approve all resolutions of the Association and submit them to the membership for a vote.
- The Governing Council shall elect the elective members of the Executive Board.
- The Governing Council shall approve all new members of the Association.
- The Governing Council shall receive and approve the report of the membership committee for elective members of the Governing Council and officers of the Association.
- The Governing Council shall ensure that annual elections are held in accordance with the procedures of the Association.
- The Governing Council shall approve the annual budget of the Association.
- The Governing council shall approve all actions of the Executive Board.
- The Governing Council shall refer all fiscal considerations to the Executive Board for a recommendation.

Any elective member of the Governing Council who misses three (3) consecutive Council meetings without arranging for a proxy will be removed from the Council. The unexpired term will be filled by the individual not elected but receiving the next highest number of votes among the elective Governing Council candidates on the most recent ballot.
For more information about either the Governing Council or duties of the President-Elect go [HERE](#) to read the Association Bylaws.

Nominees will be asked to submit a short biography. These documents will become part of the association records. Elections will be held and results announced at the TPHA Annual Education Conference 2023.

To nominate someone (or yourself), obtain their permission to be placed on the ballot then submit their name and contact information prior to December 31st to: Terri Pali [TxPHA@aol.com](mailto:TxPHA@aol.com)

Please consider this very important challenge to become a leader in TPHA!

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**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 has been very busy this past quarter! We are excited to report that our Editorial Board Chair, Mathias Forrester, will be taking over as the Editor of the Texas Public Health Journal in 2023. The current editor, Catherine Cooksley, will continue to work with Mr. Forrester on the process of journal production over the next few journal issues.

**EXCITING OPPORTUNITY:** This transition will create a vacancy on our TPHA Editorial Board as Mathias moves up to Editor. We are now recruiting for someone to take over as our TPHA Editorial Board Chair! If you have any editorial board experience, have been a reviewer for a professional journal, are committed to bolstering our Texas public health community with information they can use, and want to boost your CV with the addition of public health service, this is YOUR OPPORTUNITY! If you are not familiar with our TPHJ, please read all about us on the “Publication” pages at [https://www.texaspha.org/page/Journal](https://www.texaspha.org/page/Journal). Be sure to view the list of current board members and editorial board duties to get an idea of who we are and what we do in the document, [https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.texaspha.org/resource/resmgr/journals/editorial_team_2021_2023.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.texaspha.org/resource/resmgr/journals/editorial_team_2021_2023.pdf)
If this exciting opportunity seems like a good fit for you, please send a recent CV and a statement of interest to Terri Pali at info@texaspha.org.

Publish With Us! The Texas Public Health Journal (TPHJ) Editorial Board would like to remind Texas Public Health Association (TPHA) members that they can submit manuscripts relating to public health in Texas to the TPHJ. The Editorial Board also asks TPHA members to remind their friends and colleagues that they, too, can submit such manuscripts even if they are not TPHA members. The TPHJ provides an opportunity for new researchers to gain experience publishing their research. Types of appropriate manuscripts include public health research and practice articles, commentaries, brief reports, contributions to regular columns, and book or software reviews. General information on the TPHJ can be found on the TPHA website at https://www.texaspha.org/page/Journal. Information for authors can be found at https://www.texaspha.org/page/Authors. If anyone has questions about submitting a manuscript, they can contact the TPHJ Editorial Board at tphajournal@gmail.com.

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TPHA Section News

TPHA Epidemiology Report
Submitted by Rebekka Garcia, MPH and Diana Cervantes, MS, DrPH, CPH, CIC

The Epidemiology Section hosted their first Thirsty Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 7 PM Central! Thirsty Thursday was a fun virtual Zoom get together of the TPHA epi section members. We got an update from the section leaders, chatted, and played our own version of public health/epidemiology jeopardy. It was such fun. Many thanks to the organizers!

One of the updates included the announcement that the TPHA Epidemiology section has a new webpage with information on who we are, what we are working on, and more. Come visit our site and meet your fellow epis! https://sites.google.com/texaspha.org/epidemiology/home.

Another announcement was about the new Epi section newsletter. In order to keep members updated on all things epi in Texas, the TPHA Epidemiology Section will be releasing a quarterly digital newsletter beginning this July. One section of the newsletter will be the Student Spotlight where we would like to highlight student work. So, if you are a student in a bachelor’s program in Public Health or an MPH program and working on anything related to epidemiology, please reach out to Dr. Cervantes by 6/10/22. Some examples of items we hope you will let us know about include, exciting new internships, fellowships, grants, publications, etc. We want to brag about the awesome work you are doing and inspire others to do great work!! Please send your items to Dr. Cervantes at diana.cervantes@unthsc.edu.

From our TPHA Members

Submitted by Renee A. Orrantia, MPH, CPH, TPHA Health Education Section
Webinar for all health care providers: Mixing Milk + Meds: Assessing Infant Risk during Breastfeeding
Dr. Thomas Hale and Dr. Kaytlin Krutsch of the Infant Risk Center
Wednesday, June 15th 12:00-2:00pm MT/2:00-4:00pm ET

This free webinar is hosted by the American Heart Association with support from CDC’s grant to improve Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health.
Learning Goal: *Providers will be able to navigate resources that assist them in determining available medications to minimize disruption to breastfeeding and minimize risk to the infant.*

Two (2.0) CME credits are available free of charge and providers in El Paso will be eligible to receive the Infant Risk app subscription free for one year.
Registration Link: [https://heart.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rAGZmjbBRb-BavlusdJukg](https://heart.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rAGZmjbBRb-BavlusdJukg)

Submitted by Ariane Secrest, TPHA Health Education Section
The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas announces their new public health program starting in the Fall 2022 semester.
Submitted by Paul McGaha, DO, MPH, TPHA Health Education Section

Emerging Issues in Occupational, Environmental, and Preventive Medicine Conference

Friday, June 24, 2022, 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Ornelas Academic Amphitheater, The University of Texas as Tyler Health Science Center, 11937 U.S. Highway 271, Tyler, TX. At the conclusion of this activity, learners will be able to recognize emerging issues in occupational, environmental and preventive medicine. Continuing education credits are available. For more information and to register, visit https://uthct.cloud-cme.com/EmergingIssuesConf2022. Questions? Call 903.877.1417 or email kayla.shelton@uthct.edu.

Submitted by Catherine Troisi, PhD, TPHA Epidemiology Section

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) School of Public Health invites applications for a 12-month open ranked tenure-track faculty position in the area of public health preparedness. The successful applicant will also hold a position in the Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute (TEPHI), a new state agency associated with the UTHealth School of Public Health (TEPHI.texas.gov). A major component of TEPHI’s activities will be addressing the day-to-day practicalities of pandemic preparation and management. This scope of work includes TEPHI partnering with businesses and professional organizations, like those in the essential services and food supply chains, to prevent disruptions, plan for business continuity, and protect the safety and well-being of employees. The candidate is expected to lead a thematic program of externally funded research. The candidate is also expected to teach graduate courses, engage in student recruitment, advising and retention activities, as well as service. The home department will depend on the interests and expertise of the applicant and fit with a department’s ongoing initiatives.

The UTHealth School of Public Health is a top rank fully accredited school of public health with campuses in Austin, Brownsville, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, and San Antonio. In evaluating applications, the search committee seeks evidence of outstanding research and practice experience in public health preparedness. UTHealth SPH offers multiple masters and doctorate-level degree programs with its combined 170 faculty and 1,300 masters’ and doctoral students.

Candidates must have a Ph.D., DrPH, or M.D. degree (or equivalent). We welcome candidates whose experience in teaching, research, and service has prepared them to contribute to our commitment to diversity and community service. Rank and salary will be commensurate with experience. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Interested candidates should access the following link to complete the Web application https://www.uth.edu/hr/uthealth-careers. Please also submit a letter describing qualifications and interests, curriculum vitae, and contact information for three professional references. Please email all questions regarding this position to: Catherine Troisi, Ph.D., Search Committee Chair, catherine.l.troisi@uth.tmc.edu.
UTHealth is committed to providing equal opportunity in all employment-related activities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, gender identity or expression, veteran status or any other basis prohibited by law or university policy. Reasonable accommodation, based on disability or religious observances, will be considered in accordance with the applicable law and UTHealth policy. The University maintains affirmative action programs with respect to women, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and eligible veterans in accordance with applicable law. This is a security-sensitive position and thereby subject to Texas Education code §51.215. A background check will be required for the final candidate.

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Dr. Troisi also submitted the following announcement about an exciting new program.

Certificate in Pandemic Preparedness and Response

Online Courses

TEPHI’s free online certificate program in pandemic preparedness and response is available to Texans now! The program is designed for volunteers in Texas who want to join the first-of-its-kind, state-wide public health reserve – both health personnel without formal training in public health, and other interested individuals. The online program includes four asynchronous courses and a capstone exercise. Textbooks are provided.

- Fundamentals of Epidemiology – An overview of the causes of health outcomes and diseases in populations, including disease distribution, determinants, control, and prevention.

- Foundations of Infectious Diseases – The biology and epidemiology of infectious diseases, including emerging and re-emerging diseases. The course also covers the use of epidemiologic methods to investigate outbreaks.

- Surveillance of Infectious Diseases – An introduction to the characteristics of surveillance systems and how data from these systems are used to detect infectious disease outbreaks and other threats to public health.

- Pandemic Preparedness and Response – Key concepts of emergency preparedness and response, including National Incident Management System (NIMS) training.

- Capstone Tabletop Exercise – Learners combine their new knowledge and skills to detect and respond to a public health emergency.

Registration and Information at https://tephi.texas.gov
+1 866-89-TEPHI / info@tephi.texas.gov
Submitted by Subi Gandi, PhD, MPH, TPHA Epidemiology Section

Tarleton State University’s Rural Communication Institute (RCI) has been providing health outreach services for seven rural Texas counties (Anderson, Cherokee, Harrison, Henderson, Houston, Panola and Shelby) that have been hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The two Tarleton faculty members are leading the NETX Counts, a grant funded project through RCI. Dr. Jennifer T. Edwards, Executive Director of the Rural Communication Institute and Professor of Communication, stated, “We’ve had to think creatively to reach our rural populations, and this has been one of the most rewarding outreach projects.” Dr. Subi Gandhi, Assistant Director of the Rural Communication Institute and Associate Professor of Public Health, stated, “We are ready to have community conversations, hold educational sessions, and help community-based organizations in this public health effort. We have built many great partnerships in several counties to combat misinformation and give the right tools to East Texans for enhancing their quality of life.”

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A COVID-19 Related Study Published by Dr. Subi Gandhi and Her Public Health Student

Dr. Subi Gandhi, an Associate Professor of Public Health at Tarleton State University, and Bonnie Large, a public health major at Tarleton, recently published a study in the American Journal of Public Health titled “The Importance of Theories and Models in the Prevention and Control of COVID-19.” This study highlights how health educators can use behavioral theories and models as helpful tools in preventing and controlling large outbreaks. The article can be accessed through this link: https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19325037.2021.2019623?tab=permissions&scroll=top

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 August 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! When you send us your news item, be sure to include your TPHA section!
Check out the information on submitting your news and view copies of past newsletters on our TPHA website at [https://www.texaspha.org/page/Newsletters](https://www.texaspha.org/page/Newsletters). Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues and encourage them to [join us](https://www.texaspha.org/page/Newsletters) 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.

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You work hard keeping Texans healthy, be sure to take care of yourself!

Visit [www.texaspha.org](http://www.texaspha.org) For links to resources

Stay Healthy Texas!