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

As we transition into spring, I hope this message finds you well and in good health. With the winter season behind us, we can now look forward to longer days, blooming flowers, and warmer temperatures. I hope you have been able to take some time to recharge and renew yourself during the winter months.

I want to take a moment to express my gratitude and pride for the amazing response to our 2023 AEC Call for Abstracts. With two outstanding pre-conference sessions, 146 abstracts submitted, and numerous posters accepted - we are sure to have an incredible conference packed with dynamic dialogues and progress in public health.

I am excited to see you all at the 99th Annual Education Conference in San Antonio on May 22-24, 2023. Our AEC will offer a great opportunity to reconnect in person and continue to grow in our efforts in public health, leadership and personal growth! As we continue to navigate the ever-changing world around us, I encourage you to remember the best practices of public health for yourself and those around you. I encourage you to visit the TPHA website and learn more about all of the opportunities our association offers. If not already, consider affiliating with one of our sections that focus on specialized disciplines of public health. Find the best way for you to get involved.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation for your continued support in our mission to improve the health and safety of Texas. The more you engage and participate in TPHA, the more benefit you receive, and the more we can accomplish together.

Thank you all, and I wish you a happy and healthy spring season.

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 Texas Public Health Association 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!

Administration & Management

Richard G. Greenhill  Michael Nyawir  Yiyao Li
Alice Miroslava Salazar  Justin Sujith  Rosalind McAdams
Mary Grace Saenz  Maria Elvia Trevino  Ellen Breckenridge
Susan McLellan  Melina Granados  Blair Williams
Ana Ortiz  Gabriela Gallegos
Aging & Public Health
Mercy Chukwuyem Ijeh
Rongfang Zhan
Carol A Boswell
Yeonwoo Kim

Community Health Worker
Nellyda Vanessa Cazares

Environmental & Consumer Health
Gary Dylla
Rose Marie Ramos

Epidemiology
Sonali Sarkar
Janice S. Palma
Temitope Olokunlade
Gina Marie Boselli

Andrea Casanova
Robert Lashbrook
Phuong Thi Kim Vo
Michelle Lee Landry

Jessica Kirkland
Nicholas Ferguson
Mason Bird
Shelley Stonecipher

Health Education
Dane Bossert
Carol C Kozloski
Stephen David
Israel Msengi
Isaiah Jones
Liana Petruzzi

Jessica Beatriz Wagner
Seanda Blocker
Cody Sliger
Tara Washington
Amanda Decimo

Victoria Dominque Balderas
Urvi Mehta

Public Health Nursing

Student
Jennifer Newton
Susannah Harris
Sarah Neal Horne

Stephanie D. Rowan
Camille Johnson
Ishmam Alam
Greg LaMay

Carlos A. Lopez Corsino
Lizbeth Villegas-Gomez
Jessica Wise

Unaffiliated
Michael Hugo Gutierrez
Naomi Meier
TPHA has three (3) NEW Institution/Agency Members, The **San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, UT School of Public Health San Antonio, and University of North Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health.**

**San Antonio Metropolitan Health District Members**

Deirdre Murphy  
Tina Lopez  
Sonia Gonzales  
Roger Pollok  
Sarah Jo Wagner  
Angelo Casalez  
Julie Sandoval  
Joan Elizabeth Cunningham

**UT School of Public Health San Antonio Members**

Marissa Mexquitic

**University of North Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health**

Matt Nolan Adrignola  
Stacey B Griner  
Robert Yockey  
Malinee Neelamegam
Provide your employees with the benefits of TPHA! Become an Institution/Agency Member of TPHA!

**TPHA**

**TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

**Institution/Agency Memberships**

- ¼ page advertisement in 4 issues of the Texas Public Health Journal
- Quarterly TPHA newsletter updates
- Complimentary job announcements on the TPHA website
- Listed as an agency member on the TPHA website
- Many opportunities to contribute to public health policy/advocacy work
- Opportunities to participate in TPHA committees and sections
- Reduced annual education conference registration fees for staff TPHA members

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Contact Terri Pali at info@texaspha.org

A Call to Leadership for 2023!

*Become a voice for public health in Texas.*

_Harness the energy of public health advocacy and run for office to lead 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 document the roles and responsibilities of TPHA leadership positions and the procedures that our TPHA operate by. Please take a look at the descriptions of and the requirements for each of the Association leadership positions. Then, step up to lead the premier public health association in Texas!

**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
For more information about either the Governing Council or duties of the President-Elect please read our TPHA Bylaws on our website at https://www.texaspha.org/page/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 permission to be placed on the ballot then submit the name and contact information prior to March 1, 2023 to Terri Pali at info@texaspha.org. Please consider this very important challenge to become a leader in TPHA!

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New Proposed Mental Health Section

Several members have expressed an interest in creating a Mental Health Section in TPHA. The Governing Council has agreed to pursue this and is asking for your support. In order to create a new section we must have at least 20 current members in good standing agree to affiliate with the new section. This can be either as your PRIMARY section or SECONDARY (additional $5.00 per year) section. In addition to the above requirement at least ten (10) additional persons must join TPHA and select the Mental Health Section as their primary section. We hope to have this process completed prior to our annual conference in May! Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued support and involvement in TPHA!

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TPHA Volunteer Opportunity

Membership Recruitment, Engagement and Development Committee

The Texas Public Health Association is seeking a member to chair the Membership Recruitment, Engagement and Development Committee. The committee is made up of chairs-elect of each of the sections, or other section member as assigned by the section. The committee is responsible for reviewing recruitment and retention of members; research and recommend to the Association’s governing bodies items related to member benefits; coordinate the Association’s internal training activities including, but not limited to, leadership training, member orientation, officer’s training, disseminate information of public health interest to the public and to members of the Association; promote careers in public health through education, and recommend plans for marketing the Association. The committee is also responsible for developing a slate of officer positions from among qualified candidates and presenting it to the Governing Council at the fall quarterly meeting. Additional duties include actively seeking scholarship applicants, reviewing applications, and making recommendations to the governing bodies of the Association regarding the granting of scholarships.

If you are interested in lending us your expertise on this essential committee, please contact Terri Pali at info@texaspha.org or by phone at (903)309-3380.
For additional information, please visit the conference page on our TPHA website at https://www.texaspha.org/page/TPHAAEC.
Click this link to reserve your hotel room at the Embassy Suites
News from TPHA Boards, Committees and Sections

TPHA Editorial Board Report
Submitted by Mathias Forrester, Editor, Texas Public Health Journal, and Osaro Mgbere, TPHA Editorial Board Chair

The TPHA Editorial Board reports that Mathias Forrester has assumed the role of Editor of the Texas Public Health Journal (TPHJ). The board is working on compiling content for our Spring 2023 TPHJ issue that is due out in early April 2023.

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. Most importantly, our journal has no article processing charges. Types of manuscripts appropriate for the TPHJ 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 including the submission guidelines can be found at https://www.texaspha.org/page/Authors. If anyone has questions about submitting a manuscript or wants to enquire about the suitability of their research for consideration by TPHJ, they can contact the TPHJ Editorial Board at tphajournal@gmail.com.

TPHA Vision Care Section Report
Submitted by Mary Kate Sain, Chair of TPHA’s Vision Care Section

The TPHA Vision Care Section (VCS) will be hosting a live-virtual continuing education lecture on April 3rd 2023 on the topic of exploring public health, epidemiology & population-based interventions in eye care. The event is open to all, details are listed on the flyer attached. Terri should have the link for registration available for us sometime later today. Please let me know if you have any questions. For more information please contact Mary Kate Sain at marykatesain@gmail.com.
From our TPHA Members

Submitted by Garry Ladd, DHSc, Member of TPHA’s Health Education and Epidemiology Sections

Parker University’s Master of Public Health program is seeking on-site and remote practicum sites for its students. Parker University, located in Dallas, is seeking practicum sites for its MPH students. Site preferences include on-site and remote positions. Students are required to acquire a minimum of 120 hours of supervised work experience to help integrate and apply the knowledge and competencies from the MPH program. If your organization would like to be included as a possible practicum site, please contact Dr. Garry Ladd at garryladd@parker.edu. For more information regarding Parker University’s MPH program, visit https://www.parker.edu/academics/master-public-health/.

Submitted by Aimee Rockhill, REHS/RS, Member of TPHA’s Environmental and Consumer Health Section

City of Arlington received second place grant at the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the American Beverage Foundation for a Health America under the 2023 Childhood Obesity Prevention and Environmental Health and Sustainability Awards. This grant focuses on Health Equity and Health Literacy, specifically walkability and dissemination of health information. Check out the complete article at the link below. City of Arlington Awarded $50,000 Grant to Address Childhood Obesity - City of Arlington (arlingtontx.gov)

Submitted by Billy Phillips, PhD, MPH, Member of TPHA’s Health Education Section and Hopefully Soon-To-Be-Member, Patrick Lloyd

Texas Tech University Health Science Center is proud to announce that the new School of Population and Public Health at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Abilene recently hired a founding dean for their school. Dr. Gerard Carrino assumed his new role on February 1, 2023. To get better acquainted with Dr. Carrino, please check out the complete article at https://dailydose.ttuhs.edu/2022/november/new-spph-dean.aspx.

Submitted by Ella Ewart Pierce, Member of TPHA’s Administration and Management Section

The Office of Regional Health Operations for Region 6 (AR, LA, OK, NM, TX and 68 Federally Recognized Tribes) would like to extend the invitation to join our Communities Improving Maternal Health meeting on April 18, 2023 in Dallas Texas. It’s a hybrid meeting, in-person with the option to participate virtually. There is no cost to attend either in-person or virtually. All who are interested in and/or working to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes are welcome. There is a limit of 120 in-person participants and unlimited virtual participants. Please contact Ella Ewart-Pierce at ella.ewart-pierce@hhs.gov for more information.
Submitted by The Texas Health Institute, TPHA Institution/Agency Member

Join us in congratulating our Director of Health Equity Research Blair Williams, MPA, MBA, CPH on being appointed to the American Journal of Public Health Student Think Tank for 2023! The Think Tank group has six graduate students who will primarily serve as an advisory board to AJPH Editor-in-Chief Dr. Alfredo Morabia and lead several projects for the journal. Blair is also studying health equity and social justice as a doctoral student at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and looks forward to this opportunity!

Pictured from left to right: Dr. Alfredo Morabia (AJPH Editor-in-Chief), Jesus Vasquez, Preeti Juturu, Dami Oluwemino, Blair Williams, Tyler Fuller, Abreham Gebre (AJPH), and Falah Rashoka.

Submitted by Jessica Escareno, Unaffiliated Member of TPHA

UT Tyler is pleased to welcome Dr. Theresa Byrd as Dean of the School of Health Professions. Dr. Byrd has extensive experience in public health, academia, and community-based research. She received a BSN from the University of Arizona and worked as a public health nurse before obtaining an MPH from UCLA. She received a DrPH from the UT Houston School of Public Health, served as faculty at UTH SHP, El Paso for almost 20 years, and was Professor and Chair of the Public Health Department in the Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Texas Tech University HSC, where she also served as Associate Dean.

Dr. Byrd’s research has focused on cancer prevention and screening through funding from NIH, CDC and CPRIT. She is currently funded to develop public health informatics curricula and has a Texas DSHS health equity grant.

Submitted by Savannah Panagopoulos, Member of TPHA’s Health Education Section

I am excited to post a new job opportunity on my team. Cook Children’s invites applicants for the position of Community Health Analyst. The Community Health Analyst is responsible for gathering, analyzing and synthesizing data to ensure that community-based program efforts in Cook Children’s primary service areas support and align with Cook Children’s Promise, our Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), and other relevant data. This specific role will support a grant-funded project to formally demonstrate the connection between good oral health and good medical health, and the importance of reducing barriers to care in helping

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Submitted by Jennifer Jurado Severance, PhD, Member of TPHA’s Aging and Public Health Section

In December, the Center for Older Adults at The University of North Texas Health Science Center launched its newest program targeted at improving nursing home care. Infection Control Advocate and Resident Education (ICARE) is a lesson-based learning and advocacy program focused on infection prevention and control. The program is designed to educate, engage, and empower all people in a nursing home community, including staff, residents, family members and advocates, to practice infection prevention and control while respecting resident rights and the roles of those closest to the residents.

If your health department or organization is conducting outreach to nursing home communities related to infection prevention and control, please visit the ICARE Program website at www.unthsc.edu/ICARE for additional information and resources.

Submitted by Kara Marshall, Member of TPHA’s Administration and Management Section

Welcome to SPECTRE (Special Pathogen Excellence in Clinical Training, Readiness, & Education)!

SPECTRE is a University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) program dedicated to supporting special pathogen preparedness across Health and Human Services (HHS) Region VI. As the HHS Region VI Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatments Center (RESPTC) and through our collaboration with National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC), SPECTRE serves as an internal and external training and education resource, is active in networking within out 5-state region as well as nationally, and supports research infrastructure pertaining to the care and management of the special pathogen patient.

The SPECTRE team would love to connect and collaborate with your organization!

Email us at: spectre@UTMB.EDU
Check out our latest newsletter full of resources: SPECTRE News and Publications
Check out our latest blog about Nipah Virus: SPECTRE Blog

What a fantastic response to our “Call for TPHA Member News Items”! Thank you to all members who submitted their news! We look forward to receiving more brief announcements about the work you do and the achievements you have made! Our next newsletter is scheduled for late May, 2023. Start gathering the information you want to share with the Texas public health community now! We are excited to keep all of our members informed about all of the important work being done everyday in every corner of this great state! Help us to spread your news and send
your items to us at tphajournal@gmail.com. Don’t forget to include your TPHA section affiliation. If you are part of one of our institution/agency members, please include the agency name!

More information on submitting your news and copies of past newsletters can be found 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.

Please help TPHA achieve our mission of “A safe and healthy Texas through leadership, education, training, collaboration, mentoring, and advocacy”!

➢ Become a leader! Run for a leadership position!

See pages 4-5 for details.

➢ Volunteer to serve on one of our operational committees.

TPHA needs your expertise!

We need you! Please contact our executive director, Terri Pali, today! info@texaspha.org