



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM



MPH MEMOS

Winter 2022

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Members of the UMSOM MPH Community,

I am thrilled to be able to introduce the inaugural edition of *MPH Memos*, our program newsletter, edited by our MPH student and Graduate Assistant, Ms. Shreenidhi Sharma. *MPH Memos* will be one way for us to keep in touch with our community of alumni, students, staff, advisory council members and faculty. We hope that you will enjoy learning about what is going on with the program and “meeting” the people whom we introduce in each edition. In this edition, you will hear about our new Public Health Student Association (PHSA). The PHSA was an initiative that grew out of exploratory conversations

among the members of our program’s Beta Tau chapter of the Delta Omega Public Health Honorary Society. Two Beta Tau members--Ms. JaWanna Henry ’15 and Ms. Reena Rambharat ’17—took ownership and founded the PHSA. In this edition, we introduce the PHSA’s inaugural leadership team comprising four student board members and an alumna advisor. We also introduce Dr. Jessica Brown, Associate Professor and Director of our MPH Field Practicum Experience.

As the free 2022 calendars start appearing in our mailboxes, we all inevitably slip into a period of reflection...it is par for the course. If I am honest with myself and others, January 2021 and January 2022 were not like the prior years. The joy of the holiday season and the eager anticipation for a new year were clouded by my fears about the coronavirus, school violence, discrimination and intolerance, poverty...just to name a few. But, in this new year, I am also lifted up by the good news: the students who are dedicating their lives to public health, the staff who are carrying this program through the storm on their shoulders, the faculty who are giving so much of their time and talent, the MPH Advisory Council members whose insightful feedback helps us to improve our program, our field preceptors whose expertise helps our students to seamlessly make the transition from the classroom to the workforce, and our community and agency partners whose contributions make our work possible. Thank you for being the silver linings to all dark clouds.

Best Wishes for 2022!

Be Well,
Diane Marie St. George, Ph.D.

NEW PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENT ASSOCIATION



The Public Health Student Association (PHSA) was founded in May of 2021, out of an initiative of the Beta Tau Chapter of Delta Omega, in the spirit of promoting the values of public health at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM), Master of Public Health (MPH) Program. This initiative was spearheaded by two UMSOM MPH alumnae, Ms. JaWanna Henry, and Ms. Reena Rambharat.

The mission of PHSA is to create a forum for the exchange of ideas, the accumulation of public health experiences, the acquisition of information, and career and leadership skills, student support, and the performance of research related to public health issues in communities throughout Maryland, the nation, and the world.



ALUMNA ARTICLE

Reena Rambharat is a University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) Master of Public Health (MPH) Program alumna who graduated with an MPH (Community and Population Health concentration) in May 2017. Also at that time, she was inducted into the Beta Tau Chapter of Delta Omega. Recently, we asked Ms. Rambharat a few questions about her interest in public health and how her experiences at UMSOM have impacted her career.

[Click here to read more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- National Public Health Week - April 4-10, 2022
- Public Health Research@Maryland - April 7, 2022
- Reena Royak-Schaler Lecture in Health Equity - April 26, 2022
- Delta Omega Advance in Public Health Lecture - May 5, 2022
- EPH Post-Commencement Ceremony - May 20, 2022 at 9:30 am



FACULTY FOCUS



In this edition of the MPH Faculty Focus, we are getting to know Dr. Jessica Brown. Dr. Brown is an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM). Within the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program, she serves as a course instructor, the practicum director, and the chair of the Curriculum Committee.

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

In this segment of the student spotlight, we wanted to recognize the Master of Public Health (MPH) students that served as the Public Health Student Association's (PHSA) leadership board during the fall 2021 term. This group of MPH students served as the first leadership board and really kick-started the entire initiative. The MPH program is so grateful for their many efforts.



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