

## **MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN**

**M.A. “Tonette” Krousel-Wood, MD, MSPH**

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the critical importance and relevance of formal training that integrates medicine and public health is clear. Armed with clinical and public health knowledge and skills, our students, faculty, and alumni have been actively engaged during this unprecedented time in emergency management and preparedness, innovations in personal protective equipment, surveillance and contact tracing, telehealth and more! While the initial crisis of emergence of the virus has passed, the challenges of resurgence, widespread testing, reducing the spread of the virus, eliminating disparities, protecting the most vulnerable, and developing and distributing efficacious and safe vaccines persist. These challenges present a *Call to Action* for our community, both professionally and personally, to work together for innovative and effective solutions for all. Tulane MD/MPH alumnus, Dr. Joseph Kanter, has been a leader in this call to action for Louisiana and the City of New Orleans in his role as Assistant State Health Officer and Region One Medical Director.

The success of our program is dependent not only on our academic institutions providing the didactic curriculum but also on our community partners who provide the opportunities for students to apply the clinical and public health knowledge they have gained in the program to real world problems. This year, we mourn the loss and celebrate the life and contributions of our longest serving site supervisor and community mentor, Dr. Raoult Ratard, who passed away this spring. With extensive knowledge, sense of humor, and commitment to public health practice, he taught students how to effectively apply principles into practice. He will be missed!

Tulane MD/MPH and MD/PhD in public health students have been *Making Waves* this past year! Being lauded for their accomplishments in receiving awards at scientific meetings for their research and publications, receiving scholarships and fellowships to support their research interests, and being selected for graduation recognition for excellence in their studies and service, our combined degree students continue to impress with their dedication and resourcefulness. In addition, multiple MD/MPH students transitioned to our MD/PhD in public health program—the highest number since the program’s inception. These students aspire to becoming the next generation of physician scientists taking on the most pressing public health and clinical challenges.

Other accomplishment include our National Institutes of Health-funded TL1 Pre-doctoral Research Training Program in partnership with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CTS) which has successfully trained 14 medical students in translational research in a year-long mentored research program designed to prepare translational thinkers to address acute and chronic conditions affecting the Gulf South including health disparities and beyond. Three Tulane medical students are in the newest cohort of TL1 Scholars. Applications for the 2021-2022 cycle will be accepted in Fall 2020. Our Class of 2020 matched in excellent residency programs in 21 different states and 11 different specialties across the spectrum of medical and surgical disciplines. These graduates have been recognized for their notable scholarly contributions and community service.

This edition of the *Newsletter* includes several new sections highlighting some of the recent achievements of our MD/MPH alumni and recognizing our MD/MPH students’ and recent graduates’ research abstracts and conference presentations. Please share recent updates that can featured in future editions of our Newsletter. Please visit our website at <https://sph.tulane.edu/mdmph/home> to view more information about our programs and related opportunities. Please continue to stay safe, physically distanced, socially engaged and well! Your continued support and engagement is greatly appreciated!

### **PRECEPTOR SPOTLIGHT Raoult Ratard, MD, MPH & TM, FACPM**



It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Dr. Raoult Ratard in April 2020. Dr. Ratard was our longest-serving Tulane MD/MPH Program community preceptor, having hosted our students for over 19 years. He held the titles of Louisiana Office of Public Health State Epidemiologist, Chief of the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section and Consultant for the Environmental Epidemiology Section.

Dr. Ratard received his MD degree from the University of Paris Medical School, France, and specialized in tropical medicine, microbiology and immunology. Later, he obtained a MS in Parasitology from LSU and a MPH&TM from Tulane University. He completed his preventive medicine residency in Texas. Dr. Ratard worked for more than 45 years in public health, mostly in communicable disease control programs.

Dr. Ratard served as the site supervisor and mentor for over 60 MD/MPH students rotating at the Louisiana Office of Public Health. The rotations provided invaluable experience with a broad range of critical public health problems including but not limited to West Nile Virus and food outbreak investigations, surveillance of Legionella, Varicella, and Urolithiasis, and monitoring infection control and hospital

admissions in Louisiana. MD/MPH students consistently commented on Dr. Ratard’s exceptional knowledge and expertise in the field of epidemiology and described their experiences with him as ‘educational’, ‘entertaining’ and ‘unparalleled’. We will miss his passion and enthusiasm for teaching and his enduring commitment to the health of the populations we serve!

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**A call to action! We are extremely proud of our MD/MPH students contributing to COVID19 research and emergency response in Louisiana and across the United States. The following is a selection of many of the current MD/MPH students' ongoing projects.**

- **Ashley Allen (GCHB) and Saritha Beauchamp (TM):** Tulane SPHTM Dean's The Skin You're In Campaign
- **Chris Antonacci (HPAM):** Evaluation and treatment of musculoskeletal complaints during the COVID19 pandemic
- **Taylor Blanding (TM):** Pandemic community outreach with patients of the UMC New Orleans Cancer Center
- **Meredith Freeman (GCHB):** FarmToNOLA Fresh Food Delivery with GNOCC Farm to Families Program
- **Caroline Granruth (EPID) and Stephanie Shea (GCHB):** Community Education for COVID19 Business Resilience
- **Sarah Hermans (EPID):** Daughters of Charity/Depaul Mental Health Surveillance
- **Jake Hurwitz (ENHS):** Emergency management for New Orleans, Louisiana, and federal response to COVID19
- **Callie Kennedy (GCHB):** Symptoms of COVID19 positive patients at Daughters of Charity/Depaul
- **Hirofumi Kusumoto (HPAM):** Orthopedic surgery cases and COVID19
- **Maya Mahendran (GCHB):** Telemedicine at Daughters of Charity/Depaul
- **Justin Ren (GCHB):** COVID19 policies and implementation across the United States
- **Ashley Vellucci (TM) and Hannah Daneshvar (HPAM):** DIY single-use gown for health care providers
- **Aric Williamson (HPAM):** Improve emergency preparedness in the context of the COVID19 response

### Meet the 2020-2021 Student Group Executive Committee



**Theresa Bui**  
Global Community  
Health & Behavioral  
Sciences



**Kirsten Hughes**  
Health Policy &  
Management



**Charles Shirley**  
Epidemiology



**Emily Ratchford**  
Tropical Medicine

### MD/MPH Class of 2023 Statistics!

The MD/MPH Class of 2023 includes 34 students from 16 different states across the US. The majority of students came from Louisiana, California, Florida, New Jersey and Maryland. Many of our new class also attended Tulane for their undergraduate studies! Along with stellar academic achievements, a large number of this class (21%) came into the program already having earned a Master's degree. Most of the Class of 2023 selected GCHB (35%) as their public health department, followed by TM (20%), EPID (18%), GEHS (15%) and HPM (12%).



### Alumni Leaders

Tulane MD/MPH alumnus, Dr. Joseph Kanter, is the current Assistant Health Officer for the state of Louisiana and the Medical Director for the Greater New Orleans region. Dr. Kanter has been instrumental in leading the Louisiana and City of New Orleans response to the COVID19 pandemic. His team at the Louisiana Department of Health has focused on community testing centers, contact tracing and safety programs over the past four months.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Congratulations to MD/MPH alumni, **Drs. Debra Houry and Karen DeSalvo** on their outstanding achievements! Dr. Houry was recently elected into the National Academy of Medicine. The National Academy of Medicine is a prestigious group that addresses critical issues in health, science, medicine, and related policy. Dr. Houry currently serves as Director of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the CDC. Additionally, Dr. DeSalvo, who served as National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and Assistant Secretary for Health, has been appointed by Google to serve as the company's first Chief Health Officer. In her new role, Dr. DeSalvo will advise Google on providers, doctors, and nurses at the company. Dr. DeSalvo is also a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

### SSCI REGIONAL MEETING 2020

Our office had a great showing of students at the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (SSCI) Southern Regional Meeting in New Orleans. **Eli Santiago** (MD/PhD student) and **Ashley Vellucci** (MD/MPH T3) presented posters in health care research and infectious disease research, respectively. **Christopher Briones** (MD/MPH T3) was chosen for an oral presentation to discuss his research in metastatic adrenocortical carcinoma. **Alex Razavi** (MD/PhD student) and **Ashkan Shahbandi** (TL1 Scholar) were also chosen for oral presentations and received awards. Alex (pictured lower left) presented his work on cardiovascular disease risk and the incidence of cancer in the Bogalusa Heart Study cohort and was chosen for a SSCI Young Investigator Award. Ashkan (pictured lower right) was presented with a Nathan Solomon & Irene Oransky-Solomon Award for his work on immune evasion in chemotherapy-induced senescent breast cancer cells.



### CCTS & MD/PHD UPDATE

Congratulations to our 2020-2021 Tulane CCTS TL1 Scholars, **Ryan Ferrie, Khoa Nguyen and Justin Magrath**! Tulane partners with the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) TL1 training program, a NIH-funded fellowship program that prepares investigators to pursue careers in health services and clinical research focused on addressing disparities and/or diseases disproportionately represented in the Deep South. Three of our former TL1 Scholars, **Alex Razavi, Austin Jones and Eli Santiago**, have successfully transitioned to our MD/PhD Program and have been completing their doctoral-level coursework over the last year.

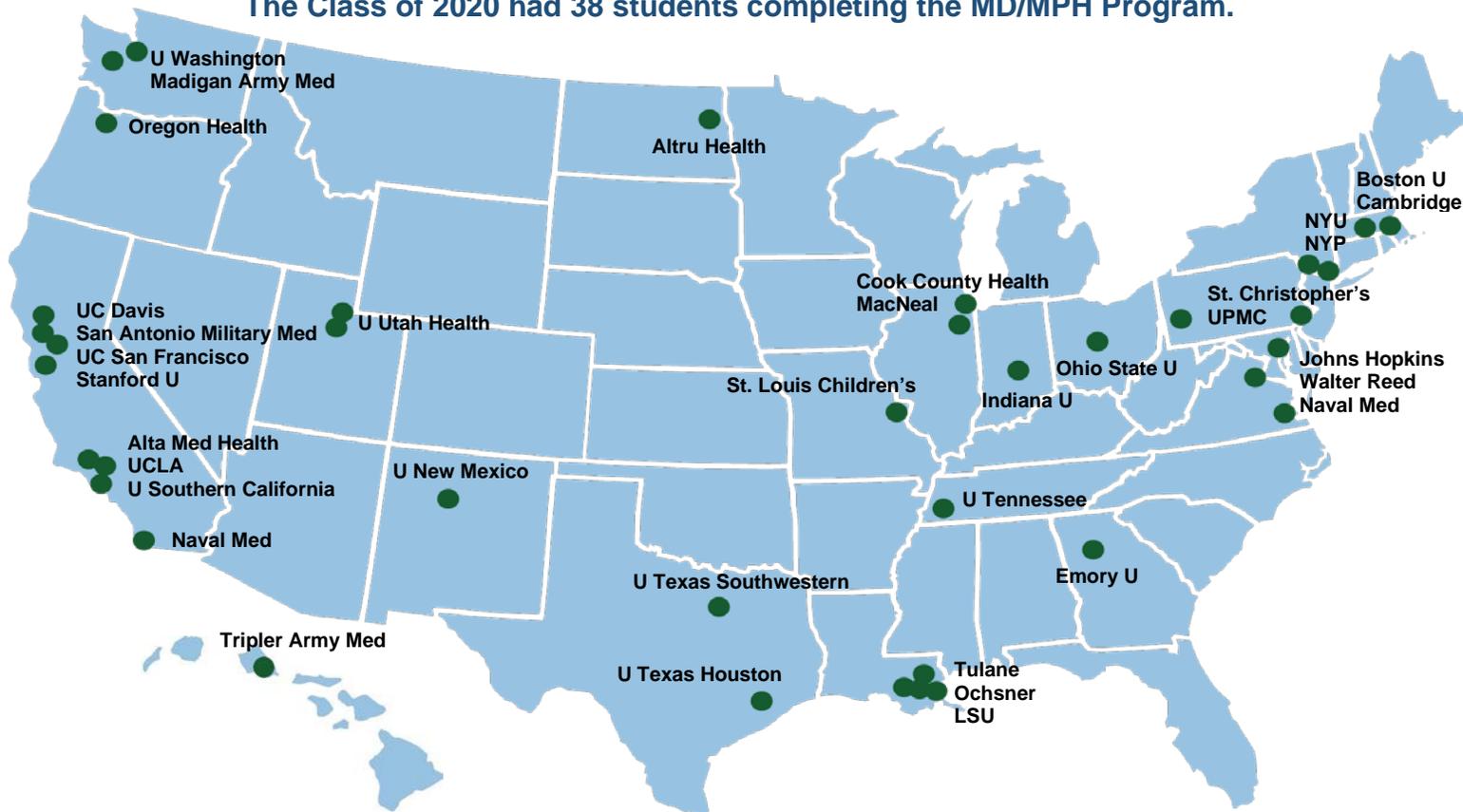
### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Thank you to our wonderful, local community partners and preceptors who generously give their time and expertise to host our MD/MPH students through their applied practice experience rotations!

- **Goldring Center for Culinary Medicine (GCCM) Research (Dr. Timothy Harlan):** provides projects for our students focused on diet and nutrition counseling and research
- **Louisiana Office of Public Health – Immunization Program (Dr. Frank Welch and Ms. Stacy Hall):** provides students with the opportunity to assess community needs and resources for immunization programs through planning, monitoring and evaluation
- **Louisiana Bureau of Family Health – Louisiana Birth Defects Monitoring Network (Dr. Tri Tran):** mentors students on various epidemiological studies, including projects focused on data from the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention database
- **Louisiana Office of Public Health – Tuberculosis Control Program (Dr. Louis Trachtman, Mr. Michael Lacassagne and Ms. Kathryn Yoo):** supports students in projects to reduce tuberculosis morbidity and mortality by using evidence-based practices for prevention, detection, treatment, and education
- **Daughters of Charity Health Centers (Drs. Robert Post, Mark Dal Corso and Anna Villanueva):** hosts students focused on primary and preventative care with projects to build on health initiatives for the underserved

## MD/MPH CLASS OF 2020 RESULTS

Another great Match showing by Tulane's MD/MPH students!  
The Class of 2020 had 38 students completing the MD/MPH Program.



Congratulations to all of our 2020 MD/MPH award recipients!

### Match Results by Specialty:

PRIMARY CARE	
Family Medicine	7
Internal Medicine	5
Pediatrics	11
SPECIALTY CARE	
Anesthesiology	1
Dermatology	1
Emergency Medicine	2
Neurology	3
Obstetrics & Gynecology	3
Orthopaedic Surgery	1
Psychiatry	2
Surgery	2

- **Melina Manolas (MD/MPH 2020 Graduate)** received the John J. Walsh, MD Award for an outstanding student in the MD/MPH Program, the Internal Medicine Award for Excellence and the American Medical Women's Association Glasgow-Rubin Achievement Citation.
- **Ben Norton (MD/MPH&TM 2020 Graduate)** received the MD/MPH Student Award for Excellence and the USPHS Excellence in Public Health Award.
- **Hilary Wright (MD/MPH&TM 2020 Graduate)** received the Sidney K. Simon Award for an excellent student in Topical Medicine.
- **Michael Lauth (MD/MPH&TM 2020 Graduate)** received the Richard Freeman Prize and a Tulane 34 award.
- **Colleen McDermott (MD/MPH 2020 Graduate)** received the E. Edward McCool Jr. Award for excellence in surgery.
- **Hannah Bernstein (MD/MPH 2020 Graduate)** received the Harry and Rose Caplovitz Medical Award for excellence in internal medicine.
- **Paige Bradley (MD/MPH&TM 2020 Graduate)** received the John A. King Memorial Award for outstanding work in OBGYN.
- **Jimmy Flotken (MD/MPH 2020 Graduate)** received the John E. Lewy Pro Parvulis Award for his excellent commitment to pediatrics.

## **ABSTRACTS & PRESENTATIONS 2016-2019**

**Congratulations to the MD/MPH and MD/PhD students active in the joint-degree programs from 2016-2019 who authored or co-authored the following abstracts and presentations!**

1. **Bernstein H**, Costantino C, Smith T, Newby C. Clinical unknown: the disease you keep meaning to look up. Oral presentation at: Society of General Internal Medicine 2019 Annual Meeting; May, 2019; Washington, DC.
2. **Bernstein H**, Costantino C, Smith T, Newby C. HLH in the adult patient—the disease you keep meaning to look up. Poster presented at: Society of General Internal Medicine 2019 Southern Regional Meeting; February, 2019; Houston, TX.
3. Cohen AS, Salerian JA, **Bernstein HM**, Aysenne AM. Telestroke and Direct-to-Hub tPA Treatment Rates are Similar at Academic Comprehensive Stroke Program. Poster presented at: International Stroke Conference; January, 2018; Los Angeles, CA.
4. Yazici Y, **Bernstein H**, Poon J, et al. Apremilast for the treatment of Behcet's syndrome: routine care, real world experience. Poster presented at: 17th International Conference on Behcet's Disease; September, 2016; Matera, Italy.
5. **Jones AT**, Moreno-Walton L, Okeke-Eweni K, McGonigle KM, Yang D, Kim M, Miller J, Kissinger P. Assessing Racial Disparities in Hepatitis C Retention of Care. Oral presentation at: Association for Clinical and Translational Science; March 2019; Washington, D.C.
6. **Jones AT**, Moreno-Walton L, Okeke-Eweni K, McGonigle KM, Yang D, Kim M, Miller J, Kissinger P. Assessing Linkage to Care of an Emergency Department Hepatitis C Screening Program. Oral presentation at: American Academy of Emergency Medicine; March 2019; Las Vegas, NV.
7. Kuraitis D, **Norton BB**, Pearson T, Cool A. "Vancomycin-induced Linear IgA Bullous Dermatitis mimicking TEN", Abstract presented at Louisiana Dermatology Society's Fall Meeting; September 28, 2019; New Orleans, LA.
8. **Manolas, M.**, Dwyer, J., Swiatlo, E. (Jan 2019): A Case of Orf Virus (Human Ecthyma Contagiosum) after Eid Al-Adha religious practices. Poster presented at: American College of Physicians Louisiana Associates Meeting; New Orleans, LA, USA.
9. **Manolas, M.**, Niculescu, A., Chakraborti, C. (February 2019): "No Pain, No Gain: A Narrative Review of Pain Management Curricula in U.S. Medical Education". Poster presented at: American College of Physicians Louisiana Meeting; New Orleans, LA, USA
10. Coyne M, Fenton A, Babcock C, **Mehta K**, McGonigle K, Hoff C. Factors Influencing Linkage to Care for Hepatitis C Virus Positive Patients Identified Through Community Screening. American College of Physicians Louisiana Annual Chapter Meeting. March 28, 2019. New Orleans, LA.
11. **Mehta K**, Desai S. A Model for Pre-Pregnancy Counseling in Lupus Patients. 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Reproduction, Pregnancy, and Rheumatic Diseases. March 31, 2016.
12. Kuraitis D, **Norton BB**, Williams L. "Non-uremic Calciphylaxis", Abstract presented at Louisiana Dermatology Society's Spring Meeting; March 23, 2019; New Orleans, LA.
13. Becnel C, **Oliver SP**, Webb C. Improving Communication and Collateral Between Visitors and Treatment Team in an Acute Psychosis Unit. Poster presented at: IHI National Forum on Quality Improvement in Healthcare; December, 2018; Orlando, FL.
14. **Oliver SP**, Shi H, Lee KC, Chiurco, J. Acute Ischemic Colitis from Polycythemia Vera Exacerbation in an African-American Woman. Poster presented at: Association of Advocates for Women in Science and Medicine; April, 2019; New Orleans, LA.
15. **Razavi AC**, Fernandez C, Barshop R, Guo Y, Bazzano L. Subendocardial Viability Ratio Associates with Diastolic Function Parameters: Insights from the Bogalusa Heart Study. American College of Cardiology, Scientific Sessions. New Orleans, LA March 2019.
16. **Razavi AC**, Fernandez C, Mi X, He J, Bazzano L, Nierenberg J, Li S, Kelly T. Serum Metabolites from the Trimethylamine Pathway Associate with Left Ventricular Diastolic Function: The Bogalusa Heart Study. Association for Clinical and Translational Science, Translational Science Meeting. Washington DC, March 2019.
17. **Razavi AC**, Fernandez C, Mi X, He J, Bazzano L, Nierenberg J, Li S, Kelly T. Novel Serum Metabolites Associate with Diastolic Function: Evidence from the Bogalusa Heart Study. American Heart Association, EPI Lifestyle Scientific Sessions. Oral presentation. Houston, TX, March 2019.
18. Shaeer, M., Alameer, E., Kandil, E., Al-Qurayshi, Z., Ranganath, R., Shalaby, M., **Sisson, C.**, Russell, J., & Tufano, R. (November, 2019). Histopathological Characteristics of Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsied Indeterminate Thyroid Nodules That are Designated Benign by the Afirma Gene Expression Classifier. Poster presented at: 89th Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association; Chicago, IL, USA.
19. Gill, F., Sander, B., **Taylor, J.**, Seay, J., Robillard, K. (2019). Evaluation of an Interprofessional Reproductive Health Education Program in New Orleans, LA. Integrating Primary and Behavioral Health Care Through the Lens of Prevention Conference; New Orleans, LA.
20. Short, S, **Taylor, J**, Frieberg, E (2019). Methemoglobinemia in an Infant with Diarrhea and Acidosis. Crescent City Potpourri. 2019 Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; New Orleans, LA.
21. Carstens, A, **Taylor, J.** (2019). An Assessment of Comprehensive Reproductive Health Education in Tulane's Medical Education. American Public Health Association National Conference; Philadelphia, PA.
22. **Wright H**, Daniele M, Leonard J, Ngo L, Fitzgerald C, Byrne R. Assessing hypertension prevalence, screening and management in individuals seeking care in student-run clinics. 2019 Society of Student-Run Free Clinics Conference. March 1-3, 2019, Kansas City, KS.
23. **Wright H**, Patel T, Ng L, Wong K, Andras L, Marachelian A, Kiehna E. Characterizing the Treatment and Risk Factors Impacting Outcomes and Spinal Deformity for Pediatric Neuroblastoma. AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery Annual Meeting. November 28-December 1, 2017, Houston, TX.
24. **Wright H**, Elahi M, Igun A, Soon G, Chen A, Feng J, Njimoluh K, Fadiran E. Clinical Trial Demographics for New Molecular Entity Drugs and Biologics Approved by FDA CDER in 2015. American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Annual Meeting and Exposition. November 13-17, 2016, Denver, CO.

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