MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

Dear Members of the Epidemiology Department:

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all members in the department of epidemiology to a new year. We begin this year with a shift back to remote learning and working because of surge of omicron variant, but maintain hope in reuniting safely in person once more. While we are physically distant, we must continue to remain aware of the Covid-19 Pandemic’s ongoing impacts as we continue to adapt to an ever-evolving situation. Thank you for your sustained efforts and understanding during these unique circumstances.

The Department of Epidemiology will continue to fulfill our missions including education, research, and service to promote our faculty, students and staff, and to continue engagement in EDI activities. With your support, the Department of Epidemiology, Fielding School of Public Health, and Bruin community will continue to flourish.

Best Regards,

Zuo-Feng Zhang, MD, PhD
Distinguished Professor and Chair
Congratulations!

Dr. Kim-Farley co-edited a new public health textbook, together with Dr. Tanya Telfair LeBlanc, entitled “Public Health Emergencies: Case Studies, Competencies, and Essential Services of Public Health,” set for publication on January 11 by Springer Publishing.

Drs. Matthew Mimiaga and Roger Detels were recently awarded a new grant: Administrative Supplement, “Covid-19 vaccine Acceptance & Hesitancy (CVBH) Study in People with HIV.” From the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. MPIs: Detels and Mimiaga.

Dr. Aline Duarte Folle in the Ritz lab has received the following 18-months postdoctoral fellowship award from the MJFox Foundation “Parkinson's Disease Clinical Features, Progression, and Quality of Care in Latino Patients from a Population-based Epidemiological Study in the United States”

Dr. Marie E.S. Flores has received a 2-year award from NIEHS to Promote Re-Entry into Biomedical and Behavioral Research Careers to enhance recruitment and conduct microbiome and PD research in Latinos residing in the Central Valley of California as part of the PEG-GUT Study (entitled “Microbiome, Pesticides and Parkinson's in Latinos”) and will be the newest member of the Ritz lab.

Current or former UCLA Fielding School Scholars are among the most highly cited in their fields from 1960-2020, according to Elsevier. Epidemiologists include Drs. Roger Detels, Niklas Krause, Karin B. Michels, and Beate Ritz.

CCLE: https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view/UCLA%20FSPH%20EDI
New C-LARAH website: https://lgbtq.ph.ucla.edu/
The BBC interviewed Dr. Anne Rimoin about how to lower the risk of infection from the Delta or Omicron variants. “Those things are, of course, getting vaccinated, getting boosted if you are already vaccinated, wearing very high quality masks, (and) throwing in testing where you can,” Rimoin said.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) interviewed Dr. Beate Ritz about how the environment, gut microbiome, and brain interact to influence the development and progression of Parkinson’s disease. Podcast episode titled "Parkinson’s Disease, Pesticides, and the Gut Microbiome."

The New York Times interviewed Dr. Timothy Brewer about Imperial County’s 74% immunization rate. While Imperial County’s demographics are generally linked to lower-than-average Covid-19 vaccination rates, the county has an immunization rate that ranks seventh out of the state’s 58 counties, the highest coverage level in Southern California.

In anticipation of World Kindness Day on November 13, the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health connected with Dr. Robert Kim-Farley for this Q&A about kindness, COVID-19, and public health. Additional news outlets: BBC Television, The Los Angeles Times, KPCC-FM.

In the News

USA Today referenced Dr. Liwei Chen about her research that found Americans drank more, smoked more, exercised less and spent more time in front of a computer or television compared to pre-pandemic levels. Additional news outlets: Fox News, MyNewsLA, ASPPH Friday Letter.
Thank you for attending the 2021 Epidemiology Department Holiday Celebration!
Message to Students:

To all students, staff, and faculty, welcome to a new quarter and new year! We hope everyone had a happy and healthy winter break. We at ESA are excited to be hosting some new events this quarter. Be on the lookout for emails from Joy and updates on ESA social media for additional information about these events and more!

Sincerely,
Julia Koerber
& Paulina Lin

Featured Events This Quarter:

Internship Mixer: January 11
Learn about guidelines, advice, and recommendations from Dr. Julia Bailey in regards to the MPH summer field placement.

Seminar Series:
February 1st, 2022
Join us in welcoming our first speaker of the Winter Quarter, Dr. Lorraine Dean from Johns Hopkins University. She is a social epidemiologist with research focused around how privilege and disadvantage influence chronic illnesses.

February 15th, 2022
Dr. Weiss, also a Professor Emeritus in University of Washington SPH, is scheduled to speak on his interests in epidemiologic methods and developing strategies to assess the impact of diagnostic and screening tests.

March 1st, 2022
Join us to discuss epidemiologic methods and data visualization to examine racial inequalities in health with Dr. Corinne Riddell, from UC Berkeley SPH.

Epidemiology Professional Panel and Networking Event: Week 8
Learn about the incredible work that epidemiologists are doing across many sectors of public health during ESA’s largest event of the year! There will be a career panel followed by a networking session with our panelists. Details to be released.

ESA Field Studies Event: Pending Date
Join second year students to learn about their internship experience and discuss key contents. Please keep an eye out for future dates.

2022 Homeless Count: January 26th 10PM-January 27th 12AM
There is a call for volunteers for the 2022 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. As epidemiologists we know the importance of good data, which is why we’re organizing a group to participate. The count helps city officials better understand the scope of the issue and direct resources where they’re needed most. More than 8,000 volunteers across the region embark on a 3-day mission to count their homeless neighbors—our group will be volunteering on January 26, 10:00 PM - January 27, 12:00 AM. The meeting place is 10822 Wilshire Blvd, Westwood Los Angeles, CA, 90024 (Westwood Presbyterian Church). Counting at night reduces the chance of double counting someone who has moved from one area to another.

More information can be found here: https://www.theycountwillyou.org/faq2022-page

ESA will provide boxed meals from Mendocino Farms for all participating volunteers. Please complete this form by January 20th so we can ensure your meal is ordered. This is your official RSVP. Thank you for your participation!

Epidemiology Student Association Fall Updates
By: Julia Koerber and Paulina Lin, ESA Co-Presidents

ESA Board Members, 2021-2022:
- Co-Presidents: Julia Koerber and Paulina Lin
- Vice Presidents of Finance: Sydney Merritt and Cory Lumsdaine
- First Year Representatives: Alyssa Villa, Talia Begi, and Gavrielle Sonntag
- International Student Representatives: Xinyue Liu and Fan Zhao
- Seminar Series: Nehaa Khadka, Sylvia Tangney, and Roxana Rezai
- PHSA Liaison: Jacquelyn Aramkul
- Doctoral Chairs: Pat Arena and Angie Barrall
- Advisor to the Board: Ryan Assaf

Follow Us! ESA Social Media
Instagram: @UCLAESA
Slack: https://tinyurl.com/yyxkxfb5
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/UCLAepidemiology/


• Klasko-Foster LB, Biello KB, Lodge W, Olson J, Mimiaga, M.J. Transitioning from face-to-face to the digital space: Best practices and lessons learned leveraging technology to conduct HIV-focused interventions. Telemedicine and e-Health (in press).


