MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

Dear Members of the Epidemiology Department:

The start of Spring Quarter comes new beginnings and new opportunities. We begin this quarter with a shift back to in-person learning, reuniting safely and reconnecting once again. As we return to campus life, we must continue to remain aware of the Covid-19 Pandemic’s ongoing impacts and maintain health and safety protocols to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection. Thank you to all faculty, staff and students for maintaining your focus on learning, teaching, research, and service and for your continued dedication to UCLA.

The Department of Epidemiology will continue to fulfill our missions including research, education and service to promote our faculty, students and staff. Engagement in EDI activities will also continue to be a top priority. With your support, the Department of Epidemiology, Fielding School of Public Health, and Bruin community will continue to thrive. Wishing you a bright, warm and beautiful Spring!

Best Regards,

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

Welcome to Spring Quarter 2022! While COVID-19 continues to impact us all, the outlook is bright. Our teaching, research and public service mission continues to move forward. Thank you to every member of the FSPH Epidemiology community for continuing to remain fully committed to public health. Visit our department website to see the latest highlights.

For the latest news on COVID-19, visit FSPH’s COVID_19 Information Page.

Hello Spring!
Congratulations!

Dr. Beate Ritz has been selected for the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) Kenneth Rothman Career Accomplishment Award. Professor Ritz’s stellar research combines her training in medicine, psychiatry, and epidemiology to focus on how environmental and occupational factors are linked to reproductive, neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative diseases and health outcomes.

Dr. Beate Ritz, Dr. Julia Heck, PhD candidate Di He and their collaborators on their publication, *Child serum metabolome and traffic-related air pollution exposure in pregnancy*, which has been included in NCI’s Epidemiology and Genomics Research Program (EGRP) Research Highlights for 2021.

Dr. Dvora Joseph Davey was awarded a 5-year R01 from NICHD to evaluate how best to optimize PrEP in pregnant and breastfeeding populations through a two-stage RCT in South Africa. She was also awarded a contract from Gilead, Inc. to conduct a pharmacokinetic study comparing two PrEP drugs in pregnant and postpartum women in South Africa (PI) with the university of Cape Town.

Dr. Marissa Seamans was awarded a 5-year NIDA K01 award for project entitled Real-World Complexities in Opioid Use Disorder Treatment: Understanding Family Comorbidity, High-Risk Medication Use, and Costs Related to Treatment Adherence and Health Outcomes.

Dr. Li Li was recently awarded a new R01 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse/NIH for a study entitled Strengthening addiction care continuum through community consortium in Vietnam.
Congratulations to doctoral student, Alina Arseniev-Koehler, Dr. Susan Cochran and collaborators on their top publication, *Integrating topic modeling and word embedding to characterize violent deaths*. Dr. Susan Cochran is a recipient of the 2022 Williams Institute Impact Award. Dr. Cochran's research broadly centers on how social disadvantage influences health, in particular on mechanisms that moderate the complex relationships among marginalizing social factors, behavior and disease.

The Saxon Graham Lectureship honors the life and legacy of a man known as one of the fathers of U.S. chronic disease epidemiology. The annual lecture features a distinguished speaker in epidemiology. Past lecturers have included Nobel Prize recipient Baruch Blumberg, MS, PhD, professor of medicine and anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, Robert Wallace, MS, MD, professor of epidemiology at the University of Iowa's College of Public Health, Irene Ensminger Stecher professor of cancer research at the University of Iowa and director of the University of Iowa Center on Aging, and Dr. Zuo-Feng Zhang, MD, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology at UCLA on epidemiology of COVID-19 and NCDs.

Congratulations to Epi MPH graduate, Karen Yeh, doctoral student Di He, Drs. Catherine Carpenter, Beate Ritz, Jorn Olsen, Julia Heck and collaborators on their publication, *The risk of childhood brain tumors associated with delivery interventions: A Danish matched case-control study*. 

Congratulations to Epi MPH graduate I-Chun Lin, Drs. Julia Heck, Liwei Chen and collaborators on their publication, *Psoriasis severity and cardiometabolic risk factors in a representative US national study*. 

Congratulations to doctoral student, Alina Arseniev-Koehler, Dr. Susan Cochran and collaborators on their top publication, *Integrating topic modeling and word embedding to characterize violent deaths*. 


CCLE: [https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view/UCLA%20FSPH%20EDI](https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view/UCLA%20FSPH%20EDI)

New C-LARAH website: [https://lgbtq.ph.ucla.edu/](https://lgbtq.ph.ucla.edu/)
The Los Angeles Times interviewed Dr. Robert Kim-Farley about how to remain safe even as public requirements for safety precautions are relaxed. “We need to make sure we don’t stigmatize people wearing masks. People should have that right to wear masks or not when there’s no mandate,” Dr. Kim-Farley said. Additional news outlets: KPCC-FM and UCLA Health.

Dr. Dvora Joseph Davey published a recent review on the importance of including pregnant and breastfeeding women in new PrEP research in Lancet HIV with colleagues from the PrEP in PBFW Research Working Group. Lancet HIV tweeted about the recent publication.

The New York Times interviewed Dr. Anne Rimoin about the likelihood of a new surge in the United States. “There are so many things we could be doing, yet the United States has time and time again chosen to be reactive, rather than proactive, and that has cost us dearly,” said Dr. Anne Rimoin. Additional news outlets: BBC News.

JAMA article interviewed Dr. Ritz about air pollution and cognitive decline/dementia. “This is a very important study because it shows that you can do something about keeping cognitive abilities intact longer,” said Dr. Beate Ritz. Additional news outlets: Buzzfeed News, Investigative Reporting Denmark.

Dr. Roger Detels Presents "Recognizing Opportunities" at the 47th Lester Breslow Distinguished Lecture. Dr. Roger Detels delivered the 47th Lester Breslow Distinguished Lecture to a virtual audience of nearly 700 people from more than a dozen countries around the world. “The epidemic in the future is going to be driven by individuals who refused to be vaccinated, and they are going to determine, in point of fact, where we are going,” said Dr. Detels.
Dr. Robert Kim-Farley, alter-ego "Gage," rocked out on March 5th.

Ramces graduated from UC Santa Barbara and began his career with their Physics Department for 3 years. He then joined UCLA's School of Education & Information Studies in 2009 and has worked in various finance roles, including stints in the Department of Spanish & Portuguese, and the Department of Linguistics. He joined the Department of Epidemiology in August 2019 to expand his knowledge of federal grants. He holds an MPA from CSU Northridge.

What do you like most about working at UCLA?
"Besides the benefits and retirement plan, I love the relationships I've created throughout campus. I've also enjoyed many opportunities for personal and professional development."

What hobbies do you have outside of the office?
"I enjoy spending time with my kids Viviana (6) and Roman (3), particularly now with the introduction of sports. I'm an avid golfer and try to play as much as time allows. Fore!"

New Epidemiology Department bulletin board located 7th floor, corridor 1 CHS. Come by and see what's new!
Epidemiology Student Association Spring Updates

By: Julia Koerber and Paulina Lin, ESA Co-Presidents

Message to Students:

To all students, staff, and faculty, welcome to the last quarter of this school year! We hope everyone had a happy and healthy spring break. ESA has some exciting events lined up this quarter. Be sure to keep an eye out for emails from Joy and updates on our social media pages (follow us below!) for additional information about these events and more!

Sincerely,
Julia Koerber
& Paulina Lin

**Featured Events This Quarter:**

- Our Doctoral Team is planning an informative professional development event centered around grant writing and the grant application process! The tentative date is April 26th from 12pm-1pm.
- Our Outreach and Mentorship Team is planning an end-of-the-quarter event, with food, friends, and fun! The tentative date is May 11 from 12pm-1pm.
- Our Seminar Series team has planned a number of seminars on a wide variety of topics in epidemiology and public health:

**Seminar Series**

**April 12th**
**Dr. Paris Adkins-Jackson**
**Structural Racism, The Determinant of Determinants**
The presentation will discuss how structural racism can be captured in health research and what else we must do as scholars beyond documenting its impact.

**May 10th**
**Dr. Xuehond Zhang**
Dr. Zhang is a cancer epidemiologist with extensive experience in conducting cohort and case-control studies. He integrates epidemiology, lifestyles, nutrition, pathology, and omic techniques to conduct multidisciplinary investigations.

**May 17th**
**Dr. Atheendar Venkataramani**
Dr. Venkataramani’s research examines drivers of health and socioeconomic inequality. Specifically, his work examines (1) the effect of economic opportunities—and the policies that influence them—on health behaviors and outcomes (2) the effects of early life interventions on adult health and well-being, including the mechanisms underlying these links and (3) the role of social policies and structural factors in shaping population health.

**ESA Board Members, 2021-2022:**
- **Co-Presidents:** Julia Koerber and Paulina Lin
- **Vice Presidents of Finance:** Sydney Merritt and Cory Lumsdaine
- **Outreach and Mentorship:** Nicola Churchill, Lamia Khan, Aditi Lahiri, Sassi Sar nthiyakul, Pamela Hurtado, Isabella Chavez, Eden Zeboulon, and Leila Rishwain
- **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:** Jacqelynn Aramkul
- **Doctoral Chairs:** Pat Arena and Angie Barrall
- **Advisor to the Board:** Ryan Assaf

Follow Us! ESA Social Media
- Instagram: @UCLAESA
- Slack: https://t<wbr/>inyurl.com/yxlkxfb5
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/UCLAepidemiology/
Publications Hot off the Press!


