



**UCI** Susan and Henry Samueli  
College of Health Sciences

Planned School of Population and Public Health

**THE CASE FOR SUPPORT**

**BRILLIANT FUTURE**  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR **UCI**

***“The planned UCI School of Population and Public Health is poised and prepared to turn challenges into opportunities for optimal health and wellness in our community and communities across the globe. We want to leverage the relationships of UC partners and stakeholders who share our commitment to bringing public health issues to the forefront through education, research and public service.”***

***— Bernadette Boden-Albala, Dr.P.H., M.P.H.***  
*Director and Founding Dean*



## Population and Public Health for the Future

We invite you to invest in our bold agenda as we prepare to launch the UCI School of Population and Public Health. Your support will help us educate the public health leaders of the future, foster high-impact research that reduces the societal burden of human disease and disability, and transform the health and wellness of communities on local, national and global scales.

In partnership with colleagues in the Susan and Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences and UCI Health, the current UCI Program in Public Health is raising the quality of life for people around the world, while also championing the principles of evidence-based integrative health.

At our core, we encourage inclusive excellence in intellectual pursuits. Faculty and students engage in unrestricted inquiry as they develop strategies to prevent disease and improve the health and well-being of all populations, unlimited by geography, socioeconomics, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, nationality or political affiliations.

The Program in Public Health has one of the largest and most diverse undergraduate programs in public

health in the country, includes internationally recognized scholars and is based in the largest research university in the sixth-most populous county in the United States, where 35 different languages are spoken and more than 30 percent of residents are foreign born. Our five-year vision for the planned School of Population and Public Health is to be a top 20 nationally ranked academic resource for data-driven research, education and public health practice with five core areas that focus on outreach in rural, urban and suburban communities, with an emphasis on the sociocultural diversity and global context of public health. On the basis of current trajectories of grants and productivity for our research, we emerge as a strong program that will continue to grow and expand our reputation.

We differentiate ourselves by developing a signature brand of “Integrative Public Health” that not only builds on existing strengths in research and education but also explores new dimensions in translational population health research and nutrition science. Our teams are ideally positioned to develop, test and implement integrative health interventions in real-world settings where equity, sustainability and cost are imperative.

The planned School of Population and Public Health has the potential to become a national model of collaborative, collegiate and community-engaged integrative health and wellness. With your partnership, we will translate our visions into actions that benefit people near and far. The impact of your forward-looking generosity will be felt for generations to come.

### **Educating Public Health Leaders for the Future**

We are educating a diverse next generation of public servants at baccalaureate and graduate levels. Approximately 67 percent of our undergraduates are the first members of their families to attend college. Scholarships and fellowships aid our efforts to recruit students who reflect the rich multicultural population of our community and enhance our commitment to promoting diversity and equity in the next generation of health professionals.

*“What surprised me the most is that public health is everywhere, from the air we breathe to the roads we drive on. We cannot escape it. This is why public health is so special.”*

— *Sydney Hua '18, Program in Public Health*

Growing up in a low-income community, recent Program in Public Health graduate and former UCI basketball star Sydney Hua was driven by a desire to understand why some communities flourished more than others. She wanted to develop the skills and knowledge she needed to give back in ways that would improve the health of her neighbors. Among her many meaningful undergraduate experiences, the opportunity to assess the health of a community in one of her courses confirmed for her that she had chosen the right place in UCI. Today, she is pursuing graduate studies in physical therapy, where her public health background provides her with a unique perspective on the role that mobility plays in preventing health complications.



To prepare a future workforce, we will develop a model program that builds on a solid foundation of traditional public health education and practice while tracking students toward areas that will be increasingly relevant in the years ahead. Our students will learn to engage in research and healthcare that advances a paradigm-shifting model of wellness.

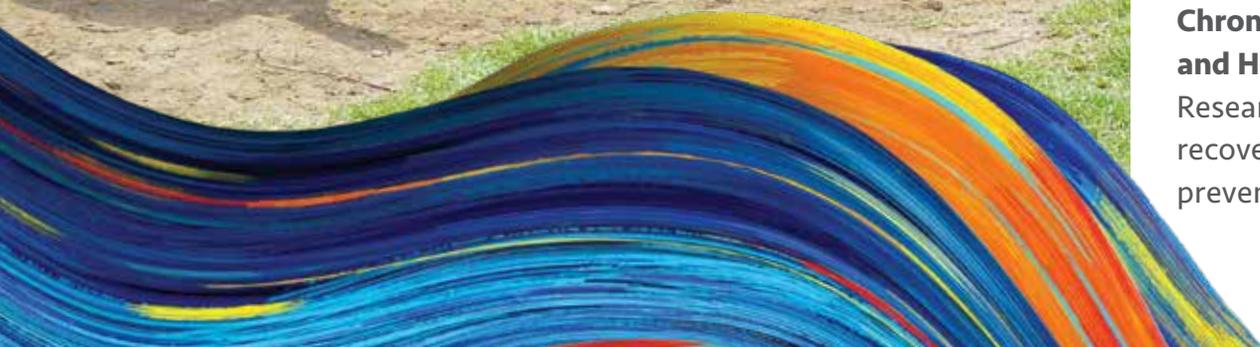
### Fostering High-Impact Research

Our strong community engagement, enhanced by a growing health services research portfolio, trains health sciences faculty and students to evaluate innovative programs for health promotion and disease prevention through a range of methodologies.

With your support, the planned School of Population and Public Health will leverage its existing strengths to promote strategic growth by nurturing research excellence in five areas:

#### **Chronic Disease Prevention, Nutrition Science and Health Promotion**

Research will cover cancer control, prevention and recovery; cardiovascular and metabolic disease prevention; and strategies for health and wellness,



especially for geriatric populations as they age in place. We will focus on environmental risk factors, behavior modification, genetic susceptibility and public policy. Research into nutrition at the community and population levels will create a pathway for developing optimal strategies for addressing diet.

### **Health Services Research**

We will use a variety of methodologies, including health econometrics, big-data analytics and implementation science. Our strong community ties and increasingly diverse student population will provide opportunities for developing novel training programs and setting up a model to support a pipeline for health services training among underserved and diverse populations.

### **Environmental and Occupational Health**

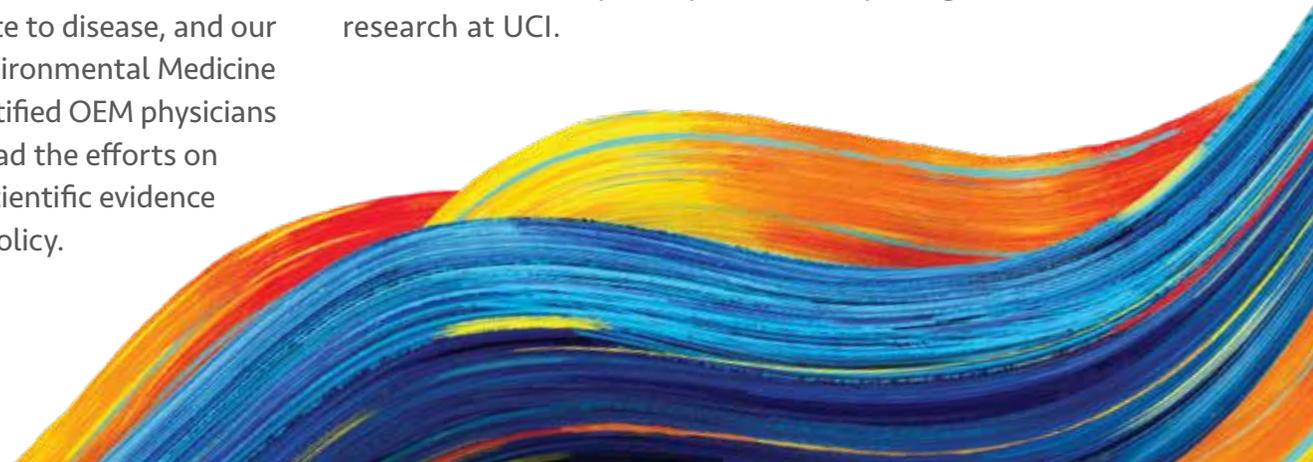
This research will focus on exposures from contaminated air, soil and water, as well as innovative spatial approaches to studying environmental health disparities. Our faculty members are internationally renowned for their research on environmental risk factors that contribute to disease, and our clinical program in Occupational and Environmental Medicine (OEM) is the largest practice of board-certified OEM physicians in Orange County. We will continue to lead the efforts on climate change education by providing scientific evidence for changes in local, state and national policy.

### **Health Equity and Community Engagement**

Working across the globe, we will focus on strategies to promote health with an emphasis on creating equal access and information for all populations. These concerns are most urgent when the burden of disease is unevenly distributed in society and certain people or populations are disproportionately exposed to risk factors for diseases, because of social policies or systemic biases when accessing health services.

### **Global Health**

We have creatively developed and implemented a specialization in translational global health while enhancing work on research and capacity-building in global chronic disease. Our faculty are internationally recognized leaders in global health, including malaria research. We host an NIH-funded International Center of Excellence for Malaria Research and lead research in data-driven assessments of the global burden of disease. We are also active participants in the UC systemwide Global Health Institute. Plans are underway to expand the scope of global health research at UCI.





ANTEATER NATION  
UCI Alumni

Two of our graduate students share their personal stories:

*“My passion for epidemiology largely stems from my experiences growing up as a first-generation Mexican-American in low-income neighborhoods of Los Angeles. Constantly frustrated by my inability to enact change in my community as a child, I dedicated myself to understanding and addressing minority health and health disparities. I hope to take my degree in epidemiology beyond its limits in order to create meaningful research that can aid in the reduction of health inequities and inspire future generations to do the same.”*

— **Maribel Cervantes-Ortega, Ph.D. Candidate,**  
Epidemiology

*“Ultimately, I want to work within the integration of science and policy to improve the lives of women and children, starting with their environments. The environmental health sciences program fosters a community of like-minded scientists, peers and mentors across all disciplines with the similar goal of improving our world through understanding how our environment influences health.”*

— **Kelli Malott, Ph.D. Candidate,**  
Environmental Health Sciences



Kelli Malott, Ph.D. Candidate, Environmental Health Sciences

### **Serving the Public**

We are dedicated to empowering the communities we serve by identifying and implementing strategies that promote healthy living and by personalizing the knowledge we share. For example, Suellen Hopfer, Ph.D., an assistant professor of public health and an expert in health communications, collaborated with Vietnamese families in Orange County to develop an innovative family group chat intervention to encourage colorectal cancer screenings and HPV vaccinations. As a result of this study, we are witnessing Vietnamese families grow more comfortable discussing cancer screening, an important first step in preventing chronic disease.

**Global researchers Guiyun Yan, Ph.D.,** a Chancellor's Fellow and professor of public health, and Daniel Parker, Ph.D., assistant professor of public health, have been instrumental in the development of UCI's new Infectious Disease Science Initiative, which examines a critical and growing area of public health scholarship. Yan's NIH-funded lab has become a prominent center for addressing complex public health problems, including the spread of malarial infections in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia.

**The dynamic research of Cynthia Lakon, Ph.D.,** associate professor of public health, focuses on the role of changing social networks in adolescents' risk behaviors. Her findings reveal important implications for addressing current issues, such as reducing opioid use among adolescents.



Suellen Hopfer, Ph.D., an assistant professor of public health and an expert in health communications



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Following an investigative journalist's report of the lead crisis in Santa Ana, Calif., Alana Lebrón, Ph.D., assistant professor of public health and Chicano/Latino studies, teamed up with a local environmental justice organization to collect and analyze soil samples from 500 locations in the community to assess health risks to residents posed by the lead content. In the next phase of the project, the team will collaborate with community members to develop and implement a public health equity action plan.

### How You Can Help

Please join us as we prepare to launch the UCI School of Population and Public Health. Working together, we will bring public health issues to the forefront through education, research and public service.

### Campaign Funding Priorities

#### **Training a Diverse Workforce of Future Leaders in Health and Wellness**

With more than 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students in public health, most of whom are first-generation college students or underrepresented minorities, we have a unique opportunity to nurture a new generation of public health leaders who reflect the rich multicultural population of our community. Your gift will support our mission to provide scholarships and fellowships that promote a pipeline for diversity and equity.

#### **Establishing Endowed Chairs to Recruit and Retain Exceptional Faculty**

The endowed chairs that you establish will provide the prestige and resources necessary to recruit and retain



prominent faculty to advance our mission of research excellence and foster a culture of inclusion and diversity. Your support will help us recruit internationally recognized researchers in epidemiology, nutrition, global health, health services research, environmental health, occupational medicine, implementation science, and health policy.

#### **Increasing Seed Funding for Research Innovations**

Your partnership will fund innovative research projects and training programs designed to stimulate research and nurture excellence in critical health areas, including chronic disease prevention (heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes), integrative nutritional science, human development (brain), environmental and occupational health, health equity, community engagement, and global health.

#### **Empowering Communities to be Informed and Advocate for Their Health**

We develop innovative programs to identify optimal strategies toward healthy living, including aging in place, enhanced mental health, chronic disease control, cancer support, and stress reduction. Your gift will provide

opportunities for us to create an exchange of knowledge and current best practices with community members and to develop certificates and programs to train community leaders, educators, counselors, and chief wellness officers.

#### **Enhancing Lab Space and Teaching Clinics**

Our faculty are engaged in cutting-edge research to protect our clean air, safe drinking water and green space. An investment in state-of-the-art facilities will result in new and critical discoveries of environmental risks to the health of our communities. Modern, fully equipped labs and teaching clinics will attract internationally recognized researchers and clinicians who will raise the stature of our already prominent faculty.



**For more information, please visit:**  
***[brilliantfuture.uci.edu/school-of-population-and-public-health](https://brilliantfuture.uci.edu/school-of-population-and-public-health)***



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