

# dean's message

COMMUNITY, BY DEFINITION, IS A SOCIAL GROUP of any size whose members reside in a specific locality and often have a common cultural and historical heritage. The UCLA School of Public Health faculty, students



and alumni play an important role in many communities locally and globally by developing culturally relevant health approaches based on research.

Over the past several decades, our understanding of what it takes to promote health has evolved. We now know that a healthy community is a key to keeping individuals healthy. Indeed, the latest research shows that what takes place in a doctor's office is far less important to an individual's health than what takes place in his or her community.

To that end, our school's researchers collaborate with community groups to develop practical tools but also, and critically, they study how best to address the obstacles (e.g., cultural beliefs, language, poverty) that keep many from taking the steps necessary to promote good health. The cover story of this issue (page 4) highlights some of our efforts in the greater Los Angeles community and illustrates the ways in which a university can help improve health quality.

One of our school's lead centers in providing community support recently received a generous endowment from another partner in our community, Kaiser Permanente. We are excited to announce the UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity. A \$5.2 million endowment will provide core support to ensure that the previously named Center to Eliminate Health Disparities will continue its important work of promoting healthy communities. Communities differ, and so do approaches to them. The Center for Health Equity has a proven track record of understanding these challenges and developing programs that have been replicated in cities and states across the country. The Kaiser endowment will enable us to do more.

News of the endowment, the school's largest to date, is particularly welcome as we face mounting budget cuts. The continued reduction in state funding for the University of California has resulted in a cut of \$1.2 million to the school's operating budget for the year – about 12 percent. In addition, faculty and staff have received pay cuts ranging from 4 to 10 percent, offset in part by furlough days to be taken in the next year. We are doing more with less, and I am thankful for the first-rate faculty and staff who, despite a difficult financial climate, remain dedicated to making the school's mission and the education of our students their top priority.

2009-10 DEAN'S  
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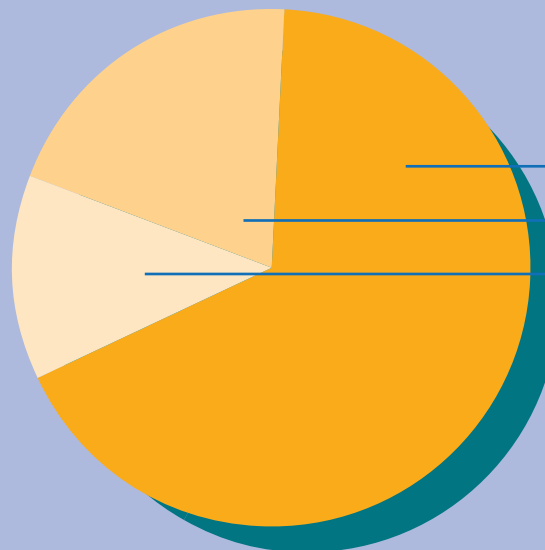
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That's one of the best things about working with students: Their energy and enthusiasm is contagious. Our students are among the best and brightest in the country, and this year's incoming class is one of the most competitive we've admitted. With applications up 18 percent, our program continues to be much sought after, resulting in outstanding-quality students. In addition to a top-tier education, we offer these students an opportunity to learn about public health in a wide array of settings – thanks to our heavy involvement in the community. In the pages ahead you will read about UCLA's work in the community and learn about the hands-on community-based training our students are afforded by studying public health in one of the most diverse cities in the country.

As we do more with less, I would like to ask our community of UCLA School of Public Health supporters to consider doing more. Your generosity is critical to sustaining the school's excellence during this economic hardship. Our students, who face escalating fees, need your assistance now more than ever. If you've made a donation this year, please consider giving more. If you have not made a contribution this year, I hope you will consider a gift to the school to help our faculty and students continue to better our communities – both locally and globally.

Linda Rosenstock, M.D., M.P.H.  
Dean



**TOTAL EXPENDITURES**

**Grants and Contracts**

**State-Generated Funds**

**Gifts and Other**

**Fiscal Year 08-09  
\$59.2 million**