

# dean's message

*Is the United States hazardous to immigrants' health?*

THE ANSWER, in some ways, is yes. Studies show that immigrants come here in generally better health than U.S.-born individuals in their age, income and educational groups, but lose that advantage in a short time due to a number of barriers they face to maintaining good health.

This issue's cover story (see page 12) highlights several ongoing programs aimed at identifying, treating and, most importantly, preventing health risks in immigrant communities. Additional vulnerabilities are explored, including the preponderance of immigrants who work in high-risk jobs and the likelihood that they will lack health insurance. The lessons learned are that as our nation continues to undergo significant changes in our population, public health professionals must be able to understand and incorporate the needs and perspectives of culturally diverse communities.

As a school of public health, we have an obligation to ensure that the research we conduct and the education we provide adequately address the burgeoning health care challenges. To that end, I'm pleased to announce the creation of the Center to Eliminate Health Disparities (see page 33). Made possible by seed support from The California Endowment, Ralph and Shirley Shapiro and Dean's Advisory Board members Linnae Anderson and Tom Epley, the center will concentrate on keeping the public healthy by targeting health promotion and disease prevention as well as access to timely and high-quality care for those who are ill. The center will also explore the barriers preventing more effective collaboration

with local health departments and other key partners engaged in the practice of public health.

To support the development of exciting new projects like this center, the school has devoted more attention to our capital campaign. In the last four years



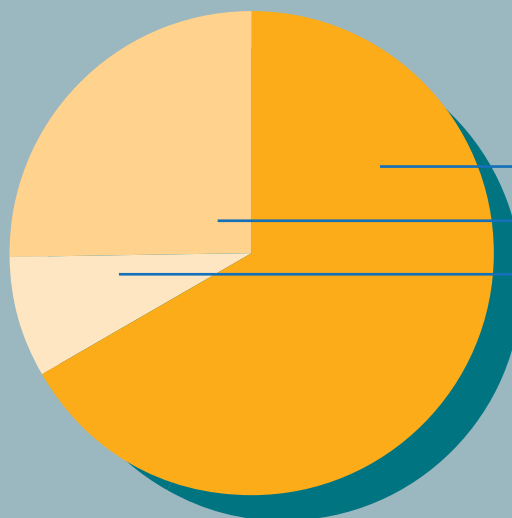
we have nearly doubled our annual expenditures thanks in large part to the increasing success of our faculty in obtaining extramural support, and this year we raised twice as much for the annual fund due to the generosity of individual donors. One of our top fundraising priorities is scholarships for students. Providing financial assistance enables us to recruit and retain the best and brightest public health students.

With applications to our school up 10 percent for the second year in a row, admission is more competitive than ever, encouraging an even more selective application process. We continue to be among the most diverse schools of public health in the United States. Twenty percent of our students come from countries outside the United States, and nearly half of our students are racial and ethnic minorities. These data reflect the school's commitment to training a diverse public health workforce.

Finally, I'm pleased to announce our Commencement speaker, Dr. America Bracho. Dr. Bracho is the executive director of Latino Health Access, a center for health promotion and disease prevention located in Santa Ana, Calif. The center was created under her leadership to assist with the multiple health needs of Latinos in Orange County. With the challenges outlined above and elsewhere in the magazine, I can think of no one better to deliver the address.

We in the public health field have the amazing privilege of knowing that our work makes a tangible difference on a local, national and international level. I am excited about the opportunities awaiting our new graduates as they enter the field, and am confident in their abilities to do great things.

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



#### TOTAL EXPENDITURES

Grants and Contracts

State-Generated Funds

Gifts and Other

Fiscal Year 02-03  
\$40.4 million

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