

dean's message

A SCHOOL'S EXCELLENCE IS JUDGED by the caliber of its students and faculty. Both our faculty and students continue to prove their excellence on many fronts. The impressive work of two of our students is highlighted in the Student Profiles section. A sign that many outside the school are recognizing our excellence is the fact that for the second year in a row, student applications to the school have increased by 10 percent.



We also continue to see an impressive increase in faculty research productivity, as measured by grants and contracts (see graphic on the facing page). The quality and breadth of research are inspiring, with our faculty conducting research in such varied areas as complementary and alternative medicine (see the story on page 8), the environment (page 16) and pharmaceutical economics and policy (page 19).

In addition to research, another important role of the public health researcher and practitioner is advocacy. Several of our faculty worked tirelessly to defeat Proposition 54 (the so-called racial privacy initiative), which, if passed, would have severely hampered our research and public health efforts.

Recognition by outside organizations is another measure of excellence. While the next issue of the magazine will contain a more comprehensive listing of all of our faculty honors, I would like to highlight some faculty who will receive distinctive honors at the American Public Health Association's annual meeting November 15-19 in San Francisco. If you are attending, don't forget to stop by the UCLA Reception on Monday the 17th from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Westin St. Francis Hotel.

- E. Richard Brown will receive APHA's 2003 Sedgwick Award. The Sedgwick Memorial Medal for Distinguished Public Health is APHA's oldest and most prestigious award. The citation notes his roles as a past president of APHA, founder/director of our UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, development of the California Health Interview Survey, and his involvement in advising several U.S. Senators and the White House on health care reform.

- Jonathan Fielding will receive APHA's 2003 Milton and Ruth Roemer Prize for Creative Local Public Health Work. This important award, named in honor of

two of our school's most cherished faculty members – the late Milton Roemer and his wife, Ruth Roemer, who remains active on our faculty – recognizes his outstanding contributions as director of public health and health officer for Los Angeles County.

- APHA will also honor Diana M. Bontá with its 2003 Presidential Citation in recognition of her public health leadership both in California and the nation. As director of the California Department of Health Services, Bontá oversees one of the largest departments in California state government. She joins the ranks of past presidential award winners such as Rosa Parks and Rosalynn Carter.

It is difficult to write about excellence at the school without mentioning Lester Breslow, so I am excited to announce that on the 30th anniversary of the Breslow Lecture, none other than Dr. Breslow will be our keynote speaker. Who better than he to give the distinguished lecture? This is a fitting tribute to the lecture series and our renowned scholar, teacher, and friend. Please mark your calendar for April 19, as I know this will be a memorable event.

It is with great pride that I report on the excellence attained at the school. It is a continual process, and with the efforts of our faculty, students and staff and the support of our friends, I know that we will achieve even greater heights.



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

Dean

