Recent national and world events have increased our awareness of the vital role played by public health—a field that strives to save lives not one at a time, but thousands and millions at a time. I can think of no other profession in which so many disciplines intersect, where society’s biggest challenges are addressed on so many levels, and where training and research applications benefit so many lives.

UCLA has been a leader in public health training and research for more than 60 years. Today, the UCLA School of Public Health consistently ranks among the top 10 of such schools in the nation. The knowledge created here has made a profound impact in our community and throughout the world.

I appreciate your interest in the field of public health and our program at UCLA, and encourage you to join our students and alumni working to promote healthier lives in the U.S. and around the world.

Linda Rosenstock, MD, MPH
Every day, we all benefit from advances in public health. You probably don’t stop to think about the safe water you are drinking, the clean air you are breathing, or what protects you and your family from infectious diseases. But you have public health to thank.

Public health:
- Saves lives…millions at a time
- Prevents disease and disability
- Improves the quality of health care
- Helps reduce health care costs

Unlike medicine, which treats individuals one person at a time, public health works in populations to prevent disease and injury to millions at a time. And for every medical breakthrough, public health expertise is necessary to translate that breakthrough into practical action – delivering effective treatments, developing sound health policies and practices, and preventing disease and injury before they occur.

Issues that touch us all
- Ensuring clean air, water and safe food
- Preventing the spread of infectious disease
- Minimizing domestic, school and community violence
- Promoting healthy lifestyles
- Improving health care delivery
- Preventing and responding to intentional and natural disasters

The difference public health advances can make in these and other areas is almost impossible to overestimate. As reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*: “Eight out of every 10 premature deaths in the United States can be attributed to sociobehavioral, environmental and accessibility factors. All of these can be prevented through public health practices.”
The UCLA campus offers the perfect environment for our premier School of Public Health. Supported by UCLA’s world-renowned medical center, medical school and health sciences complex; top law and management schools; a public affairs school; new cross-campus initiatives in biosciences and global studies; and dedicated biomolecular, genetic, environmental and other science teaching and research facilities, opportunities for vital cross-disciplinary collaborations abound.

Addressing and solving the critical issues of our time increasingly require the skills and intellect of specialists in a host of disciplines working together, often with a public health professional at the helm. Examples of UCLA School of Public Health alumni leading local community efforts include:

- Curbing violence in Los Angeles (the Violence Prevention Coalition)
- Protecting the area’s waterways (Heal the Bay)
- Preparing for and protecting the county’s residents against a possible bioterrorist attack (through the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services and the Medical Reserve Corps of Los Angeles)

The School is further enriched by its location in one of the world’s most culturally, economically and commercially diverse regions. In Greater Los Angeles, the potential for valuable training, research and community service experiences is virtually without limits. There is no better place in the world to advance the kind of public health teaching, research, advocacy and service that make whole communities, and entire nations, healthier places in which to live.

**Mission**

Enhance the public’s health by conducting innovative research, training future leaders and health professionals from diverse backgrounds, translating research into policy and practice, and serving our local communities and the communities of the nation and the world.
The School’s 700 students are part of one of the most diverse of all schools of public health, representing more than 35 countries and nearly every region of the United States. UCLA School of Public Health graduates are at the forefront of all major public health efforts.

In the U. S. and abroad, examples of where UCLA School of Public Health students and graduates are applying their knowledge:

- World Health Organization
- National Institutes of Health
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- U.S. Public Health Service
- Schools of public health and other university departments
- Major hospitals and medical centers
- Environmental agencies
- Health maintenance organizations
- Rural health clinics
- Law firms
- Advocacy organizations
- Public office and other policy-making roles
- Family and youth centers
- Independent research organizations
- Insurance, pharmaceutical and hospital supply companies
- Biotechnology companies
The School of Public Health faculty includes acclaimed public health experts and innovators. Of the School’s 200 faculty members, eleven are members of the prestigious Institute of Medicine, three are past presidents of the American Public Health Association, and two are former and one is current president of the International Epidemiological Association. The School also employs more than 200 staff members working to support the School’s mission.

First in public health

UCLA faculty in public health have made important discoveries and established new ways of thinking that have dramatically changed the way we approach public health issues nationally and globally.

UCLA School of Public Health researchers leading the way

- Established a direct link between lifestyle and longevity
- Promoted the benefits of breastfeeding
- Demonstrated the transmission of HIV-related immune deficiency among homosexual men, preventing infection in millions
- Led early international efforts to control the spread of HIV and AIDS
- Discovered a relationship between chronic exposure to air pollutants and impaired respiratory function
- Found a genetic link for susceptibility to multiple sclerosis
- Documented the health benefits and cost savings of helmet use among motorcyclists
- Identified the link between acute pesticide poisoning and permanent neurologic disorders
The School of Public Health has five departments representing the core disciplines in public health.

**Biostatistics** is the application and development of statistical methods to problems in biology, medicine and public health. Methods developed by biostatisticians are used to plan population surveys and to optimally design experiments, which allow valid conclusions to be drawn and to confirm or refute assertions regarding our health. Biostatisticians then develop the analytical tools to derive the most appropriate conclusions based on the collected data. They collaborate with scientists in nearly every area related to health and they make major contributions to our understanding of cancer, AIDS, genetics and the determinants of health.

**Community Health Sciences** explores how health-related behaviors interact with conditions in the social, cultural, physical and biological environments. Assessment, planning and evaluation are common themes in the Department’s programs. The faculty is multidisciplinary and includes those whose primary training is in the social and behavioral sciences, medicine, nutrition, demography, economics and health education.

**Environmental Health Sciences** identifies, measures, and controls biological, chemical and physical hazards in the environment for the promotion and protection of human and ecological health. The Department’s graduates are highly trained scientists and professionals capable of identifying and measuring agents of environmental concern; evaluating the health, environmental, and all other aspects of such agents; developing means for their effective management; and evaluating alternative policies directed at improving and protecting environments.

**Epidemiology** is the study of the distribution and determinants of disease and injury in human populations. Epidemiologists study variations of disease in relation to such factors as age, sex, race, occupational and social characteristics, place of residence, susceptibility, exposure to specific agents or other pertinent characteristics. The scope of the field includes the study of the patterns of disease, the causes of disease and the control or prevention of disease.

**Health Services** examines the organization, financing and delivery of services to prevent and treat disease. This includes public activities at local, state, and federal levels as well as the activities of private organizations. Faculty members come from such diverse fields as economics, history, law, management, medicine, planning, political science, sociology and statistics. The common bond among faculty is a steadfast commitment to solving problems and developing innovations related to the access, cost and quality of health services from a population-based rather than an individual patient perspective.
Center for Adolescent Health Promotion is a partnership of the School of Public Health, the Department of Pediatrics, RAND and local communities. Its mission is to conduct studies and develop programs to improve the health and well-being of adolescents, with a special emphasis on projects that involve parents of adolescents.

Center to Eliminate Health Disparities identifies, investigates and addresses differences in health status and disease burden among various population groups. A key feature of the center is its heavy focus on community-based intervention research to mitigate observed disparities.

Center for Environmental Genomics is a joint program of the School of Public Health and Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. The center convenes experts from fields including cancer, environmental health, epidemiology, biostatistics, human genetics, pathology and pharmacology, to investigate how environmental agents interact with genetic factors to cause disease.

Center for Occupational and Environmental Health was established by the State Legislature for research, training and service in occupational and environmental health. Faculty from the Schools of Public Health, Medicine and Nursing train environmental health professionals and scientists, conduct research and provide service through consultation, education and outreach.

Center for Health Policy Research was established to apply the expertise of UCLA faculty and research to meet national, state and local community needs for health policy-related research and information. The center has three missions: (1) to conduct research on national, state and local health policy issues, (2) to provide public service to policymakers and community leaders and (3) to offer educational opportunities for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities was established to address some of the most challenging health and social problems facing children and families. The center's mission is to improve society's ability to provide children with the best opportunities for health, well-being and the chance to assume productive roles within families and communities.

Center for Human Nutrition is a joint endeavor of the Schools of Public Health and Medicine. The center brings together faculty, postdoctoral research fellows, graduate students and medical students to focus on the roles of nutrition and food in human health and disease.

Center for Public Health and Disasters was established to address the critical issues faced when a disaster impacts a community. The center promotes interdisciplinary efforts to reduce the health impacts of domestic and international, natural and human-induced disasters. It facilitates dialogue between public health and medicine, engineering, physical and social sciences and emergency management.

Division of Cancer Prevention & Control Center Research (DCPCR) is a joint program of the School of Public Health and the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. The DCPCR focuses on research in primary prevention and screening/early detection among healthy populations and those at increased risk for developing cancer as well as reducing avoidable morbidity and mortality among patients with cancer and long-term survivors of cancer.

Fred H. Bixby Center for Population and Reproductive is a multidisciplinary program developed to expand the School of Public Health's research, training and service activities in the areas of population, reproductive health and family planning.

Southern California Injury Prevention Center is one of 11 centers in the U.S. to focus on intentional and unintentional injuries. Using a multidisciplinary approach with community collaboration, the center seeks to understand how and why injuries occur and develop prevention measures.
UCLA School of Public Health Programs

The UCLA School of Public Health offers both masters and doctoral degrees. Students choosing to pursue a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) or a Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.) acquire a broad knowledge and skills base with a focus on public health practice. Students earning an M.P.H. or Dr.P.H. may work in local, state or national public health agencies and health care organizations.

The Master of Science (M.S.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees offered by the School’s five departments prepare students for research careers. After earning a M.S. or Ph.D., students often study public health problems in academic and research institutions.

The School also offers two interdepartmental degrees — a Doctor of Environmental Science and Engineering (D.Env.), the only program of its kind in the country, and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Molecular Toxicology.

Students can combine an M.P.H. degree with a medical degree, a law degree, a Master of Business Administration, or a Master of Arts concentrating in African Area Studies, Asian American Studies, Islamic Studies or Latin American Studies.

In addition, the school has two M.P.H. programs that cater to working professionals. The Health Services Management and Health Promotion/Health Education programs allow working health care professionals to pursue an M.P.H. degree during extended weekend sessions.