

dean's message

IN A YEAR OF STATE BUDGET CUTS and financial uncertainty, the school has continued to remain on track and has much to be proud of this year.

In the 2003 *U.S. News & World Report* ranking of schools of public health, announced in April, UCLA ranked in a two-way tie for seventh. The school received its highest overall score to date (3.7 out of 5) and the ranking represents a slight improvement from our 2000 position, where we were in a three-way tie for seventh place.

The school continues as among the most diverse schools of public health in the United States. Twenty-five percent of our entering fall 2002 class come from countries outside the United States; among the others, about half are racial and ethnic minorities. These data reflect the school's commitment to training a diverse public health workforce.

To further our efforts in this area, the school was recently awarded \$150,000 for student support and outreach from the California Wellness Foundation as part of its Diversity in the Health Professions initiative. This, coupled with the \$450,000 recently received from The California Endowment for traineeships in underserved areas, will significantly aid the school's efforts to target our support to students committed to working in these areas.

Our faculty continue to conduct exciting and important research. The fact that the school's grants and contracts have increased 85 percent over the past three years is a testament to the value of the school's research in the eyes of grant makers. Significant increases in grants and contracts will be the primary mechanism for growth in the coming years.

In March, we held a very successful and productive faculty retreat. Many innovative and exciting ideas for propelling the school forward were discussed, including implementing the strategic plan, recruiting new faculty, and maintaining excellence in tough economic times. We have already begun to implement recommendations from the retreat, including undertaking school-wide recruitment for two new faculty positions in the areas of global health and public health genomics.

There is much exciting news at the school in the area of genomics (see pages 4-9). A generous gift from Art Alper in memory of his wife, Ann Fitzpatrick Alper, has created the Ann Fitzpatrick Alper Program in Environmental Genomics. The program is a collaborative venture with the Jonsson Cancer Center and is housed in the School of Public Health's new Center for Environmental Genomics. Professor Robert Schiestl heads both the program and the center.



It is with great pleasure that I welcome the three newest members to the Dean's Advisory Board. Michele DiLorenzo, who leads new ventures at Carsey-Werner-Mandabach, the preeminent independent studio in the television industry, brings a wealth of entertainment experience to the board. Previously, DiLorenzo held leadership positions at Viacom, Virgin Interactive, and MTV Networks. Ken Lee (M.S. '75) is the founding principal of Lee, Burkhart, Liu, Inc. (LBL), a provider of planning, architectural and interior design services primarily for health care, academic, institutional and corporate clients. He has more than 25 years of professional experience in the planning and programming of health care institutions. Mickey Gardner is a Washington, D.C., telecommunications attorney who represents many clients in Los Angeles. The board will benefit from his business savvy and bicoastal perspective.

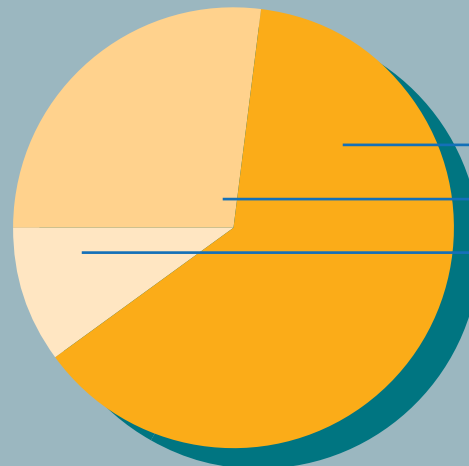
Over the past year, the field of public health has experienced unprecedented visibility on a host of pressing issues — SARS, smallpox vaccinations, West Nile Virus, and bioterrorism preparedness, to name a few. The SARS epidemic has demonstrated yet again that one country's health problem can easily and quickly become an international health crisis. This is true of emerging infectious diseases as well as the more traditional public health issues such as AIDS. The school's work on the HIV/AIDS issue is detailed in the cover story beginning on page 10.

We are fortunate to have Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as our commencement speaker. I can think of no one better to address our graduates at this critical time in public health.

It is at this critical time, this time of great need and great opportunity, that our graduates can make their mark on the world. They will draw on their experience at UCLA and from their diverse backgrounds to shape the future of public health and ultimately all of our lives. I look forward to their many successes.



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



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TOTAL EXPENDITURES

Grants and Contracts

State-Generated Funds

Gifts and Other

Fiscal Year 01-02 = \$37.6 million