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**UCLA**

Fielding School of Public Health

## Executive Programs in Health Policy & Management

### Quarterly Update - Winter 2024

*The latest news about our executive programs, students, faculty, and alumni.*



#### A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we usher in a brand-new year for The Executive Programs Office, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on a few exciting announcements. As many of you know, I have been serving as the Interim Director of the EMPH Program for the last several months. I am happy to announce that an EMPH Transition Committee has been formed and we are actively looking for a new Faculty Director.

We have two new members who have joined the Executive Programs Office: Monica Boerger, EMPH Student Affairs Officer, and Gigi Hooghkirk, Marketing Strategist, and we are very excited about the direction we are headed.

In Spring 2023, our inaugural MHA cohort completed the program. Congratulations to our first UCLA MHA graduates! Launched in 2021, the program is going strong and continues to expand. This June, nearly 60 candidates will walk at graduation. With 18 courses offered all four quarters, we continue to bring in new and dynamic course facilitators.

Next year, the EMPH program celebrates its 30th anniversary, and this past fall we welcomed ten new Year 1 students into the program from diverse backgrounds including architecture, journalism, nursing, data science, and pharma. One student relocated to Los Angeles from Shanghai, specifically for this program.

Led by Professor Mike Galper, Year 2 EMPH students presented their summer consulting projects last quarter on subjects ranging from intimate partner violence to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). They embark on their business plans this quarter and the winner will be announced at Health Policy and Management Alumni Association's (HPMAA) signature event, the "Leaders of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow" annual dinner on April 25, 2024, so save the date. More information to follow from the Fielding School.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our faculty and students in both executive programs for their commitment to public health. Together, we are making our world a better place.

Wishing you all a productive and successful academic year!



Kyle Sullivan, MSW  
Director, Executive Programs in HPM

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#### IMPORTANT DATES



##### FEBRUARY 21

##### MHA Spring Quarter Application Deadline

The MHA Spring Quarter  
begins April 1.

[Start your MHA application.](#)



### MARCH 1

#### EMPH Application Review for Fall 2024 Cohort (Class of 2026)

Subsequent reviews of applications take place on the first of each month through June or until the cohort is full.

[Start your EMPH application.](#)



### APRIL 25

#### Leaders of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow Annual Dinner

2024 Leader of Today Awardee: Annette M. Walker, MHA, President, City of Hope Orange County

2024 Ira Alpert Service Awardee: Louise McCarthy, MPP, President & CEO, Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC)

[Learn more and get tickets.](#)

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Please spread the word about our upcoming online [EMPH Info Sessions](#). It's a great opportunity for interested applicants to learn about the program in a live Q&A webinar that covers faculty highlights, program curriculum, admissions requirements, and application materials.

March 5 at 12:30 p.m. PT [Register](#)

April 2 at 12:30 p.m. PT [Register](#)

April 10 at 5:00 p.m. PT [Register](#)

May 14 at 12:30 p.m. PT [Register](#)

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## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023!

### EMPH

Vanessa Aguilera, MPH  
Fadumo Ali, MPH  
Elizabeth Barrera, D.O., MPH  
Marcia Fajardo-Skinner, MPH  
Lance Hall, MPH  
Rex Hamano, MBA, MPH

Amanda Haney, MPH, MS  
Melanie Huynh, MPH  
Anjum Khan, MPH, MS  
Chin Wen Lin, MPH  
Pam Lowney, MPH  
Benjamin Olmedo, PA-C, MPH, MSMS

Zohra Pervez, MPH  
Batstone Raja, MPH, MA  
Emily Solorzano, MPH, MAG





#### MHA

- Alyssa Abernathy, MHA  
Erika Abraham, MD, MHA  
Ani Alvardzhyan, MHA  
Melissa Alvarez, MHA  
Raman  
Aravamudhan, MHA, ME  
Julie Arroyo, MHA  
Nathaniel Badii, MHA  
Laura Bonelli, MHA  
Bryan Ceron, MHA  
Jillian Chopra, MHA  
Justin Del Rosario, MHA  
Lauren Denton, MHA, MA  
Mary Anne Dizon, MHA  
Katie Duff, MHA  
Christina Durant, MHA  
Maria Cristina Estrada, MHA  
Gavin Feinfield, MHA  
Sydney Fong, MHA  
  
Joselyne Franco Kerr, MHA  
Silvano Gonzalez, MHA  
Tiffany Wong Gonzalez, MHA  
Nicole Holmes, MHA  
Duston Hudak, MHA  
Soni Jain, MHA  
Noa Katz, MHA  
William Keller, MHA  
Ruth Kimani, MHA  
Matt Kuntz, MHA, JD  
Racquel Laxamana, MHA  
Brianna Levenson  
Shakoor, MHA  
Kaleb Logan, MHA  
Adriana Lopez-Ospina, MHA  
Thomas Brent Mabrey, MHA  
Bailee Magnuson, MHA  
Stephanie Morillo, MHA  
Kayla Nagel, MHA  
  
Aazeen Nasir, MHA  
Mina Ognjanovic-Jasovic, MHA  
Miguel Oate, MHA  
Janaina Ossuna, MHA  
Allison Pascual, MHA  
Jamie Pham, MHA

Sarah Pramono, MHA  
Tiffany Primer, MHA  
Yeraldi Vergara, MHA  
Jessica Salcedo, MHA  
Isabelle Salvador, MHA  
Tania Sayani, MHA  
Edwin Serna Gonzalez,  
MHA  
Christopher Sherwood,  
MHA  
Guadalupe Teeran, MHA  
Monique Trinh, MHA  
Dusty White, MHA  
Richard Young, MD, MHA

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#### 2023 HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS

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### Delta Omega

Honorary Society in Public Health

**Delta Omega** is the national scholastic honorary society established to recognize scholarship devotion to public health principles and outstanding service in public health. Recipients are carefully chosen each year based on academic standing and real or potential qualities of leadership in public health.

Congratulations to our 2023 Delta Omega Awardees.

#### EMPH



Pam Lowney



Chin Wen Lin



Amy Truong



Batstone Raja

#### MHA





Nicole Holmes



Jamie Pham



Jessica Salcedo



**Upsilon Phi Delta** is the National Honor Society for Health Care Management recognized by health administration professionals and academic institutions. Recipients are carefully chosen each year based on academic standing and overall achievement in the management field.

Congratulations to our 2023 Upsilon Phi Delta Awardees.

#### EMPH



Lance Hall



Rex Hamano



Amanda Haney



Melanie Huynh



Anjum Khan

**MHA**



Mary Anne Dizon



Maria Estrada



Racquel Laxamana



Stephanie Morillo



Monique Trinh

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**2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS**

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Congratulations to first year students who have been selected as our **Public Health Scholarship Program (PHSP)** Scholars in the department of Health Policy and Management.

This Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) supported program trains future public health leaders who are committed to eliminating public health inequalities and health disparities in Medically Underserved Areas (MUA).

We are impressed by their dedication to public health and their commitment to supporting underserved communities.

**EMPH**



Raymond Chandler

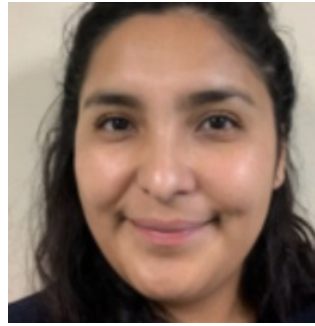


Dayanara Nieto Flores



Nikki Morales

#### **MHA**



Adriana Howard



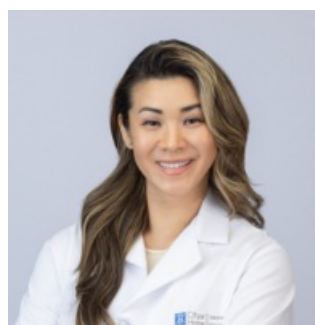
Kelsey Wakasa

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## **EXECUTIVE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (EMPH)**

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#### **EMPH FELLOWSHIPS**



**Amy Truong Awarded  
Levin-Gordon Executive  
MPH Fellowship**

Based on academic achievement, the Levin-Gordon Executive MPH Fellowship provides a scholarship for a promising second-year student in the EMPH Program.

In consultation with program faculty, Amy was chosen among many outstanding peers for her exceptional work, leadership, and demeanor during her first year in the program.

Congratulations to Amy on receiving this prestigious scholarship, and we wish you continued success.



**Pam Lowney Awarded  
Lee Thomassen  
Healthcare Finance  
Fellowship**

The Lee Thomassen Healthcare Finance Fellowship provides a scholarship for a second-year student in the EMPH Program who has demonstrated

exceptional skills in accounting and finance coursework.

In consultation with program faculty, Pam was chosen among many outstanding peers for her outstanding work in accounting, and her promise of success in financial management.

Congratulations on a well-deserved award, Pam!



**Emily Solorzano  
Awarded Ann G. Quealy  
Fellowship**

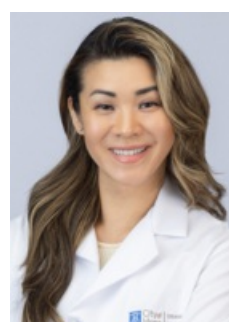
One recipient is carefully chosen each year by their cohort peers for the Ann G. Quealy Memorial Fellowship Endowment Award based on overall achievement, concern for others, humor, and a desire to reach their highest potential in life while bringing out the best in others.

Congratulations to Emily Solorzano, our 2023 awardee.

Thank you for your positive contributions to the culture of the HPM Department and the EMPH Program.

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**Sinaiko  
Business  
Plan  
Awardees**





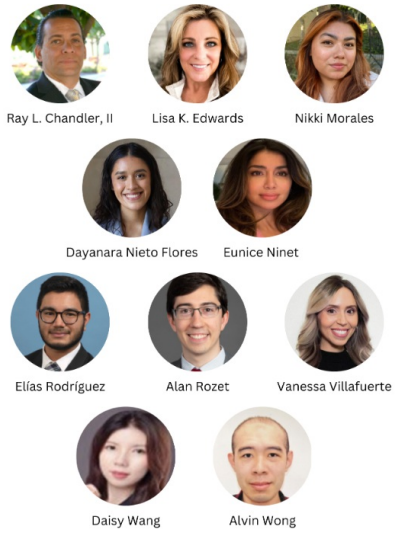


**Amy Truong, Rex Hamano, and Benjamin Olmedo Win 2023 Sinaiko Business Plan Award for SheFin**

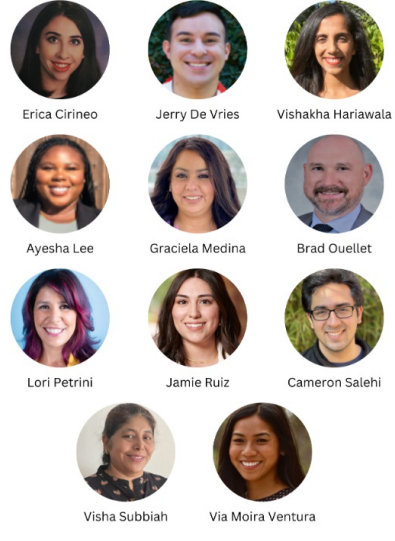
The EMPH Program incorporates integrated knowledge, creativity, and applied skills by asking students to create a business plan in the middle of their second year and present to a panel of judges.

The final deliverables—a written plan and an oral presentation—are attributed to three courses as a comprehensive assessment: Strategic Policy & Management, Healthcare Marketing, and Healthcare Finance.

**WELCOME EMPH CLASS OF 2025 & RETURNING SECOND YEARS**



In the fall, we welcomed in a new EMPH cohort, the Class of 2025, from diverse backgrounds including architecture and journalism.



Second year students are getting ready to present their business plans as we begin the countdown to graduation in June.



**Orientation**

Each fall, we bring together both cohorts at Orientation. Our next one will take place on August 23, 2024.





#### **Holiday Party 2023**

In our end-of-the year EMPH Holiday Party, we celebrated all of the hard work the students put in during Fall Quarter.

It was a fun way to wrap things up and launch right into Winter Quarter which started December 1st!



#### **Rolling Into Class**

In nearly every cohort, we have students who reside outside of Southern California and commute to LA for weekend classes, often heading straight to campus from LAX.

We snapped this pic outside of class on a recent Friday.

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## **MASTER OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION (MHA)**

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#### **CASE COMPETITION**

Congratulations to UCLA's two MHA teams who made it to the semi-finals in the **5th Annual UCLA Center for Healthcare Management 2024 Case Competition**, sponsored by UCLA Health.

Out of the 48 teams who submitted proposals from across the country, our two MHA teams were among the eight selected as semi-finalists and invited to Los Angeles to participate in the event and present their recommendations to a panel of esteemed judges.

MHA Students include William Keller, Dr. Richard Young, Laura Bonelli, Lauren Denton, Dr. Saumya Nigam, Nari Shin, Dr. Srihitha Gaddam, and Brandon Reed.



[Read the story.](#)

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## MHA IMMERSION

Each quarter, we welcome our Online MHA students to campus during Immersion Week, creating an opportunity for students to meet their peers and connect with MHA faculty and other healthcare professionals, all in person on the UCLA campus.

Students are required to complete two immersions. Immersion 1, completed in the first year of the program, focuses on professional development and project management. Immersion 2 takes place in the second year and prepares students for the capstone project.



This fall, first year MHA students made their introductions as they participated in a professional development session in Immersion 1.



During Fall Quarter, second year MHA students made t-shirts in honor of one of their favorite professors, Stan Augustine, who teaches Healthcare Financial Management in Term 5 of the Online MHA Program. They wore them during Immersion Week and presented him with his very own at the Farewell Reception on the final day.

We can't wait to meet our next group of MHA Students in person for Immersion Week, April 24-27.

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## GRADS GIVING BACK

*The ExecHPM alumni network grows stronger every year. We are honored when graduates return as guest speakers. It is a gift to our students and a testament to their Bruin experience in the Executive Programs.*





As the Injury & Violence Prevention and Outreach Coordinator at UCLA Health - Trauma Surgery, [Erik Coll](#) (EMPH '20) led a "Stop the Bleed" training event hosted by the Health Policy and Management Student Association (HPMSA) and UCLA Health. "Stop the Bleed" is one of the nation's largest public health campaigns. Its goal is to save lives by training people across the country on how to stop traumatic bleeding. In this one-hour in-person on-site classroom didactic and hands-on skills training, students learned how to apply direct pressure, pack a wound, and apply a tourniquet.



[Lance Brett Hall](#) (EMPH '23) presented "Structuring Communication for Change: How Advocacy Starts with Storytelling" in the seminar series, "Bruins Being Bold." In this quarterly event open to students, alumni, faculty, staff, and the public, "Bruins Being Bold" is sponsored by UCLA Fielding School's HPM Department and showcases impactful individuals doing extraordinary work in public health. The goal of the program is to empower and motivate the Bruin community to make bold moves in the field of public health.



In HPMSA's "Coffee For 10" event, [Noel Franco](#) (EMPH '22) shared insights from his professional journey as a Project Manager of Strategic Integration, leading cross-functional teams in strategic planning initiatives, program launches, patient experience, and more at Cedars-Sinai. "The future of healthcare is in great hands!" [Read the story.](#)



Cedars-Sinai LGBTQ+ Operations Manager [Zohra Pervez](#) (EMPH '23) spoke about gender affirming care and other issues the LGBTQ+ community faces, as a guest speaker for Year 2 EMPH students in Dr. Elginer's class, "Building Advocacy Skills: Reproductive Health Focus" HPM 434. [Read the story.](#)

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## CAREER MOVES

*ExecHPM students and grads are making moves in public health. Please notify us of your career updates for an opportunity to be featured. Just send us an email at [execrpm@ucla.edu](mailto:execrpm@ucla.edu) or feel free to DM or tag us on [LinkedIn](#).*

### EMPH

[Jill Clark, MPH](#) (EMPH '04) started a new position as Manager of Health Transformation at PwC.

[Erik Coll, MPH, BSN, RN](#) (EMPH '20) is now the Injury & Violence Prevention and Outreach Coordinator at UCLA Health - Trauma Surgery.

[Brandon Fernandez, MPH](#) (EMPH '20) is now the Chief Executive Officer at CRI-Help, Inc.

[Audrey Fisher, MPH, FACHE](#) (EMPH '04), CEO of Virginia Heart, has a new position on the Board of Directors of the Healthcare Leaders Association of Virginia

[Lance Brett Hall, MPH](#) (EMPH '23) started a new position as a Health Science Specialist in the Office of Research and Development at the Veterans Affairs Office.

[Ayesha Lee, LSSWB](#) (EMPH '24), who graduates this June with her MPH degree, is now the Quality Improvement Specialist at Hill Physicians Medical Group

[Carlos Lopez, MD, MPH](#) (EMPH '02) has a new position as the Medical Director of Coachella Medical Group.

[Cozzette Lyons-Jones, MD, MPH](#) (EMPH '18) started a new position as Chief Medical Officer at Watts Healthcare Corporation

[Ben Olmedo, PA-C, MPH, MSMS](#) (EMPH '23) started a new position as a Physician Associate of Community Medicine - IMCE at Indigenous Pact PBC, Inc.

[Sabina C. Shah, MPH, CNMT](#) (EMPH '14) started a new role as Program Manager, Consultant - IFP at Blue Shield of California.

[Vivian Tang, MPH, CHES](#) (EMPH '22) started a new position as Program Manager, Population Health Management at L.A. Care Health Plan

[Kurian Thomas, MPH](#) (EMPH '23) graduated last year with his MPH degree and earned a promotion at Kaiser Permanente, now a Managerial Consultant IV in the Care Transformation Office.

[Monica Velasco, MPH](#) (EMPH '19) was promoted to Territory Manager at Rhythm Technologies, Inc.

#### **MHA**

[Melissa Alvarez, MHA](#) (MHA '23) started a new position as an Administrative Assistant III at UCLA Head and Neck Surgery in Santa Monica.

[Bryan Ceron, MHA, PMP, CSM](#) (MHA '23) is now a Senior Project Manager within UCLA Health's brand-new Ambulatory Operational Excellence Team.

[Jillian Chopra, MHA](#) (MHA '23) is now the Immunology Theme Administrator at UCLA Health.

[Katie Duff, MHA](#) (MHA '23) started a new position as a Research Project Manager at City of Hope.

[Justin Hudak, MHA](#) (MHA '23) is now a Senior Associate in Health Transformation at PwC.

[Racquel Laxamana, MHA](#) (MHA '23) was promoted to Healthcare Information Systems Analyst at Private Medical.

[Stephanie Morillo, MHA](#) (MHA '23) was promoted to Research Administrator II / Fund Manager at UCLA Health.

[Kayla Nagel, MHA](#) (MHA '23) was promoted to Program Specialist in Patient Experience at Keck Medicine of USC.

[Aazeen Nasir, MHA](#) (MHA '23) started a new position as a Clinical Research Coordinator at Ash Research Clinic.

[Allison Pascual, MHA](#) (MHA '23) started a new position as the Associate Integration Account Manager at Ambu.

[Jamie Pham, MHA](#) (MHA '23) started a new role as Compliance & Privacy Specialist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA).

[Tiffany Primer, MHA](#) (MHA '23) was promoted to Senior Regulatory Affairs Operations Specialist at Varian.

[Jessica Salcedo, MHA](#) (MHA '23) began her Administrative Fellowship at Providence in Irvine, CA.

[Isabelle Salvador, MHA](#) (MHA '23) made moves at Hawaii Pacific Health and is now the Coordinator of Pediatrics.

[Edwin Serna Gonzalez, MHA](#) (MHA '23) is now the Clinical Operations Manager of Radiology at UCLA Health.

[Monique Trinh, MHA](#) (MHA '23) has a new position as Program Manager in Pathology & Laboratory Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

[Dusty White, MHA](#) (MHA '23) started a new position as the Director of Support Services at DeKalb Regional Medical Center.

[Richard Young, MD, MHA](#) (MHA '23) is now Chair of the Surgery Department at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center.





## IN OTHER NEWS

EMPH Class of 2013 gathered in Los Angeles for their ten-year reunion in October. [Read the story.](#)

[Nkem Chukwumerije, MD, MPH, FACP](#) (EMPH '13) was named last year among Modern Healthcare's Top 25 Diversity Leaders. Dr. Chukwumerije is the national physician lead for equity, inclusion and diversity for the Permanente Medical Groups. [Read the story.](#)

[Alicia Coulter, MPH, MSW](#) (EMPH '20) published her first book, "Safe Spaces For Black Women."

[Julissa Cuison](#) joined the board of UCLA's Health Policy & Management Student Association (HPMSA) as the MHA Liaison.

[Brianna Levenson Shakoor, MHA](#) (MHA '23) will be an Administrative Fellow at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC).

[Brent Mabrey, MHA](#) (MHA '23) started his next journey as a Doctoral student at Eastern Virginia Medical School.

[Stephanie Margolin, MPH, FACHE](#) (EMPH '14) recently passed the ACHE Board of Governor's exam and achieved her FACHE credential.

[Ben Olmedo, PA-C, MPH, MSMS](#) (EMPH '23) and [Jessica Salcedo, MHA](#) (MHA '23) were featured in [UCLA Public Health Magazine](#).

[Natalie Sanchez, MPH](#) (EMPH '15) co-authored "Chasing," a health education film that responds to the intersection of meth use and HIV in the gay community, addressing multilevel struggles that accompany meth addiction.

*If you'd like your update featured here and on social media, please message us on [LinkedIn](#) or email at [exechpm@ucla.edu](mailto:exechpm@ucla.edu). We look forward to promoting the work our EMPH and MHA grads are doing in public health.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **UCI Paul Merage Center for Health Care Management and Policy: 2024 Healthcare Forecast Conference**

February 22 | Irvine, CA

The conference will present a near-term forecast of the health care economic and political landscape. Presentations will include an examination of recent federal and California state health policy developments, and innovations in health care.

[Learn more and register.](#)

### **HIMSS Global Conference & Exhibition**

March 11-15 | Orlando, FL

Glean insights from world-renowned experts and dive into exciting topics in healthcare. Plus, you'll be among the first to see cutting-edge health technologies poised to conquer formidable challenges.

The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to promote the best use of IT and management systems in the healthcare industry.

[Learn more and register.](#)

### **ACHE 2024 Congress on Healthcare Leadership**



March 25-28 | Chicago, IL

This yearly event brings together experts and thought leaders from across the healthcare continuum to help advance healthcare leadership excellence across the globe.

Great opportunity to connect and engage with more than 5,000 colleagues, CEOs from the biggest healthcare companies, and hundreds of other successful innovators.

[Learn more and register.](#)

#### APHA 2024 Annual Meeting & Expo

October 27-30 | Minneapolis, MN

Learn from leading experts, build leadership skills and knowledge, and connect with peers from around the globe.

[Learn more and register.](#)

#### ABRCMS 2024

November 13-16 | Pittsburgh, PA

For over 20 years, the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS) has been the go-to conference for historically excluded students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. As ABRCMS has continued to grow and evolve, it has also become a space for graduate students, postdocs, faculty, program administrators, and more.

[Learn more and register.](#)



#### Alumni Survey

HPM Alumni who wish to stay connected with UCLA's Department of Health Policy and Management, please [fill out this survey](#).

#### Prospective Applicants

To begin the MHA admissions process, click [here](#).

To start the EMPH application, click [here](#).

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