MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

Dear students, staff, faculty, alumni, friends:

Happy New Year!

Good wishes to all of you – health, happiness, success, and anything else you wish for.

Besides wishing for COVID-19 to be over soon, I am sure we all hope that the principles of our democracy may never be shaken again like by the recent events. We all are still affected by the outrageous violation of the core values of our constitution. May the New Year bring peace, stability and ration to our government. Under new leadership we hope to also make much needed progress in our combat against COVID-19. The past year posed unexpected challenges to all of us. But amidst it all, we have some victories to record: never has a vaccine been developed as quickly as for COVID-19 and few of us would have predicted last summer that we would be rolling out a vaccination program with the beginning of 2021. While this creates a silver lining on the horizon we are concerned about the new variant of SARS-CoV-2 and likely additional mutations that might occur. This might result in a race against time: can we get a sufficient number of individuals vaccinated in time before a variant arises against which the current vaccine no longer protects? As public health professionals please explain the vaccine and the importance of getting vaccinated to your family and friends and encourage them to get vaccinated as soon as they get the opportunity.

Once again, my thanks goes to all of you for the united effort to get through these challenging times together and work towards our common goals of continuing to provide a first-rate education to our talented students and to continue as many of our research projects as possible.

Stay safe, stay healthy! We will get through this!

Warm wishes,
Karin B. Michels, ScD, PhD
Professor and Chair

Happy New Year!

A new year brings a new level of hope with the rolling out of the COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 has created challenging times, but every member of the FSPH Epidemiology community has risen to the challenge and remained fully committed to public health. Visit our department website to see the latest highlights.

For the latest news on COVID-19, visit FSPH’s COVID_19 Information Page.
Congratulations!

Dr. Elizabeth Rose Mayeda's bundle of joy, Elias Joshua Mayeda, was born October 2020. Welcome Elias!

Dr. Julia Heck and MS student Shiraya Thompson received the Alex’s Lemonade Stand Pediatric Oncology Student Training (POST) Fellowship grant to support a summer fellowship. Description of Shiraya's project: Pesticides and Childhood Central Nervous System Tumors.

Dr. Aline Duarte Folle had a paper published that made it onto the front page of the Geriatrics journal. Front page artwork taken by Dr. Beate Ritz. Research article: Parkinson’s Disease Motor and Non-Motor Features Accompanying Insomnia and Excessive Daytime Sleepiness Symptoms, a Large Population-Based Study.

Dr. Matthew Mimiaga established the Center for LGBTQ Advocacy, Research and Health, or C-LARAH - larah is derived from the Latin "hilaris," meaning cheerful. The center is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of sexual and gender minorities.

UCLA Newsroom featured Dr. Akihiro Nishi and his research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS): Network Interventions for Managing the COVID-19 Pandemic and Sustaining Economy.

Rey Soto
Staff Assembly President-Elect

Rey Soto, Staff Assembly's President-Elect, joined UCLA about 5 years ago as a data manager/administrator in the department of Epidemiology. He currently serves on multiple committees, such as the Department of Epidemiology Anti-Racism Task Force and the American Indian Studies Center Faculty Advisory Committee. In 2020, he was awarded the Administrative Management Group Rising Star Excellence award and the Green Gala 2020 Staff of the Year award. Rey advocates for underrepresented staff and works hard to improve communication throughout UCLA.