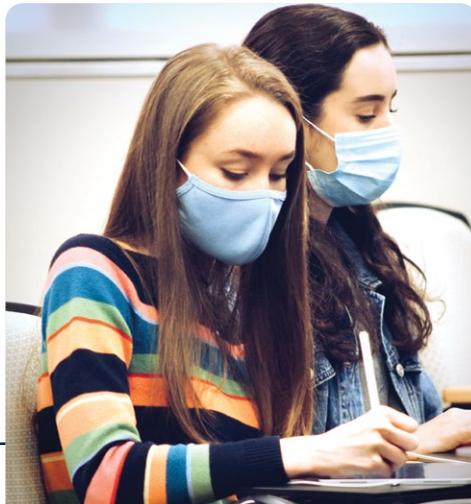
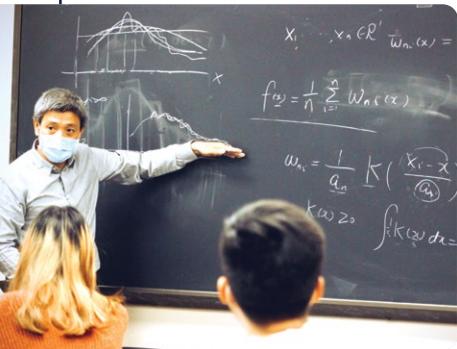
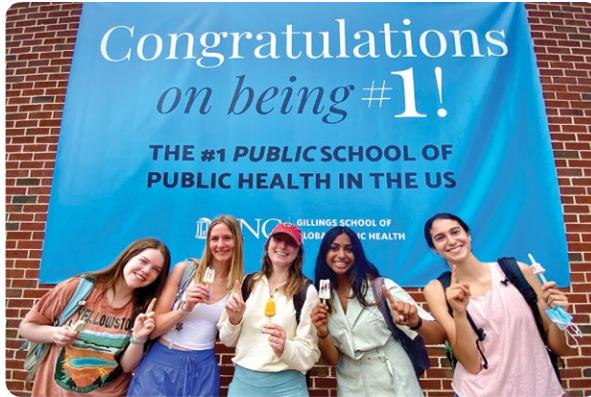




GILLINGS SCHOOL OF
GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Impact Report 2022

A complement to *Carolina Public Health* magazine





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250 copies of this document were printed at a cost of \$2,465 or \$9.86 per copy.

This impact report is published by the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, 135 Dauer Dr., Campus Box 7400, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7400. November 2022

As North Carolina's only school of public health, we have a special responsibility to its citizens that we take very seriously.

The past two years have shone a light on public health as never before, putting our systems of public health's strengths and shortcomings into sharp focus. Our stated mission to improve public health, promote individual well-being and eliminate health inequities in North Carolina and around the world has not been so profoundly put to the test since our founding in 1940.

This is the inaugural *Gillings School Impact Report*, a complement to *Carolina Public Health* magazine. The report provides an overview of a broad range of activities, including research, teaching, public health practice, global health, communications and innovation. As North Carolina's only school of public health, and the number one *public* school of public health in the nation, our remit is deep and broad. We aim to give you a sense of the work we're doing on behalf of the state, the country and the world and that you will come away with a renewed enthusiasm for the Gillings School, its faculty, staff and students. Thank you for supporting the Gillings School of Global Public Health.



“One of my top goals for Gillings is that everything we do culminates in a positive, tangible difference in the world.”

From the Dean

I am honored to serve as the eighth dean of the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

At the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), I was fortunate to count Gillings School scientists as colleagues and friends, and I followed the groundbreaking and life-saving research coming out of the school. Now, as dean, I look forward to focusing with the Gillings community on important initiatives already underway to enhance our work in public health practice, global health and inclusive excellence, among many other topics.

My 25 years at the CDC gave me a catchphrase to which I often return: Vaccines on a shelf are 0% effective.

This is one area where the Gillings School, the No. 1 *public* school of public health and second overall, is making a difference. Whether it be through vaccines, policy, research or education, we must continue to take a leadership role in a way that involves all our departments and draws on all our strengths to put lifesaving tools into effect.

As we move forward, I want to set the school up for success through a consistent focus on follow-



Get to know Nancy Messonnier

Interview on Page 16.

through and forward-looking action. Scientific discovery is incredibly important. Equally, the lessons our faculty teach must always come back to practical application, because what is true for vaccines is true for all public health interventions: They can only be effective if they can be implemented well.

One of my top goals for Gillings is that everything we do culminates in a positive, tangible difference in the world.

We must use these action-oriented approaches to dismantle structures of systemic racism that result in disproportionate suffering among communities of color. We can't just examine the outcomes of injustice; we must detail the drivers and use that



evidence to push for policy change, even when it seems to lie beyond the borders of public health. Housing and transportation, for example, may seem outside our scope, but they are pivotal determinants of well-being and access to health care.

Today's students must learn how to dialogue across difference and find common values. I want to encourage a culture of reality around what practicing public health is like outside the University. The more clearly students can visualize

the twisty path from idea to outcome — and the more landmarks we offer them for course correcting along the way — the better prepared they will be to arrive at a place of meaningful impact.

Here's to forging a path to better health for all — together. 📖

Nancy Messonnier, MD
Dean, Gillings School of Global Public Health

Tackling the world's biggest health challenges

The Gillings School has a long record of sustained research accomplishments with local and global impact.

The research enterprise spans basic science to implementation and policy change, engaging collaborators across the school and campus. Gillings research has also made significant contributions to the development of invaluable study and data resources, as well as research methodologies. Equity is a central component of much of our research, and student engagement in research is a foundational training element for the school.

Some of our funded project include:

- Statistical methods for integrative analysis of large-scale neuroimaging data — *Quefeng Li, PhD/Biostatistics (2021-2026)*
- Rapidly Emerging Antiviral Drug Development Initiative-AViDD Center (READDI-AC) — *Ralph Baric, PhD/Epidemiology (2022-2025)*
- Examining state SNAP policies as a primary prevention strategy for early life exposure to violence and other adverse childhood experiences — *Anna Austin, PhD/Maternal and Child Health (2021-2024)*
- Rapid, multi-payer transition to value-based payment: The case of North Carolina — *Valerie Lewis, PhD/Health Policy and Management (2022-2025)*
- Nutrition for precision health: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Clinical Center — *Elizabeth Mayer-Davis, PhD/Nutrition (2021-2026)*
- Carolina Center for Total Worker Health and Well-Being — *Laura Linnan, ScD/Health Behavior (2021-2026)*

Examples of health equity projects:

- Measuring the impact of structural racism and discrimination during adolescence on substance use, psychological distress and criminal justice outcomes in adulthood — *Nisha Gottfredson, PhD/Health Behavior (2022-2026)*
- Black community's vision for and accountability of a local reparations process — *Tamarie Macon, PhD/Public Health Leadership Program (2021-2023)*
- Racialization and cardiovascular risk factors among Latinos: An intersectional approach — *Deshira Wallace, PhD/Health Behavior (2022-2027)*
- Environmental Justice Applied Research Clinic (EJ ARC): Developing community-driven solutions to environmental racism — *Courtney Woods, PhD/Environmental Sciences and Engineering (2021-2022)* 



Orlando Coronell, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering

Number of N.C. counties in which we work:



Sponsored funding (FY 2022)

\$280.8M

#1 public school of public health for NIH funding (#3 overall)

Number of research awards per year (2021-22)

532

Funding per faculty PI

\$1.4M

Academics spotlight



Laura Linnan, ScD
Senior Associate Dean, Academic and Student Affairs

The work of academic and student affairs has a major impact on our school's educational mission.

Enrollment has grown substantially, especially within the residential and online Master of Public Health (MPH) programs.

- Students from underrepresented non-white communities now comprise 24.1% of all students in the school, up from 23.5% last year.
- Nearly 35.7% of MPH@UNC students are from underrepresented non-white communities, up from 32% last year.
- Our Assured Enrollment program has helped increase enrollment in Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) degree majors.

Faculty who teach in the Gillings MPH Core assess their syllabi annually to strengthen equity frameworks, content, class discussions and skills development. Other Gillings programs are also strengthening equity content and skills development. The academic affairs and inclusive excellence teams are collaborating on strategic planning to expand these efforts.

- We instituted a new online applied epidemiology concentration and are welcoming our first students this fall.

- Established joint MPH degree program between UNC Asheville and UNC Gillings on the campus of the Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC), with a concentration in place-based health.

Future goals include:

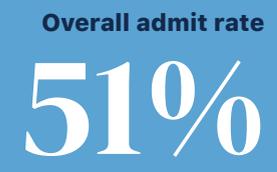
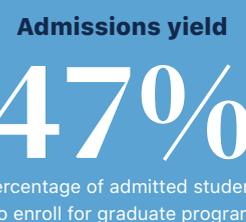
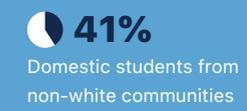
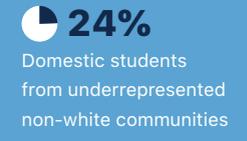
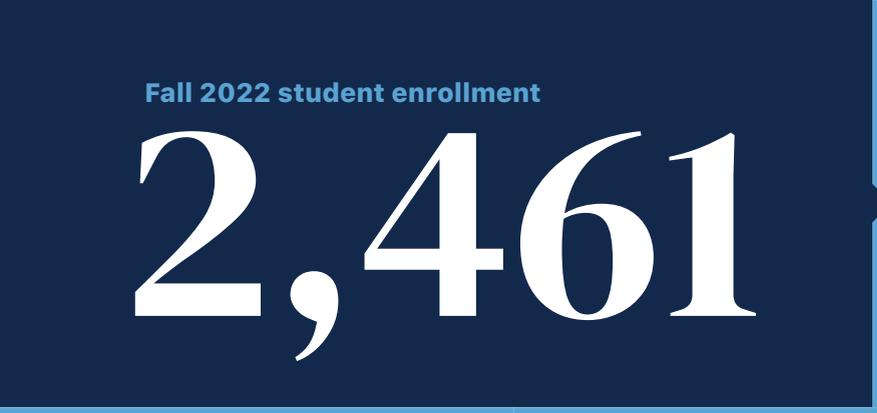
- Launching a new Bachelor of Science in Public Health major in global and community health,
- Establishing a peer faculty mentoring program or teaching fellow academy,
- Securing more financial resources for students,
- Establishing student recruitment partnerships with local institutions that serve underrepresented communities,
- Pursuing more online options to improve flexibility for students, and
- Continuous quality improvement to strengthen public health training at the school. 📖



Full-time faculty
240

Full-time staff
384

Graduating students per year
746



The Gillings MPH practicum

The Gillings MPH practicum gives students an opportunity to use their training in a professional public health setting.

Practicum products

976+

Organizations supporting practicum students

280+



Global health at the Gillings School remains strong and more important than ever, as COVID-19 has helped underscore the interconnectedness of our world.

Global is local. Local is global.



Suzanne Maman, PhD
Associate Dean for Global Health

We continue to grow our areas of global strength in nutrition; infectious disease epidemiology; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); health behavior; and sexual and reproductive health.

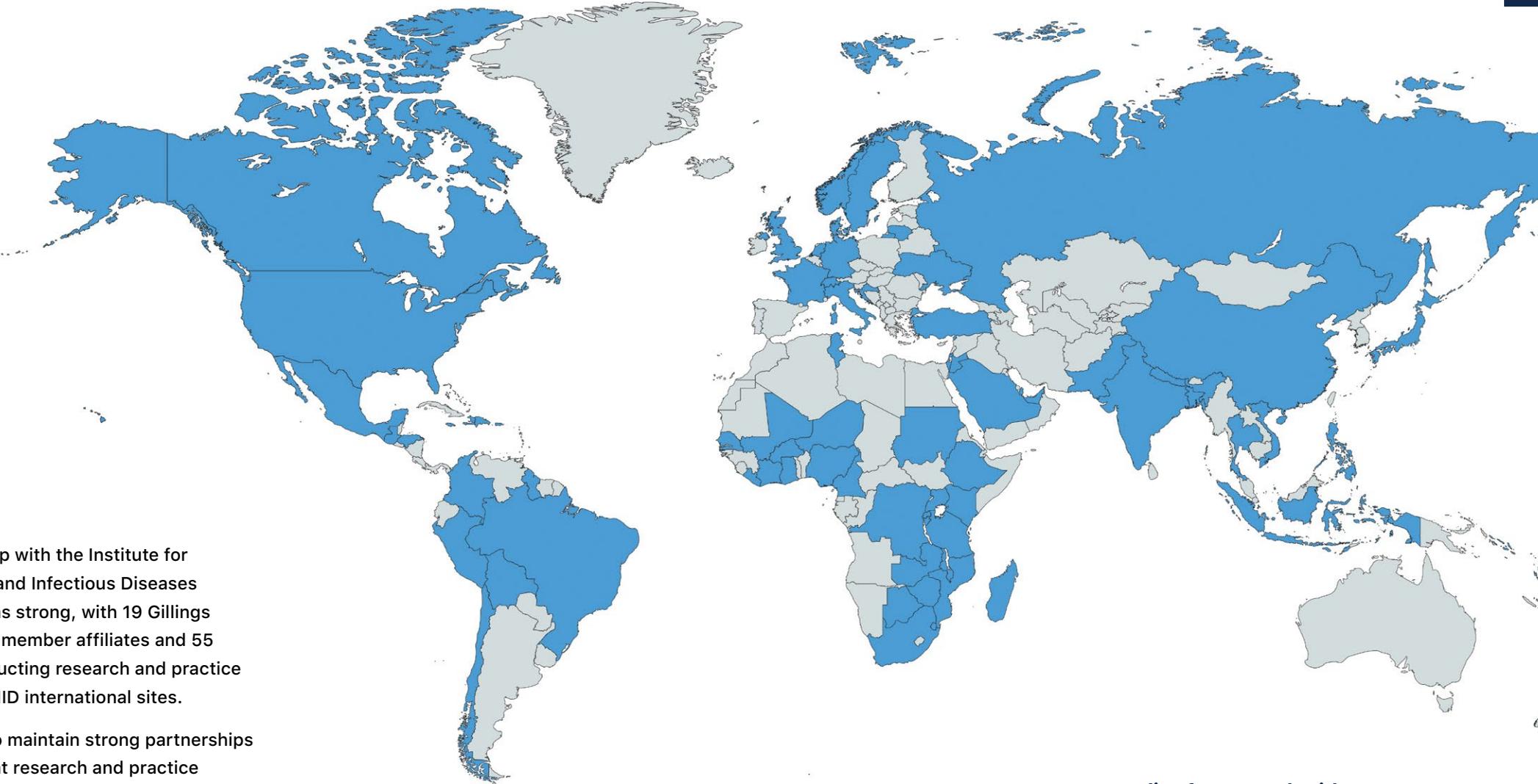
We maintained our global work in the face of COVID-19, with our work spanning 50+ countries focusing on a wide range of health problems, settings and approaches. More than 80 of the 240 faculty members at Gillings focus on global health, working across our eight departments. In FY 21-22, our funding for research that included global components was \$118 million, making up about 42% of total funding to the Gillings School.

In keeping with UNC's commitment to the Global Guarantee to make a transformative global education available to all students, we offer over 40 courses with global content, and the MPH Core integrates global and local content. We had over 200 international students from 46 countries. 77 students received over \$130k in travel awards for practicum, conferences and research.

Our partnership with the Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases (IGHID) remains strong, with 19 Gillings School faculty member affiliates and 55 students conducting research and practice in the core IGHID international sites.

We continue to maintain strong partnerships to offer student research and practice opportunities with FHI 360, IntraHealth International, RTI International, UNC-Wits partnership, CDC Dengue Branch, CDC Foundation, Male Contraceptive Initiative, and UNC Gillings Zambia Hub with UNC Global Women's Health.

With the support of the Gillings Global Health Advisory Committee, we finalized an eight-year strategic plan for global health at Gillings. This plan, which was endorsed by the Dean's Council, outlines goals for global programming in research, training and practice that will be led by our Gillings Global Health office. [📄](#)



Continents in which we work
6

Countries in which we work
53

Funding for research with global components
\$118M

International students
272

Faculty in global health
84

Countries of origin
46

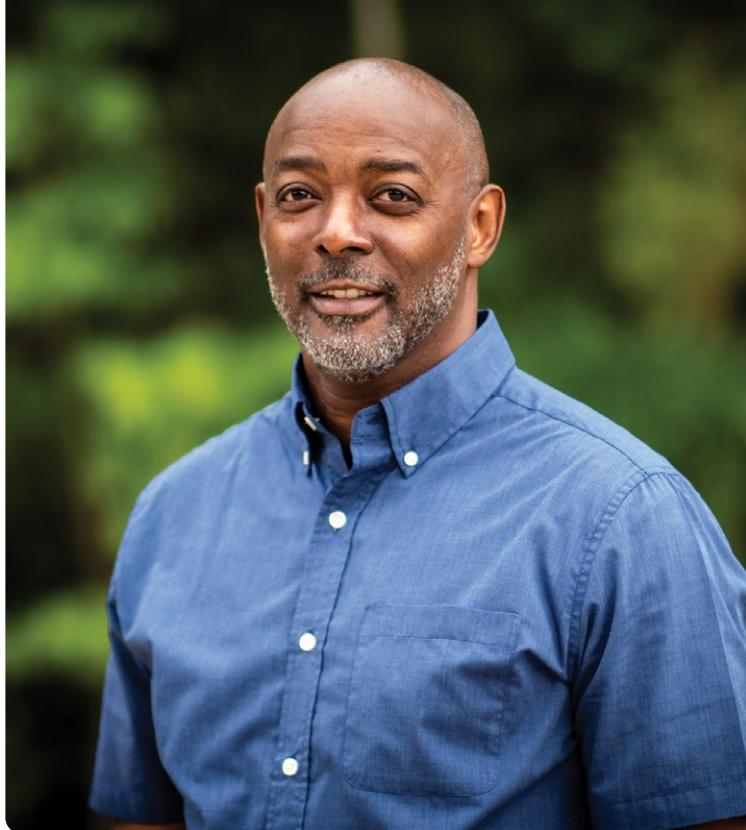
77 students received travel awards totalling
\$130K+

Smith's two key goals are to eliminate redundancies and reduce inefficiencies.

Smooth operator

Since February 2022, **Robert Smith III, PhD**, has served as the vice dean of the Gillings School. In this role, his two key goals are, in his words, "to eliminate redundancies and reduce inefficiencies." Prior to joining the Gillings School, Smith spent 10 years at the UNC School of Medicine, most recently as associate chair for administration in the department of neurology. A graduate of the University of Virginia, Smith's commitment to public health goes back to his childhood where, as a young man, he earned the nickname "Doc."

Smith provides operational leadership to the Gillings School during a time of transition — when the pandemic has changed many of our assumptions about work and the role of public health in society. Old habits of work and learning are being examined, and he brings his experience with "The Future of Work" from his time at the School of Medicine.



Smith is a seasoned leader, lecturer, manager, administrator and training consultant, with more than 20 years of experience.

Outside of work, Smith is an avid cyclist, dating back to his time as a member of the Piedmont Flyers cycling team. 🚴



Smith riding in the MS150 fundraiser for multiple sclerosis

Wiesman brings more than three decades of experience in governmental public health practice and policy.

Our vision for practice

In September 2022, Professor of Practice **John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH**, was named the Gillings School's associate dean for practice. In this role, he will provide guidance to achieve the school's vision and goals for practice.

Last year, the school began development of a 2028 Strategic Plan and started creating one for public health practice in October 2021. A task force, co-chaired by Wiesman and Professor of Practice **Leah Devlin, DDS, MPH**, was charged to "define, organize and operationalize practice to achieve a 21st century vision of practice at Gillings." The Dean's Council formally approved the plan at the end of July.

The practice vision for 2028 calls for Gillings to elevate and support practice so we can help communities meet public health opportunities and challenges and help our students gain on-the-ground experience. In doing this work, we are committing to being community centered, equity driven and local-to-global.



Four exciting initiatives for implementation:

1. Identifying a small number of geographic areas with critical equity challenges and low resources in which we will **create and sustain 5-10 year public health partnerships**.
2. Developing a **public health collaborative** to help communities address challenging public health practice issues.
3. Partnering with other university public health programs in North Carolina, historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and DHHS to **create a system of academic partnerships** with health departments and other health organizations across the state to improve the workforce.
4. Assessing the Gillings School's **emergency preparedness and response work** to prepare for the next public health crisis. 🚒

See the full plan here: go.unc.edu/practice-plan

Ramsey-White oversees critical progress on the implementation of the Gillings School's Inclusive Excellence Action Plan.



A commitment to equity

Since its adoption in 2019, our Inclusive Excellence Action Plan has guided significant changes to nearly every area of the school in pursuit of our vision of building, supporting and sustaining a diverse, equitable and inclusive anti-racist community, well-prepared to address 21st century health inequities.

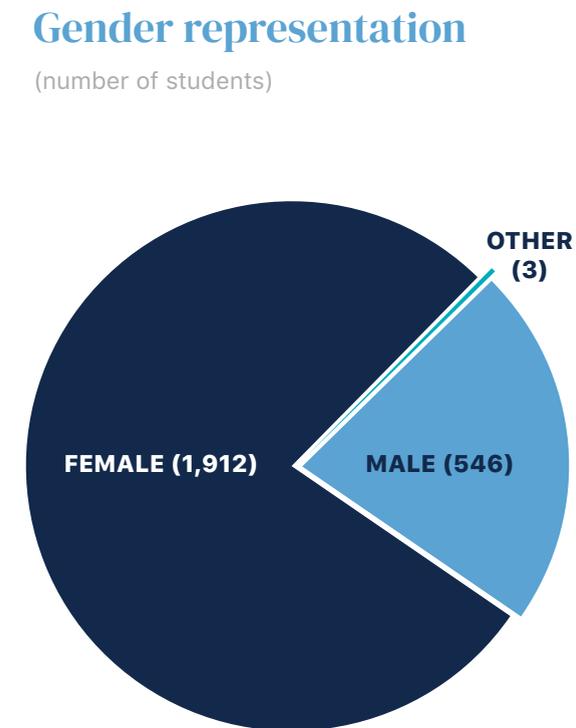
Recent actions across six priority areas include:

- A venue for student feedback and inclusive excellence training programs, which have had 95% participation from faculty and staff and 45% participation from students,
- New requirements for courses and a review process that acknowledges faculty members for facilitating discussions around equity issues in the classroom,
- Improved approaches to communicating inclusive excellence, equity and anti-racism through our website, promotional materials, artwork and course syllabi,
- Equitable funding for research assistantships, teaching assistantships and scholarships,

which have positively impacted students across demographics,

- Training for admissions committee members, removal of the GRE requirement for graduate programs, earlier communication of funding packages and the creation of a more welcoming culture at Gillings, which have resulted in a large increase in diversity of our student body, and
- Increased funding for research related to health equity and a faculty award to acknowledge outstanding contributions to equity within a pressing public health issue.

Kim Ramsey-White, PhD, joined the Gillings School as associate dean for inclusive excellence in 2022. Her deep experience implementing diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, and a research portfolio focused on education reform initiatives, health disparities and social capital, ensure our school is in good hands and progress will continue on this core piece of our mission. 📖



Gillings students chat outside of Rosenau Hall.

Get to know Dean Nancy Messonnier



What sparked your interest in public health?

After taking a year after college to work in a laboratory, in some ways I was on a traditional path to being a clinical doctor. During medical school, I spent a summer at the Frontier Nursing Service, which is the first school of midwifery in the United States and a prime example of public health in clinical care. I then started my residency in internal medicine. While I concentrated on primary care at the Veterans Administration during my third year, I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do in the future.

Then I heard about the Epidemic Intelligence Service Fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It sounded fun and adventurous; I thought I'd only be there for two years before going back to my clinical career. My first outbreak brought me, a city girl from Philadelphia, to a town in rural Texas where I did a study that led to modifications in a vaccine strategy for the community. Instead of treating patients one-by-one, I could have an impact on an entire population. I liked the practice, but I also liked the science — learning epidemiology tools and applying them to a problem. The CDC was a community full of like-minded people, and within six months, I knew I wasn't ever going to go back to be an academic clinician.

Experiences there helped me realize the amazing potential of a vaccine. Unlike some interventions, giving the right vaccine at the right time to the right population can dramatically impact a disease right away. If you have the correct implementation strategy, you can use science to make a dramatic impact on our population so quickly.

What is your advice for future public health leaders?

Say yes to things.

Take advantage of every opportunity to learn something new, even if you can't see where the end point might take you. At CDC, I had the great

pleasure of working across a variety of things in addition to vaccines. I didn't necessarily know where some of the projects were headed, but I got to do great work with great people, and I learned something from everything. At the time, I viewed it as just working on another project, but in retrospect, I've come to realize that broad exposure to different experiences can really impact your trajectory.

I remember my very first step into a leadership position. I wasn't going to apply to it because I was really happy doing research on the front lines, but one of my mentors convinced me that the leadership development would be beneficial. I'm thankful for that encouragement, and I'm glad I said yes. My time at the Skoll Foundation, my time at UNC — sometimes we have to be willing to take the next step.

Don't be afraid to say yes. Don't be afraid to fail at something.

Who are you when you're at home?

I'm a mom. I'm a wife. I'm a friend. I have three cats and a dog — I don't exactly know how that happened.

I think I'm a quieter person at home. Especially after the pandemic, I've come to appreciate being in community with the people I care about, learning new things and meeting new people.

I like to cook. I like to travel. I like to be outside. I love playing fetch with my dog, Scout, who reliably brings the ball back to me every time. It's reinvigorating to be in nature and be astonished by things. Even the smallest things. It's fall right now, and the leaves are beautiful. I never want to lose my appreciation of those things. 🍂



My dog, Scout.



Ciara Zachary PhD, MPH

Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management

Dr. Ciara Zachary's work focuses on health policy research and advocacy to increase access to affordable, high-quality health coverage, especially for underserved populations.

Prior to joining the Gillings School, she led several policy advocacy initiatives and lobbied state and federal lawmakers to improve health care programs. She frequently worked with grassroots and grasstops partners across North Carolina on policy issues, including Medicaid transformation and expansion and the Affordable Care Act.

In addition to her advocacy work, Dr. Zachary has extensive experience in state and federal health policy analysis, as well as in program evaluation for diverse communities. Through her experiences working with diverse stakeholders, Dr. Zachary is passionate about understanding how health policy impacts health equity and health disparities. [📄](#)



Justin Lessler PhD

Professor of Epidemiology

Dr. Justin Lessler is a professor in the Department of Epidemiology researching the dynamics and control of infectious disease, with particular interest in SARS-CoV-2, influenza, cholera and dengue. Dr. Lessler works on the development and application of statistics, dynamic models and novel study designs to better understand and control infectious disease. His goal is for holistic data to inform policy and decisions about the response to disease threats.

Dr. Lessler helped launch the COVID-19 Scenario Modeling Hub, which brings together multiple groups that work on COVID-19 modeling to answer shared questions and interact with federal and local policy makers. By synergizing results from multiple models, the hub can offer robust projections of COVID-19 throughout the course of the epidemic under different scenarios at a six-month time scale. [📄](#)

A community-centered message

As the No. 1 *public* school of public health in the country, the Gillings School has become a source of guidance and authority amidst a global pandemic. This has led to more engagement from the community in the form of rising student applications, growth in our residential and online programs, and exponential increases in our media and social media visibility.

The communications and marketing team leads a multipronged external mission that aids in the recruitment of students, faculty and staff and educates the public about advancements in public health while leading a robust media

relations practice. Our internal mission must serve both the school and the university at large by collaborating across schools and units, supporting departments, alumni communications and central administrative units, all the while keeping our inclusive excellence goals front and center.

As the media landscape changes, we are finding new and unique ways to make communication more accessible. In the wake of COVID-19, we will continue to position the School as a leader in tackling health challenges, dismantling systems that contribute to inequities and combating disinformation. 📰



“Providing clear and honest information to improve public health is a critical component of effective communications. Facts can change as new information comes to light, but we must always endeavor to shine a light on truth.”

Matthew Chamberlin
Associate Dean for Communications and Marketing

Media Mentions

Gillings experts have been quoted or mentioned across a range of publications.



Top articles



Even cautious Covid experts start to lower their guard as Biden urges return to normal

NBC News | March 8, 2022



It's not too late for new COVID-19 drugs to change the pandemic

Vox | March 28, 2022



Amid a Worsening Formula Shortage, Mothers Are Asked: 'Why Not Breastfeed?'

NY Times | May 16, 2022



'They're not trying to die': How drug checking aims to protect users in a messy market

LA Times | May 22, 2022

Top Gillings news



New study gives insight into how often COVID-19 spreads through households

August 30, 2021



How many steps lead to longevity? Study identifies new daily goals

March 15, 2022



UNC Gillings remains No. 1 public school of public health in U.S.

March 29, 2022



Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill scientists identify new antibody for COVID-19 and variants

November 2, 2021

Today's great ideas, tomorrow's health solutions

Faculty, staff and students throughout the Gillings School embrace innovation in their work. Two faculty members recently reached milestones by launching interdisciplinary ventures that will move their valuable ideas into the world, where they can make the greatest social and economic impact possible. Both have taken advantage of resources in the innovation ecosystem at UNC and Gillings.

- **SORBENTA:** Drs. **Orlando Coronell** (Gillings School) and **Frank Leibfarth** (College of Arts and Sciences) developed a material to remove per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), or “forever chemicals,” that have accumulated in drinking water and can lead to serious health issues. Initial testing showed the material outperforms current technology in PFAS removal. The team is now working to de-risk and scale the technology.
- **CollectiveGoodDx:** Drs. **Sean Sylvia** (Gillings School), **Joe Tucker** (School of Medicine) and **Diane Pozefsky** (College of Arts and Sciences) created a platform that uses behavioral insights and crowd intelligence to improve diagnostic skills and scale access to care. First they are tackling a diagnostic skill training platform for medical school and residency programs, a need identified by both students and administrators. Their long-term vision is broad — the platform can serve as a tool for clinician consults to solicit peer/specialist advice and as a cost-effective source of second opinions for patients.

In 2007, we received the \$50M transformative Gillings Gift supporting cutting-edge public health projects, which helped catalyze a culture

Innovation at Gillings

Completed
Gillings Innovation
Labs (GILs)

38

Additional
grant funding

\$154M

of innovation and entrepreneurship at the School. Over the past decade, 50 Gillings-affiliated startups have launched. Since 1970, 73 companies have launched, with 56 that are still active.

The Gillings Innovation Labs (GILs) have stimulated new, disruptive solutions to urgent public health problems. Several GILs were completed this year — addressing topics ranging from COVID-19 prevention behaviors in South Africa, led by **Dr. Audrey Pettifor**, to the impact of environmental toxins on early brain development, led by **Dr. Stephanie Engel**. This tallies the program's overall metric totals for 38 completed labs to over \$154M in additional grant funding, 235 students trained or funded, and 225 peer-reviewed journal publications.

In Spring 2022, we piloted the Gillings School Entrepreneurs of Color mentorship program to pair Gillings student entrepreneurs of color with alumni entrepreneurs of color. The 12 students who participated worked with mentors towards their entrepreneurial related goals and would recommend this program to future Gillings students. 📖

Students and faculty share ideas in the classroom. →



READDI, not reactive

COVID-19 isn't the world's first pandemic. Nor will it be the last.



The Rapidly Emerging Antiviral Drug Development Initiative (READDI) brings together the world's best scientific minds and gives them the resources to stop the next virus from becoming a global catastrophe. READDI is retooling the drug discovery and development process to rapidly develop new broad-spectrum antiviral drug solutions for the future.

These pandemics are bigger than any one university, company or government. A unique public-private partnership accelerated by a global access model, READDI has a goal of developing multiple "on the shelf" clinical assets so that we are prepared for the next global health pandemic.

This global nonprofit initiative leverages experts from UNC's Gillings School of Global Public Health, School of Medicine and Eshelman School of Pharmacy to collaborate with leaders from industry, government, philanthropic organizations and academic research institutions. Founded by **Ralph Baric, PhD** (Gillings School), **Nat Moorman, PhD**, and **Mark Heise, PhD**, (School of Medicine),

and led by CEO, and UNC Gillings Advisory Council member, **James Rosen, MBA, MSPH**, READDI was initially launched and supported through Carolina's Creativity Hubs initiative and the Eshelman Institute for Innovation. Funding from the N.C. Collaboratory (collaboratory.unc.edu) and N.C. General Assembly, along with support from several members of the N.C. Congressional delegation, has been critical in aiding the team's work.

In May, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases awarded the Gillings School a \$65 million grant to establish an Antiviral Drug Discovery (AViDD) Center to develop oral antivirals that can combat pandemic-level viruses like COVID-19. The center builds upon and is tightly affiliated with READDI.

The READDI-AViDD Center will apply cutting-edge technologies to develop oral therapies that target viral families with high potential to cause a pandemic in the future. 🏢

Novel antiviral
drugs goal
5

Funding goal
\$500M

Partnerships with
leading institutions
20



READDI has a goal of developing multiple "on the shelf" clinical assets so that we are prepared for the next global health pandemic.

Helping Durham get “Back on the Bull”

Public health ambassadors help Durham businesses stay open safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the spring of 2020, Durham Mayor Steve Schewel invited local scientists to meet with him and share their thoughts as to how the community could endure the health and economic stresses of the emerging COVID-19 pandemic. A few months later, the mayor asked **Kurt Ribisl, PhD**, if the Gillings School’s Department of Health Behavior would get involved with Durham’s Back on the Bull campaign, where businesses could publicly share their health and safety practices in hopes of reassuring a wary public that they were safe places to visit. Ribisl turned to Master of Public Health student **Marlyn Pulido** to partner on the project, hiring her full-time to lead the work upon graduation.

Working with **Patsy Polston, PhD, Yesenia Merino, PhD**, and a team of master’s students, Pulido and Ribisl led a phased, community health-based plan focusing specifically on assisting Black-owned and Hispanic-owned businesses in Durham. Partnering with local nonprofit El Centro Hispano and using grant funds from the city, they hired and trained 14 local multilingual, multicultural community members to become Durham Health Ambassadors.

From sharing information on the latest mandates and best practices, to leveraging the University’s ability to order personal protective equipment when it was in short supply, to personally ordering and delivering masks and hand sanitizer, the ambassadors worked closely with local businesses throughout the next several months to reduce their risks and help them stay open for business.

When COVID-19 vaccines began to be distributed, appointments were extremely difficult to



come by — and Black, Latinx and Indigenous populations already had disproportionately higher rates of COVID-19 illness and death than white populations. The Ambassadors worked to reduce that disparity, focusing on making appointments for essential workers at the grocery stores, gas stations and restaurants they had gotten to know over the summer.

As vaccinations became more widely available, the group’s focus shifted from making appointments to promoting equitable access and ensuring Spanish-language access at vaccine events. The Ambassadors joined the Durham Vaccine Equity Advisory Coalition, a group of nine local community organizations trying to address disparities in vaccine access. By the end of the project, those large gaps in vaccine rates were significantly narrowed or closed altogether. 🏠

Fostering community and helping small businesses

Health ambassadors went out into the community, engaged with business owners and employees, and built relationships with the community.



Businesses visited

3,610



Businesses enrolled

1,482

41% enrollment



Dr. Juan Hincapie-Castillo advocates for empathy and safety in pharmaceutical policies

What's your role in public health?

I call myself an advocate for evidence-based policymaking. I use my research to inform public health policies, and I mostly evaluate pharmaceutical policies. My background as a pharmacist and my research interests have also led me into the area of pain management and opioid use. I started teaching at the Gillings School in August 2021.

I see myself as trying to inform the best policymaking that prevents harm. A lot of my focus is on advocacy and translating my research to prevent harm to patients who need opioids to work and maintain their quality of life.

Can you describe your focus area in one sentence?

I use real-world data to inform pharmaceutical health policies that prevent harm.

What brought you to public health?

My interest in pain management brought me to the public health space. Pain is a universal human experience, but it's not researched very often. I decided that I wanted to have a population health angle to my pharmacy degree.

There are a lot of pharmaceutical policies and procedures in place right now that are creating barriers to legal opioid access. The stigma on substance use is being applied to patients with very real pain, and you have algorithms that might flag a person seeking to fill opioid prescriptions to a pharmacy, to prescribers and to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). The DEA also tracks high prescribers, which is difficult if you are a doctor who takes care of patients with conditions that are pharmacologically dependent on opioids.

This situation is different than a substance use disorder, but patients are being treated equally

“Pain is a universal human experience, but it's not researched very often.”

Dr. Juan Hincapie-Castillo



Dr. Juan Hincapie-Castillo and his husband, Dr. Philip Daniels, spend time with their dogs, Marley and Bella, at Chatuge Lake, N.C.

through existing policies. A lot of the work right now is approaching the issue from different angles — through federal, state and local policies that reduce harm.

How have you pivoted in response to the coronavirus pandemic?

I've been able to involve more people in my research because it doesn't require a lab or dedicated space so long as you have computer and internet access.

Overdoses did increase during the pandemic, but they were mostly driven by illicit substances. Some of the changes with telehealth have really helped patients with pain. Telehealth accommodated some of their care, so they didn't have to go to their prescriber to get a prescription refill.

Telehealth helped some patients get opioid use disorder medication like buprenorphine, but now we're reverting to processes from before pandemic. It's hard to tell what the future will look like.

Who are you when you're at home?

I have a husband and two brindle dogs, Marley and Bella. I am originally from Colombia, so I visit there when I can.

I like running and being outside. I'm an ultra runner, and I enjoy rock climbing. I also love books — everything from psychological thrillers to nonfiction leadership development. 📖

Rinko Kinoshita keeps priorities in focus during the pandemic

What's your role in public health?

I am currently the representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for Bolivia.

Can you describe your focus area in one sentence?

As the UN's sexual and reproductive agency, we work to achieve zero preventable maternal deaths; zero gender-based violence and harmful practices, such as child marriage; and zero unmet needs for family planning or contraception.

What brought you to public health?

I am a nurse midwife by training. After working in a maternity hospital in Tokyo, I decided to attend the Gillings School to get a master's degree in global maternal and child health. I was very affected on a trip to Bangkok where I saw huge disparities. Just next to skyscrapers, people were living in informal urban dwellings in a riverside area that was extremely congested and had sanitation problems.

How have you pivoted in response to the coronavirus pandemic?

When the coronavirus started, my family had just moved to Senegal. I worked with UNICEF as the interim senior partnerships adviser at their regional office for West and Central Africa, where my team helped country offices build partnerships and mobilize resources for the COVID-19 response.

In September 2020, we moved to Bolivia, where the UNFPA worked to ensure that vital public health measures continued. In many countries, these services had been scaled down amidst the pandemic, which led to a rapid increase in sexual and reproductive health challenges and risk of domestic violence. Together with partners, we advocated that the government put these issues back on the social agenda as essential services.

During the pandemic, lockdowns led to long school closures, economic crises, loss of employment and

“I was very affected on a trip to Bangkok where I saw huge disparities.”

Rinko Kinoshita



Rinko Kinoshita (second from left) works in Pando, Cobija in Bolivia with youth advocates of sexual and reproductive rights. (Photo: UNFPA-Bolivia/2022)

reduced social support systems, which all increased the risk of experiencing domestic violence. Reporting and monitoring gender-based violence, and providing services to women and girls who were affected by violence, were also challenging. We have worked to ensure continuity, develop communications around violence prevention and reporting, and bring multi-sectoral services closer to those most affected.

Finally, together with partners, we advocated that the government put these neglected issues back on the social agenda as essential services. While our office normally does not provide much in the way of supplies, in 2020 we procured more than \$1 million of personal protective equipment for service providers to ensure that they were protected while providing much needed services.

Pandemic restrictions forced us to think outside the box. In rural areas, we provided counseling

sessions to adolescents via WhatsApp. Many capacity development activities were converted into online certification courses. Through UN interagency collaboration, we also supported communication campaigns to promote COVID-19 vaccination.

Who are you when you're at home?

I live in La Paz, Bolivia, with my family. I am a working mom of two daughters. At the same time, I am a part-time doctoral student focusing on gender norms and socialization among early adolescents. I am trying to learn how they build these norms, and how the gender norms affect sexual and reproductive health.

During my free time, I enjoy going for a walk, doing yoga and watching documentaries. 📺

Your support makes a difference

The Advancement team has the privilege of connecting others with meaningful opportunities to support public health and the conditions for people to thrive.

Public health is *vital* to a robust workforce and functioning health system. It was also a key ingredient for our state to build an economic, technological and innovation powerhouse. The simple truth that communities are stronger when they care for all their members made all of this possible and is the basic principle that led to our peerless system of public higher education and emergence as a center for innovation.

This community's response to multiple recent public health crises is a particular point of pride. The Gillings community stepped up and shattered barriers and expectations in the process. Thanks to this commitment, the Gillings School not only met but surged past milestones in the most ambitious fundraising drive in our history, the Campaign for Carolina, which to date has raised more than \$4.25 billion from across the University. In the words of our chancellor, the impact of these resources "will echo for generations to come." The resolve of this community is heartening, and the Advancement unit is proud to play a role in this success. We are contributing to a legacy that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Through many ways, including bequests, planned gifts, endowed funds and individual gifts, donors are helping to lift us out of the COVID-19 pandemic and supporting career-defining educational experiences. Most of the public health accomplishments outlined in this impact report benefited from donor support, and we're grateful for everything we have done, and will do, together. 🏡



Karissa Grasty, Associate Dean for Advancement

Total donors in fiscal year 2022
1,365

Alumni and friends contributed to
24
funds supporting inclusive excellence

Total raised
\$276.5M



Goal
\$200M

FOR ALL KIND | *the* **CAMPAIGN for CAROLINA**

Thanks to your support, we surged past our \$200 million milestone in the Campaign for Carolina by raising more than \$276 million — and counting.

The Campaign for Carolina, the most ambitious comprehensive fundraising drive in University history, publicly launched in October 2017 with a \$4.25 billion goal.

Building a healthier future

Philanthropy supports everything we do at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, and it is a crucial ingredient in our success.

From attracting top students and faculty, to supporting groundbreaking research and programs that meet the needs of North Carolina communities and industry, gifts from individual donors and foundations give us flexibility to recruit the brightest minds and put them to work on emerging public health issues.

Since reaching the \$200M milestone in UNC's historic Campaign for Carolina, we've increased our focus on student support. Other institutions have more resources for scholarships — but by offering timely awards to students to study key areas, we can continue to graduate scholars who lead in their field. They bring Gillings values and expertise into industry, government and the nonprofit sector, where they work to ensure our air and water are clean, that new medical interventions are safe and effective, and that we will be prepared for future pandemics.

Give today at go.unc.edu/UNCGillingsFY23 to support top talent at the nation's top public school of public health.

Read about how other generous members of the Gillings community have stepped up to fund transformative experiences for students. Two of these come in the form of planned gifts that include the Gillings School in an estate. Learn what motivated them and the legacy they would like to leave for N.C. and the world. [📖](#)



Inspired to act

For their recipients, scholarships are incredibly meaningful in the short term, and they serve as investments in public health that will pay dividends for years to come.

After a career at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency dedicated to environmental enforcement and compliance, **Sherry Milan, JD, MSPH '80** (epidemiology), created a new scholarship to continue her work. Established through a planned gift, the Sherry D. Milan Environmental Justice Scholarship will support Gillings students with a demonstrated commitment to environmental justice. Sustaining the mission of Gillings School — to promote individual well-being and eliminate health inequities across North Carolina and the U.S. and around the world — calls for a new generation of public health professionals who have experience working directly with communities to address needs at the intersection of equity and the environment.



Todd A. Durham, PhD '16 (health policy and management), **MS '95** (biostatistics), and his wife, **Heidi P. Durham, PharmD**, are planning for the future. They're not just thinking

of themselves but also about family, their state and public health. They recently made a planned gift by donating an independent retirement account to the Gillings School to support priority initiatives under the discretion of the dean. Todd is deeply connected to the Gillings School; as well as being an alum, he serves on the board of the UNC Gillings Public Health Foundation — a 501(c)3 organization that manages the School's endowments and charitable gifts. These experiences give him and Heidi confidence the value of their gift will be maximized in service of a healthier N.C.

"We are pleased to contribute to the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, its future success and the improved health of the citizens of N.C. and the world in this way."



Sandra B. Greene, DrPH '77 (biostatistics), professor of the practice of health policy, made an addition to a fund she'd established previously, to continue

and add to the practice of public health at the Gillings School. The purpose of the Sandra B. Greene Scholarship in Health Leadership is to enable a highly qualified doctoral student with a demonstrated commitment to public health practice to seek a degree at the Gillings School's Department of Health Policy and Management. Based on Greene's extensive experience with health insurance claims data, Governor Roy Cooper appointed her chair of the N.C. State Health Coordinating Council, which oversees health planning across the state including the annual plan that guides expansion of health care services. Additionally, she works with the Cecil G. Sheps Center to ensure valuable datasets about health care utilization and cost are available to researchers across UNC. Her philanthropy will help make sure N.C. benefits from leadership and decision making that is informed by timely data about the health of North Carolinians. [📖](#)

Carolina public health work honored on University Day

In October 2022, three members of the Gillings School community received special recognition during the ceremonies on University Day, which marked the 229th anniversary of the University of North Carolina's founding and the beginning of public higher education in the United States.



Nicole K. Bates, DrPH ('08) MPH ('00), was honored with the University Distinguished Alumna Award. She is a public health leader and strategist with decades of experience working to improve health and

development opportunities in the U.S. and abroad. She currently serves as director of strategic partnerships and initiatives for Pivotal Ventures, a company founded by Melinda French Gates to advance social progress. Bates, who studied in both the Department of Health Policy and Management and the Department of Health Behavior, now serves on the UNC Gillings Advisory Council.



F. DuBois Bowman, PhD ('00), was also honored with the University Distinguished Alumni Award. A graduate of the Department of Biostatistics, he is a renowned expert in the statistical analysis of large complex data

sets and serves as dean of the University of Michigan School of Public Health. His ongoing research program mines massive data sets and has important implications for mental and neurological disorders such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, depression, schizophrenia and substance addiction.



Charletta Sims Evans, MEd, was honored with the Rebecca Clark Staff Award for Moral Courage, which recognizes an individual who demonstrates a strong commitment to social justice.

As the associate dean for student affairs at the Gillings School, Sims Evans has been on the leading edge of advocacy for staff and students, especially during the pandemic when mental health issues escalated. She pioneered a system for reporting microaggressions and recently facilitated a conversation between students and staff following an incident of racial bias and harm. She addresses challenging situations head-on to promote a safe environment for all, especially those with marginalized identities.

Two UNC Gillings researchers also shared their current work as part of the ceremony.



Orlando Coronell, PhD, presented on a novel clean water technology that effectively removes toxic per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).



Margot Midkiff, a health policy and management student, offered insight on findings around human and environmental relationships and how they can change in response to hurricanes, flooding, pollution and other factors. [Read more](#)



The Gillings School had strong representation at this year's University Day procession

Championing public health

The UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health has been working to prevent disease and prolong life for more than 80 years. Today, the school trains the next generation of public health leaders, researchers and scholars and conducts research on the most challenging health issues of our time.

Through the decades, the Gillings School has grown into the global research powerhouse it is today under the leadership of eight deans.



Milton J. Rosenau (1936-1946) inspired many and brought the dream of a public health school to reality. He built strong infectious diseases programs, attracted hundreds of international students, and during his leadership, most faculty members served as consultants to developing world agencies.

Edward McGavran (1947-1962) built a field station for training students and dramatically developed the school's laboratory component — which became the Public Health Service's Venereal Disease Laboratory. Faculty and students were active in North Carolina's Good Health Campaign to improve the health of North Carolinians.



Fred Mayes (1962-1972) was the first dean to prioritize diversity among students and faculty. He hired Bill Small to oversee recruitment from underrepresented communities and dealt with students' increasing insistence that courses be relevant. The annual Minority Health Conference began during this time.



Bernard Greenberg (1972-1982) took the school to new heights, increasing federal funding and leading the school and the world into the modern era of clinical trials. He raised academic standards, reached out across the university and achieved the first step on the path to the much-needed new public health building.



Michael Ibrahim (1982-1997) accomplished what had seemed impossible: securing a new building after years of overcrowding. He launched the school's first strategic planning process, commissioned a history of the school's first 50 years, promoted research collaborations and supported school-wide initiatives on health equity research.

William Roper (1997-2004) recommitted the school to practice and to N.C., strengthening its role in the policy arena. He brought outstanding people from diverse sectors onto advisory boards and led the school through the crisis period after September 11, 2001. He went on to become dean of the UNC School of Medicine, CEO of UNC Health and interim president of the UNC System.



Barbara K. Rimer (2005-2022) is the school's first female dean and its longest serving. Her commitment to innovative research, academics and practice, inclusive excellence, and service to N.C. and beyond guided her leadership priorities, aligning with the school's mission to improve public health, promote individual well-being and eliminate health inequities.

Nancy Messonnier (2022-present) joins the school during an exciting time of success; it is the number one *public* school of public health and second overall. An influential leader in public health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, she has been involved in the development and implementation of a low-cost vaccine to prevent epidemic meningitis in Africa, in responding to the 2001 anthrax attacks, and in creating the COVID-19 vaccine implementation program.





“We find monuments erected to heroes who have won wars, but we have none commemorating anyone who prevented a war. The same is true with epidemics.

But preventive medicine is coming into its own.”

MILTON J. ROSENAU

Founding dean of the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, in a 1936 speech at UNC-Chapel Hill



**GILLINGS SCHOOL OF
GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH**