



Celebrating Our First 10 Years

*Serving the Community,
the Nation, the World*



Stony Brook
Program in Public Health





This book celebrates the first 10 years of graduate public health education, research, and service at Stony Brook. Our primary objective in creating this document is to tell the story of the Program in Public Health's beginnings, and show how the vision of leaders who championed our success has led to a growing and exceptional community of scholars and practitioners doing innovative work around the world.

This book also honors our founding administrators who did the heavy lifting to create a program we can be proud of as faculty, staff, students, and alumni. We have come a long way. We thank Dr. Norman Edelman for establishing the graduate program in public health and the Founding Director Dr. Raymond Goldsteen for hiring outstanding faculty and building a program worthy of national accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health. On the occasion of our 10th graduation ceremony on May 21st 2015, we will recognize the inaugural annual recipient of the Norman H. Edelman Alumni Achievement Award for excellence in public health practice.

We wish to bring attention to the accomplishments of our 150 alumni and salute them for their many achievements. Through the words and photographs highlighted in this book, we can see how our alumni are making an impact. When Stony Brook graduates use their skills, competencies and personal resources to improve the health and well-being of others we realize that public health has limitless possibilities for making powerful changes that elevate health and humanity in all aspects of life.

We also thank Dr. Kenneth Kaushansky, Senior Vice President of the Health Sciences, for championing the ongoing growth and success of our program.

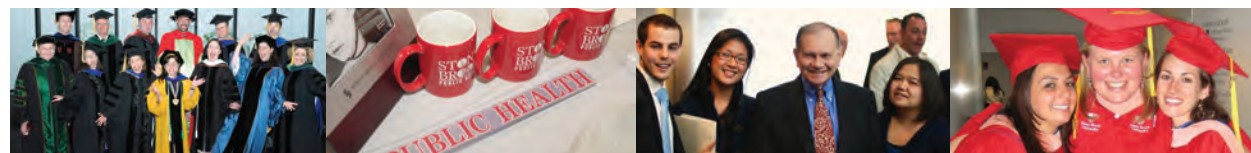
Lastly, we wish to acknowledge our dedicated staff who do an excellent job making our program shine throughout the years – Mary Vogelle-Buscemi, Eileen Zappia, JoanMarie Maniaci, and Casey McGloin (Class of 2012).

Join me in reflecting on our journey and embracing a feeling of hope.

Sincerely,

Lisa Benz Scott, PhD

Director, Program in Public Health



Raymond Goldsteen, MA, DrPH

Thank you Lisa Benz Scott, JoanMarie Maniaci, and Alyse Marotta for asking me to contribute to the **Celebrating Our First 10 Years** commemorative booklet. Two memorable moments with Norman Edelman, marked the beginning and end of my time at Stony Brook. The first was in winter 2003. We were sitting in the cafeteria during my third campus visit as an applicant for director of the new MPH program. We were talking about health policy, when he suddenly stopped and said, "I'm going to offer you this job." The second was in spring 2012 at my going away party.

Norman arrived with a gift – a bottle of Troublemaker wine (which I still have). I laughed deeply because I had often been a troublemaker, but I accepted that label proudly. Troublemaking had helped to bring about something very special – the Green Village – and had put Stony Brook on the road to fulfilling Norman's vision of having a great public health program.

So many people contributed to the effort. From the beginning, Karen Goldsteen was my partner and worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the program. As has been said, "If you can't get the answer to your question from Dr. Goldsteen, ask Dr. Goldsteen" (Dan Forsberg). In addition to Norman, we were helped by many others at Stony Brook who also wanted a MPH program, including Nancy Rice, Steven Jonas, and Al Jordan. Between 2003 and 2012, we hired a faculty and staff, recruited our first students, developed the curriculum, built the MPH office, held the first graduations and holiday parties, and obtained CEPH accreditation. It was a period of great change, excitement, and pride for all of us, including the excellent staff members, Mary Vogelle-Buscemi, Eileen Zappia, and Jon Ragone, who devoted themselves to building the program.

As Karen and I have said before, the faculty is the heart and soul of a great academic program, and therefore the most important accomplishment of this period was recruiting a talented, energetic young faculty, whose members committed themselves to creating a program of excellence – John Rizzo, Hongdao Meng, Lauren Hale, Melody Goodman, Jaymie Meliker, Amy Hammock, Evonne Kaplan-Liss, and Tia Palermo. Although some are gone now and others have taken their places, the first members of the faculty set the standard and developed the positive culture for those who have followed.

Our excellent faculty attracted our wonderful students, about whom we cannot say enough. Each member of our diverse student body, with family origins in every part of the world, brought unique gifts and perspectives that enhanced the whole community. It is a continual source of pride to learn of our graduates' professional achievements.

Now, Karen and I feel like parents who taught their child to ride a two-wheeler. Running alongside the bike, trying to keep the child upright, was fun (although exhausting), but the greatest satisfaction has come in seeing the child speed ahead alone – independent and happy. So, we say, "Keep going! You are doing great! We are watching with great anticipation for what you achieve next."

"I was the first graduate of the MBA/MPH program. Since my graduation I have worked in hospital administration at an institution in Brooklyn. Shortly thereafter, I matriculated into medical school in NY. I will be graduating with my degree in May and will be using knowledge/experience I gained from this program in my future practice as a physician leader in the field of Anesthesiology."

Amruta Desai, MPH '09



"My current role is Acting Director of Admissions for the Long Island State Veterans Home, a 350 bed Skilled Nursing Facility at Stony Brook University. I also currently hold the title of Assistant Director at Queens Hospital Center where I am the weekend administrator overseeing hospital operations. During my free time I continue to volunteer as an instructor and field training officer for the campus-based Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps."

Russell Keogler, MBA/MPH '13



"The Stony Brook Public Health Program has been a valuable partner to the Suffolk County Department of Health Services. The program has provided the Department with students who have contributed greatly to our mission and we have provided a unique learning resource to those wanting hands-on public health workplace experience. We hope to continue and expand this partnership and look forward to more collaborative efforts between us."



James L. Tomarken, MD, MPH, MBA, MSW
Commissioner,
Suffolk County Department
of Health Services

"After my graduation, I started as the program coordinator for the Stony Brook Children's Hospital's Keeping Families Healthy program which lead to my current position as the Injury Prevention and Outreach Coordinator for Stony Brook Trauma Center. I have maintained contact with the PPH both to further my personal growth and share opportunities with current students. I am someone who can honestly say I love what I do and I owe much of my success to my mentors, professors and colleagues from PPH. Thank you!"

Kristi L. Ladowski, MPH '11



"The Nassau County Department of Health (NCDOH,) and all of the residents of Long Island benefit greatly as a result of the Public Health program at Stony Brook, and it's partnership with NCDOH. This important academic partnership has allowed Stony Brook's excellent Public Health students to participate and thrive in a real world work environment while contributing to the mission of improving health outcomes of Nassau residents. The achievements of Stony Brook's students at NCDOH are well documented, and the future of this collaboration is incredibly bright as both the University and NCDOH navigate the waters of changes in health care."



Lawrence Eisenstein, MD, FACP
Commissioner,
Nassau County
Department of Health



November, 1996
Norman Edelman becomes
Vice President of Health Sciences

1996

March, 2004
MPH Degree Program approved by the
Office of Higher Education, College and
University Evaluation, State Education Dept.

2004

April, 2003
Raymond and Karen Goldsteen join
Stony Brook to establish and direct the
new graduate Program in Public Health

2003



Spring, 2004
First faculty
members recruited

2004

"Since graduating, I have secured a job as Senior Data Analyst at Island Peer Review Organization (IPRO) based in NY. IPRO is a national organization that provides healthcare assessment and improvement services to achieve better patient outcomes. The Program in Public Health has provided me with the skills necessary to complete these tasks, and has thus allowed me to effectively identify opportunities for improving health outcomes in some of the most vulnerable populations."

Anne Koke, MPH '14



"After graduating with my MD/MPH dual-degree, I became a pediatrics resident at NYU School of Medicine/Bellevue Hospital. This summer, I will be starting as a fellow in Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. I'm planning to use my MPH skills to perform research into developmental disabilities and to advocate for children with disabilities."

Kate Wallis, MD/MPH '12



"Students, scholars, and deliverers of public health make an inherently moral assumption, namely, that we are 'all in it together.' The decision by one to not vaccinate her child affects all children; we have a common interest in keeping the water supply safe and plentiful; we have the means collectively, but not individually, to keep health care both affordable and accessible. Public health, in other words, is the disciplinary realization of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s credo: "I am my brother's keeper because I am my brother's brother." In the end, The Stony Brook Public Health Program encourages its graduates to make a difference locally, connect diverse populations to one another nationally, and form a community of compassion globally."



Andrew Flescher, Ph.D.
Core Faculty

"I graduated from the MPH program in 2012 and through the guidance and support of Dr. Palermo I began my PhD program in Community and Family Health at the University of South Florida. Here at USF I have continued with the research I started at SBU related to adolescent mental health, ADHD, and binge eating, and have been very successful with this line of research in terms of grant funding, publications, and conference presentations. I have also continued to work with Dr. Palermo on research related to global women's health. I am graduating in July 2015 and have accepted a tenure track assistant professor position in the Department of Health Studies at East Stroudsburg University. In this position I will be continuing to actively engage in research and will be teaching several courses including Introduction to Community Health, Program Planning and Evaluation, as well as courses related to Health Policy, Administration, Ethics, and Law."

Jennifer Bleck, MPH '12



"During these formative years, the graduates, students, faculty and staff of the Stony Brook University Program in Public Health, have made many wonderful contributions in service to the public good. We hope to see this excellence continue in education, teaching and research in the years ahead."



David G. Graham, MD, MPH
Core Faculty



Fall, 2004
First Entering Class
(18 students)

2004



October, 2008
The Program in Public Health is
accredited by the Council on Education
for Public Health for 5 years

2008



May, 2006
First Commencement Celebration
(6 graduates)

2006



February, 2012
Lisa Benz Scott joins the Program in
Public Health as second director

2012

"I am currently working as the Head of Public Health Division and the Public Health Program Office at the Department of Health of Central Tibetan Administration. Aside from managing numerous public health projects by coordinating with various international funding agencies and designing grass root level health education campaigns, I have significantly contributed towards prevention and control of Hepatitis B among the Tibetan refugee community including implementation of a Hepatitis B vaccination and screening project for about 2000 Tibetan children throughout India. The excellent education received at PPH equipped me with the tools to serve my community in the field of health promotion, community development and overall empowerment. And, I continue to learn through my interactions with the community members about ways to save lives and reduce the burden of illnesses."

Trinley Palmo, MPH '12



Stony Brook University

"As a project officer for TAG's TB/HIV project, I get to work with activists, research institutions, developers, and policy makers to expedite development of and access to improved tools to fight tuberculosis (TB) and TB/HIV and to end the long-standing neglect of children in TB research and programs. I also work to ensure that new tools respond to community needs and that members of TB-affected communities are included in research. As part of this work, I coordinate the Global TB Community Advisory Board (TB CAB), a group of research-literate activists from around the world that act in an advisory capacity to institutions conducting TB clinical trials. TAG's work to strengthen global and U.S.-focused advocacy, to increase funding and to ensure ambitious and improved research, programs, and policy helps facilitate access to quality services for people around the world affected by TB and HIV."

Lindsay McKenna, MPH '13



"Since I graduated from the program, I have held a hospital administration post, as a resident medical officer. I worked on a Tibetan TB Control Program evaluation of South Zone under Department of Health, Central Tibetan Administration. I actively participated in educating general public and school children on various diseases common among Tibetan refugees."

Sonam Dhondup, MPH '14



"I worked as a Principal Sub-Investigator of WHO TB REACH project, in collaboration with Johns Hopkins Center for TB Research, on Active Case Finding of Tuberculosis among Tibetan population in India. At the same time, I was also working as the Director of the Tuberculosis Program based at Delek Hospital in India. I am presently doing PhD in Epidemiology at University of California, Berkeley."

Kunchok Dorjee, MPH '10



100 Summer, 2012
The Program in Public Health graduates its 100th student

2012

CEPH July, 2014
The Program in Public Health is reaccredited by the Council on Education for Public Health for 7 years

2014

August, 2013
The Program in Public Health becomes founding program member of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

2013

10 YEARS May 21, 2015
10th Annual Commencement Celebration (32 graduates)

2015

from the senior vice president

alumni achievement award



Over the past ten years Stony Brook Medicine has witnessed a programmatic birthing, a toddler stage and now a robust and growing Program in Public Health. The Stony Brook Program in Public Health has reached a milestone in its young existence, its ten year anniversary. Over this period we have seen outstanding new faculty members come to create impressive scholarship, and we have seen the faculty members who helped found the Program grow in stature and accomplishment. So its time to celebrate!

But its not time to rest on laurels. With such an impressive start comes much responsibility. Healthcare is changing in profound ways, and the Stony Brook PPH ought to help guide those changes. From studying the interventions designed to promote reduced heart disease and cancer, to the preservation of high ethical standards in our changing environment, to understanding the origins of disordered sleep and psychological stress that contribute to poor health, the PPH has been, and I am sure will continue to impact the topics chosen by our faculty and students for advanced study. But scholarly pursuits are not enough. There has never been a greater need to develop new public healthcare professionals, and the Stony Brook PPH has continued to grow and enhance our Masters of Public Health educational program.

The current class of 32 MPH graduates epitomizes the public health professional of the future. Our students plan to pursue careers in clinical medicine, community engagement, environmental research and global health, to name but a few pathways. But that is not enough. We must translate our scholarship and our mentoring into meaningful impacts on society, in short, expand our research and educational missions to healthy practices in our communities, near and far. Stony Brook Medicine stands on the precipice an unprecedented opportunity to impact the way we deliver healthcare in the United States.

As many of you know, Stony Brook Medicine leads the Suffolk County regional Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program, a New York State-wide opportunity to enhance the access, improve the quality and reduce the cost of healthcare for the underserved of the County. This program will affect nearly 400,000 residents of Suffolk County, and it has been our intent from the very inception of the program to study virtually every intervention in public health we administer, so that robust conclusions of the efficiency and effectiveness of modern healthcare can be measured, and from those conclusions, spread the word to all consumers of healthcare, all 300 million in the US.

It is my firm belief that the next ten years of the Stony Brook PPH will be amazing, as the program now has the right leadership, the right faculty, the right students, the right principles and the right opportunity to blossom. I wish each and every one of today's Stony Brook Masters of Public Health graduates the very best career possible, and that your time at Stony Brook will be looked back upon as some of the most satisfying, productive and formative years of your lives.

Kenneth Kaushansky, MD
Senior Vice President, Health Sciences
Dean, School of Medicine
SUNY Distinguished Professor
Stony Brook University



I have had a long interest in public health. Part of it relates to being a pulmonologist. Most lung diseases have either an environmental origin or environmental component [smoking, air pollution, allergies, industrial exposures, etc.]. When I was an administrator at Rutgers/Robert Wood Johnson I facilitated the establishment of a modest MPH program. From this humble origin we developed a highly successful Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute and ultimately a proper school of public health. I have always been impressed by the data showing that a far greater percentage of the determinants of health are in the public health domain [behavior, SES, environment] than in the health care domain. When I arrived at Stony Brook I was dismayed by the relative absence of public health either as an academic discipline or as an educational component of the various schools in the health sciences. I was also impressed by the paucity of opportunities for public health education on Long Island. Accordingly, I always made the establishment of a public health program a high priority in my budget requests to the President. Eventually it got funded. The organizational model I chose was unusual in that the program was based in the HSC rather than any school. It took some convincing of our SB colleagues and the State Education Department but we eventually succeeded in building on this model. The reason was that I thought that public health principles and research were relevant to all the various health professions. I still do think so.

I recruited Ray and Karen Goldsteen to set up the program largely because they had done it before, knew the national accrediting folks and therefore were likely to succeed, which they did. One of Ray's strengths was excellent taste when it came to recruiting faculty. The proof of that are the fine accomplishments of the original faculty.

I am delighted with the progress the program has made. Under the creative and charismatic leadership of the current director, Dr. Lisa Benz Scott, we have continued to attract excellent faculty and the MPH program has grown in size while maintaining a high standard for students. In addition we have reached out to the SB community and beyond with combined programs of relevance as well as certificate programs providing important skills for the practice of public health in the community.

In my mind public health is the "mother" [umbrella] health science from which others such as epidemiology, preventive medicine and yes even medicine itself should emanate. Accordingly it is fitting and appropriate for the program to begin to look toward the establishment of a school of public health. It would be a valuable academic contribution to SB and, equally important, an important health resource for all of Long Island.

Norman H. Edelman, MD
Professor of Preventive and Internal Medicine
Program in Public Health

Announcement of the Inaugural Norman H. Edelman Alumni Achievement Award



In March 2015, the State University of New York at Stony Brook and the Stony Brook Foundation, Inc. established the Program in Public Health's **Norman H. Edelman, MD, Alumni Achievement Award** in honor of the

program's 10th Anniversary. The **Norman Edelman Alumni Achievement Award** will be given annually through a competitive selection process to a deserving alumna/us of the MPH program at Stony Brook's Program in Public Health graduation ceremony.

As the initiating Vice President for Health Sciences, the Program in Public Health is delighted that Dr. Edelman will allow the program to recognize him in this way. **Inaugural Recipient** – Daniel Forsberg, PA-C, MPH, CPH Class of 2010





Class of 2006



Class of 2007



Class of 2008



Class of 2009



Class of 2010



Class of 2011



Class of 2012



Class of 2013



Class of 2014



Class of 2015

Current Master of Public Health (MPH) Program

Our program attracts a competitive pool of outstanding students with diverse backgrounds, unified by a shared passion to improve health and quality of life locally and globally. Courses are offered in the evening, so we can accommodate a variety of students, including working professionals and career-changers.

Concentrations available: Community Health, Health Analytics, and Health Policy and Management

Total Credits: 54

Minimum time to completion: (2) academic years including summer (part-time option also available)

Available Graduate Combined Degrees:

MD/MPH, MBA/MPH, MPH/MAPP, MPH/MS Nutrition



Stony Brook Medicine

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Creation of this book reflects the creativity and diligence of Ms. Alyse Marotta (Class of 2015) and Ms. JoanMarie Maniaci.

Photo credit: Jeanne Neville, Media Services