



MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN

M.A. “Tonette” Krousel-Wood, MD, MSPH

Tulane’s MD/MPH program is celebrating its 50th anniversary! Coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic, the anniversary is a perfect time to reflect on the critical importance of the intersection between medicine and public health—where the work to address COVID-19 is ongoing and where the heart of MD/MPH training lies. We are proud that one of our [alumni](#) was also recently featured in Michael Lewis’ *New York Times* best-selling book for her role in anticipating and responding to the pandemic. When Tulane inaugurated the MD/MPH combined degree program, it was one of the first 4-year programs of its kind in the country. Since then, the program has grown substantially and currently stands as one of the largest in the country with over 1,200 alumni to date and recent graduating classes regularly exceeding 30 students per year. In celebration of this 50-year milestone, we hosted two webinars featuring several of our alumni: [Building Health Resilience: The Role of the Tulane MD/MPH Program](#) and [COVID-19 and Chronic Disease: The Intersection of Medicine and Public Health](#). Please visit our website for updates and special upcoming programs as we continue to [celebrate 50 years!](#)

In the midst of major shifts in clinical medicine, research, and teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tulane MD/MPH and MD/PhD in public health students have had an impressive past year! Being recognized for their accomplishments in COVID-19 frontline work, receiving accolades for their academic and community achievements through graduation awards, being selected for honors at scientific meetings for their publications and research, and receiving fellowships and scholarships to support their research activities, our MD/MPH students continue to display impressive initiative and leadership. Further, the MD/MPH Class of 2021 [matched](#) in excellent residency programs in 15 different states and nine different specialties across the spectrum of medical and surgical disciplines. These graduates have been recognized for their notable scholarly contributions and community service.

Additionally, our National Institutes of Health-funded TL1 Pre-doctoral Research Training Program in partnership with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) has successfully trained a total of 17 medical students in translational research in a year-long mentored research program designed to prepare translational thinkers to address acute and chronic conditions affecting the Gulf South and related health disparities. Three Tulane medical students are in the newest cohort of TL1 Scholars. Applications for the 2022-2023 cycle will be accepted in Fall 2021.

This edition of the newsletter highlights some of the recent events celebrating the program’s 50th anniversary and recognizing our [MD/MPH students](#) and recent graduates with research scholarships and awards. Please let us know how you are using your combined degree and share your recent updates that can featured in future editions of our newsletter. We want to hear from you! Please visit our website at <https://sph.tulane.edu/mdmph/home> to view more information about our programs and related opportunities. Your continued support and engagement are greatly appreciated!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Charity Dean (MD/MPH 2005 Graduate), former Assistant Director at the California Department of Public Health and current CEO and co-founder of The Public Health Company, was recently highlighted for her public health insight in author Michael Lewis’ 2021 New York Times bestseller *The Premonition: A Pandemic Story*. Dr. Dean was one of the book’s three main protagonists profiled by Lewis, who highlighted her work in successfully responding to a Meningitis B outbreak on the USCB college campus while a Public Health Officer for Santa Barbara County and later in January 2020, when she sounded the alarm predicting the exponential growth of Covid-19, despite pushback from officials in both cases.



50TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19 and Chronic Disease: The Intersection of Medicine and Public Health

As part of the MD/MPH Program's 50th Anniversary, our office hosted a [webinar](#) that included a panel of dual degree alumni presenting on the following topics: 1. Key chronic disease challenges related to COVID-19 morbidity and mortality, 2. The impact of COVID-19 on healthy lifestyles, 3. Critical care during a pandemic, 4. COVID-19 transmission in correctional facilities and 5. Pandemic strategies and infrastructure in Louisiana.



Dr. Lydia Bazzano
Panelist, Professor



Dr. Alex Razavi
Panelist, IM Resident



Dr. Jerry Zifodya
Panelist, Assoc. Professor



Dr. Anjali Niyogi
Panelist, Assoc. Professor



Dr. Joseph Kanter
Panelist, LA Health Officer

Building Health Resilience: The Role of the Tulane MD/MPH Program

This anniversary [webinar](#) began by presenting medical and public health advances and challenges over the past 50 years. The intersection of medicine and public health was discussed in relation to resilience and vulnerability. The majority of the webinar highlighted the growth of the MD/MPH Program since its inception and alumni achievements. The role of the MD/MPH Program at Tulane in building clinical, community and scientific leaders was emphasized through current [student testimonials](#).

Sample of Student Publications 2020-2021

1. **Razavi AC**, Bazzano LA, He J, Krousel-Wood M, Chen J, Fernandez C, Whelton SP, Kelly TN. Early Contributors to Healthy Arterial Aging Versus Premature Atherosclerosis in Young Adults: The Bogalusa Heart Study. *J Am Heart Assoc.* 2021 Jun 15;10(12):e020774. doi: 10.1161/JAHA.121.020774. PMID: 34096330.
2. **Jones AT**, Craig-Kuhn MC, Schmidt N, Gomes G, Scott G Jr, Watson S, Hines P, Davis J, Lederer AM, Martin DH, Kissinger PJ. Adapting Index/Partner Services for the Treatment of Chlamydia Among Young African American Men in a Community Screening Program. *Sex Transm Dis.* 2021 May 1;48(5):323-328. PMID: 33137012; PMCID: PMC8043978.
3. **Antonacci CL**, Cu BJ, Erickson BJ, Vazquez O, Alberta FG. Complications and readmissions after reverse and anatomic total shoulder arthroplasty with same-day discharge. *J Am Acad Orthop Surg.* 2020. <https://doi.org/10.5435/JAAOS-D-20-00245>.
4. **Kusumoto H**, Ta C, Brown SM, Mulcahey MK. (2020). Factors contributing to diurnal variation in athletic performance and methods to reduce within-day performance variation: A systematic review. *The Journal of Strength & Conditioning Research.* PMID: 32868676.

News & Articles

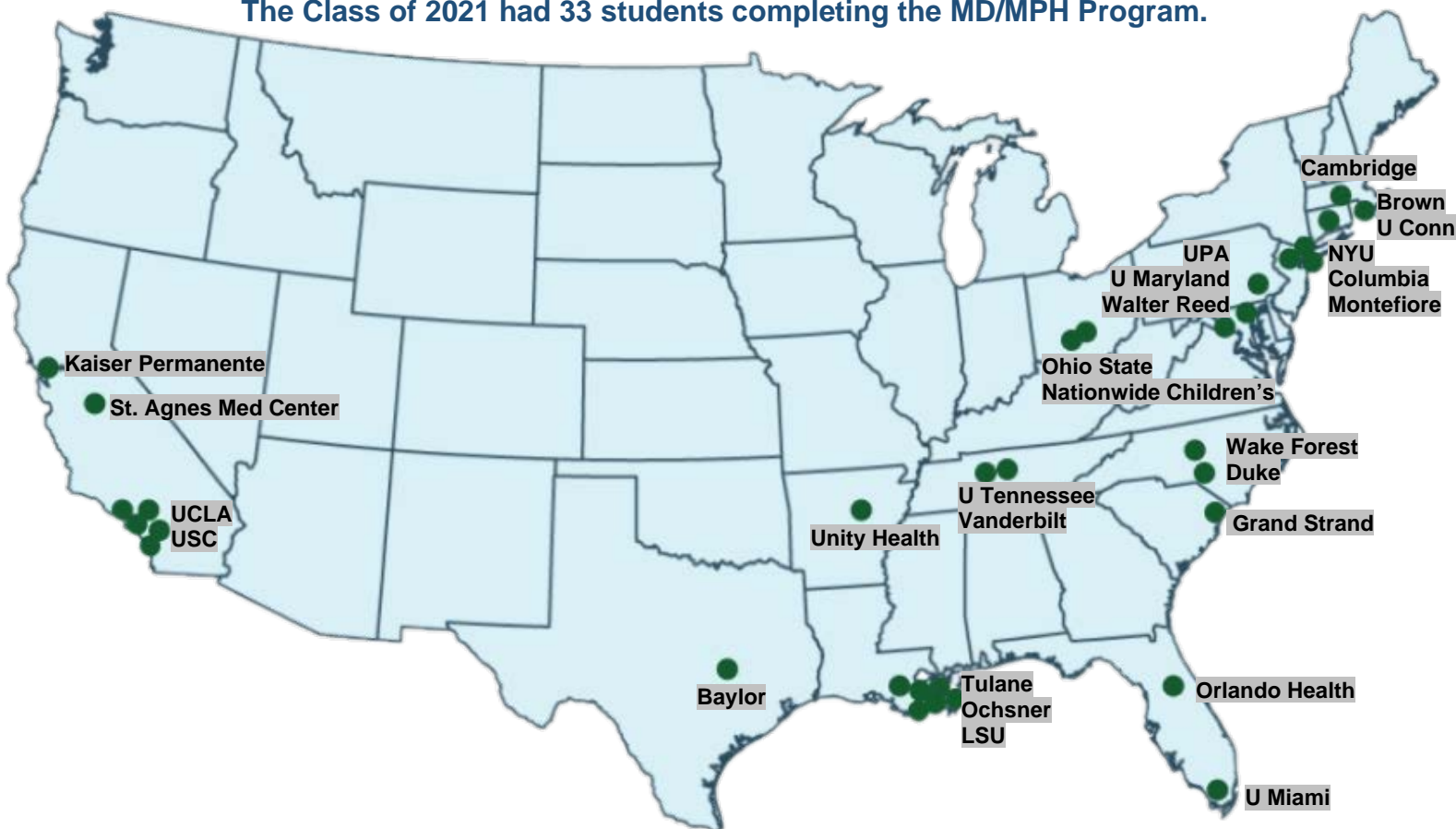
- [Combined MD/MPH degree program looks ahead to 50th anniversary](#)
 - [Medicine and Public Health on the Front Lines](#)

Please visit our MD/MPH 50th Anniversary [website](#) for more information!



MD/MPH CLASS OF 2021 RESULTS

Another great Match showing by Tulane's MD/MPH students!
The Class of 2021 had 33 students completing the MD/MPH Program.



Congratulations to our 2021 MD/MPH award recipients! Our students received over 20 graduation awards from the Tulane SOM and SPHTM.

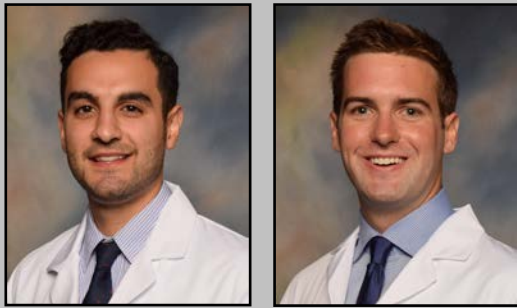
Match Results by Specialty:

Anesthesiology	1
Emergency Medicine	4
Family Medicine	3
Internal Medicine	12
Obstetrics & Gynecology	4
Orthopaedic Surgery	3
Pediatrics	2
Psychiatry	2
Surgery	2

- **Peter Miller (MD/MPH 2021 Graduate)** received the John J. Walsh, MD Award for an outstanding student in the MD/MPH Program.
- **Ashley Vellucci (MD/MPH&TM 2021 Graduate)** received the MD/MPH Student Award for Excellence and Tulane SOM Dean's Award.
- **Sam Ficenech (MD/MPH&TM 2021 Graduate)** received the Sidney K. Simon Award for an excellent student in Topical Medicine.
- **Fiona Chambers (MD/MPH 2021 Graduate)** received the Carroll Behrhorst Primary Health Care award.
- **August Houghton (MD/MPH 2021 Graduate)** received the E. Edward McCool Jr. Award for excellence in surgery.
- **Shana Zucker (MD/MPH 2021 Graduate)** received the Jules B. Puschet Award for professionalism, dedication to and compassion for patients.
- **Cara Coren (MD/MPH 2021 Graduate)** received the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians Excellence Award in family medicine.
- **Mayanka Mahendran (MD/MPH 2021 Graduate)** received the Merck Manual Award for Academic Excellence.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Alex Razavi and Austin Jones
MD/PhD Class of 2021 Graduates

Congratulations to our 2021 MD/PhD graduates in Epidemiology, Drs. **Alex Razavi** (pictured left) and **Austin Jones** (pictured right)! After helping to care for patients in New Orleans on his core medical school rotations, Alex became interested in atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) prevention which inspired him to extend his medical and public health training focused on age-guided molecular and imaging-based risk assessment of ASCVD. Currently, Alex has published over 15 first-author manuscripts. Alex received a 2021 Tulane 34 Award for his leadership, service and academic excellence. Alex will be pursuing internal medicine at Emory starting this July and has career aspirations of becoming a preventive cardiologist. Austin's doctoral research involved screening and linkage to care for infectious diseases and expanding health services for Hepatitis C and chlamydia in New Orleans. Austin received the 2021 USPHS Excellence in Public Health Award. He is an aspiring emergency physician and will be beginning his residency at Denver Health Medical Center this summer. In his future career, he aims to deliver healthcare in low-resource settings and integrate public health interventions with emergency services.

2021 MD/MPH RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Peter Miller (MD/MPH 2021 Graduate) completed the Morgadanes scholarship for his project, "The Impact of COVID-19 on acute cardiac care."

Meredith Freeman (MD/MPH Class of 2022) received the Hayward Genetics Scholarship for a year-long mentored-research program in medical genetics.

Carrie Crook (MD/MPH Class of 2022) received the Community Foundation of South Alabama's Eichold scholarship for her accomplishments in medicine and public health.

Sarah Wang (MD/MPH Class of 2022) received the Morgadanes scholarship for her project, "COVID-19 infection and myocarditis/ cardiomyopathy."

Lauren Nguyen (MD/MPH Class of 2023) received the Morgadanes scholarship for her project, "CV risk and atherosclerosis markers among currently and formerly incarcerated Louisianans."

Theresa Bui (MD/MPH Class of 2023) received the Lively scholarship for her project, "Severity of disease, psychological wellbeing, fatigue, and patient levels of stress in psoriatic arthritis."

For more information about Public Health and Medical Education please contact:

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2021-2022 CCTS SCHOLARS

Congratulations to **Courtney Brock, Katie Hebert and Maryl Wright** for being selected as 2021-2022 Tulane CCTS TL1 Scholars! Tulane partners with the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) TL1 training program; a NIH-funded fellowship program that prepares investigators to pursue careers in health services and clinical research to address disparities and/or diseases disproportionately represented in the Deep South. All three of this year's scholars are conducting research focused on the development of diagnostics and treatment options for patients with triple negative breast cancer (TNBC). TNBC is an aggressive subtype of breast cancer with fewer treatment options and a high prevalence in black women.

Meet the 2021-2022 Student Group Executive Committee



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