



Dear MEZCOPH Community,

Welcome to the start of another vibrant academic year! I hope your summer break was refreshing and offered a chance to recharge. This year marks the **25th anniversary** of our college, and as we come together once again on campus, it's a pleasure to greet our returning students, staff, and faculty—and to extend a warm welcome to all the new members of our community joining us this fall.

This year, we are proud to welcome 1028 new and returning students to the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. Our programs continue to span multiple University of Arizona campuses and modalities, and we are pleased to greet:

- 710 students on the Main Campus in Tucson
- 250 students enrolled in Arizona Online
- 45 students at the Phoenix Campus
- 23 students on the Arizona International Campus.

Among our undergraduate population, we welcome 76 new students, 71 of whom are enrolled in the BS in Public Health program and 5 in the BA in Wellness and Public Health Practice degree. On the graduate side, we welcome 109 new students, including 90 MPH students and 19 pursuing MS and doctoral degrees. Notably, our MD/MPH program in Clinical Leadership has grown by 84.6% compared to last year, reflecting our continued commitment to expanding public health leadership across Arizona.

The **Global Health Institute's Dual Degree Program**, offered in collaboration with Universidad del Valle de México (UVM), continues to thrive, now enrolling a total of 68 students across two cohorts. This includes 61 students in the BSPH/Medicine track and 7 new students in the BSPH/Biotechnology track. Building on the success of this initiative, MEZCOPH is exploring additional dual degree pathways in dentistry and nutrition with UVM, as well as a promising new partnership with Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas (UPC) in Peru. These developments mark exciting progress in global health education, positioning MEZCOPH to train the next generation of public health professionals on an international scale.

I'm also excited to share that our new **Direct Admissions** pathway to the MPH has officially launched. This streamlined process is available to qualified graduates from Arizona's three state universities (UA, ASU, and NAU), making the application faster and simpler. We

encourage our undergraduate students who are preparing to graduate and considering an MPH to take advantage of this opportunity!

Welcoming New Faculty and Staff

I am excited to share that the health professions degree programs from the former College of Health Sciences have officially joined our college as the new **School of Health Professions (SHP)**. This important transition paves the way for meaningful collaboration with our new colleagues and creates exciting opportunities for innovation in education and research for our students. Please join me in extending a warm and heartfelt welcome to all the faculty, staff, and students in SHP. We're thrilled to have you with us and look forward to working together in the months ahead.

In addition to our new colleagues in SHP, I would like to warmly welcome new faculty members in Epidemiology and Health Promotion Sciences, as well as all our returning faculty across the college. Each of you brings valuable expertise and a deep commitment to teaching, research, and service that enriches our academic community. Together, you help foster an environment of excellence and practice-based research that promotes health and well-being across Arizona and beyond.

I also want to extend a warm welcome to the new staff joining us this year, along with sincere appreciation for our returning staff. Your dedication and hard work are the driving force behind our college's success. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

Remembering Dr. Karl Krupp

I would like to take a moment to honor the memory of our dear colleague, Dr. Karl Krupp, who passed away this July. Karl was a valued member of our college, known for his warmth, collegial spirit, and unwavering commitment to public health. He first joined us as a postdoctoral scholar in 2019 and later became an esteemed faculty member in the Department of Public Health Practice, Policy, and Translational Research. Our hearts are especially with his spouse and our colleague, Dr. Purnima Madhivanan. Karl's presence deeply enriched our community, and he will be profoundly missed.

Strategic Initiatives and Community

I am excited to share several new strategic initiatives the college has launched in recent months, beginning with the creation of the **Ending Pandemics Academy (EPA)** within the **Global Health Institute**. Developed in partnership with the global disease prevention nonprofit Ending Pandemics, the EPA is designed to educate and train civic, corporate, political and academic leaders, as well as students in evidence-based pandemic prevention strategies. Through an innovative digital epidemiology education and research program, participants will engage in a highly experiential learning environment, including direct interaction with real-world disease surveillance systems developed and operated by the Academy. We're enthusiastic about the EPA's potential to empower communities and leaders to address today's most pressing global health challenges.

In addition, our new **AI for Public Health Initiative** is paving the way to train a new

generation of public health professionals equipped to harness Artificial Intelligence to protect and improve population health in transformative ways. This initiative includes the development of new courses, cutting-edge research projects, and our inaugural **Public Health & AI Summer School**, all focused on leveraging AI to drive innovation in public health. As AI becomes increasingly integrated into all aspects of health services, our college is well positioned to lead in this emerging field with a thoughtful, informed, and ethical approach.

Finally, I hope to see you all at our upcoming **MEZCOPH Mixer** on September 17th from 11:30am to 1:30pm in the Walkway of Wellness! Organized by the Learn, Inspire, Flourish, Thrive (LIFT) Committee, this event is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a college, enjoy food and refreshments, and celebrate another exciting year.

As we begin a new academic year, I'm filled with gratitude for all we have accomplished as a college over the past 25 years and optimistic about what lies ahead. It is a privilege to be part of such a talented and passionate community, united by a shared commitment to public health and service. I look forward to a successful and inspiring year together.
Best regards,

John Ehiri, PhD
Vice Dean of Academic and Faculty Affairs