

California Medical Leadership Forum for Public Health/Preventive Med.

34th Meeting (7th using Video)

Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 8:00-9:30 am PST

MINUTES

This meeting utilized a Zoom account from CAPM. “**Handouts**” (i.e., agenda, last meeting’s minutes, draft lists of MPH programs and PrevMed and OccMed residencies in California, and current Bylaws of this Forum) were attached to the email notice.

1. Zoom Roll Call, combined with Introductions and Reports: 22 Members and 2 Guests; almost all gave reports

California Academy of Preventive Medicine (CAPM)

- **Mark Horton**, Forum Chair, introduced himself and then proceeded to introduce others. The special topic later in the call will be information from schools of medicine that have also initiated public health training, specifically MPH dual degree programs for medical students. Mark has been the director of two state departments of public health, and was the first director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) after the old Department of Health Services split into the CDPH and the Department of Health Care Services. He was also a past local health officer for Orange County.
- **Ron Hattis** introduced himself as Forum Secretary. He is also Secretary-Treasurer of the California Academy of Preventive Medicine, sponsor of this Forum.
- **Don Lyman** said that he works on legislative matters with Ron for CAPM. He is retired from a 40 year career of public health in which he was the senior civil service physician for New York State followed by a similar status in California.
- **Sumedh Mankar** said that he works in the private sector with Anthem, but has special responsibilities related to COVID vaccine and policies.

State Government: California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

- **Carolyn Peck** directs the Preventive Medicine residency of the department and the Cal-EIS Fellowship. Trainees have been helping out with the COVID pandemic. CHEAC and HOAC are supporting a \$6.5 million budget addition to train 100 Cal-EIS Fellows over 3 years, starting 2022-23. She announced an opportunity for advocacy at the Assembly Budget subcommittee on Health hearing on March 14. The 5 current Preventive Medicine residency directors in California are hoping for similar support for state funding in 2023 for the residency programs. HOAC and CHEAC might take up this issue next year. Currently, residency programs are not able to fill all their slots due to funding. Preventive Medicine residents have filled a critical role for the past two years in the COVID pandemic.
- **Jessica Nunez de Ybarra** works in the Director’s Office. In remarks toward the end of the meeting, she said she was impressed by the presentations and “the workforce of

the future.” She said that a \$300m augmentation for public health infrastructure, including staffing, is expected in the budget for 2022-23. She offered to bring back information to a future meeting, and she would welcome input from the Forum members on priorities for the use of this funding. Jessica also mentioned a concern at CDPH about health equity, especially in medical care for LGBTQ patients, including gender-affirming care. She would like to know how this is being included in medical school curricula. This could be discussed at a future meeting.

California Medical Association (CMA)

- **Don Lyman**, a member of the Council on Science and Public Health, reported in the absence of Yvonne Choong, that CMA is sifting through the bills that have been submitted (the Legislature’s deadline for new bills was February 18) to determine positions. New resolutions have been posted, with a March 13 deadline for testimony by CMA members and delegations. The Council will meet shortly after that to deliberate on the resolutions and the testimony submitted.

Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California (OPSC)

- **Wadsworth Murad** served as President for 2020-2021, then as past-President, but is no longer on the Board. He will be attempting to recruit the new President or designee as a new representative to the Forum, and could continue to serve only if designated. He mentioned two concerns. With the opening of new medical schools in California, there is a shortage of residency slots for both MD and DO graduates, so added residency programs will be welcome. The bill to allow experienced nurse practitioners to practice without physician supervision passed last year, despite opposition from both CMA and OPSC, and when implemented will allow some NPs to practice medicine without physician supervision, under licensure by the Board of Registered Nursing rather than either state medical board. The challenge now is to work with the Board of Registered Nursing to assure that NPs are adequately trained to deliver competent care. Ron Hattis suggested that agencies employing such independent NPs in the future could at least involve them in meetings where both they and physicians would present cases for review and discussion.

Health Officers Association of CA

- **Michael Sequeira**, Health Officer of San Bernardino County, technically a guest at this meeting, gave some remarks in the absence of Kat DeBurgh. He mentioned that he had entered public health after a career in intensive care including emergency medicine and trauma, but had a lot of community involvement. He said that public health staffing exploded with COVID, with federal money coming in and a tremendous increase in department employees. There is concern that 10 local health officers had resigned or lost their jobs last year, largely due to stress, harassment, and political pressures. He has been working with the Preventive Medicine residency program at Loma Linda. There is a big need for public health physicians trained in MCAH and epidemiology. The increased scope of practice for nurse practitioners

mentioned by Dr. Murad is partly due to a dearth of physicians. Fortunately, medical training programs are “ramping up.”

Schools of Medicine (North, Central, South)

- UC Davis: **Jeffrey Hoch** is from the Department of Public Health Sciences at UC Davis. Carolyn Dewa, who coordinates the MPH program, was not able to attend.
- Northstate (CNSU): **Rochelle Frank** was welcomed. She is a neurologist but also does integrative medicine and directs a colloquium that includes public and global health.
- Stanford: **Eleanor Levin** introduced herself as Professor of Cardiology and Preventive Cardiology, and a new representative, **Sandra Tsai**, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Preventive Cardiology. The Office of Medical Education coordinates the dual MD/MPH program in which 3-5 students typically spend off campus to get the MPH after the first clinical year. Sandra said that this has typically been done at UC Berkeley (where she got her own MPH), but that a few students have gone to Columbia or Harvard for this MPH. There is a new alliance with Chinese Medical University in Hong Kong, which has offered full scholarships to two students a year to spend a year there to get a public health degree in global health. The two degrees altogether take five years to complete. Ron Hattis mentioned that UC San Francisco (not represented today) offers a similar option to get an MPH during medical school, also typically at UC Berkeley.
- Touro University: **Traci Stevenson** attended.
- UC Berkeley/UC San Francisco Joint Medical Program: **Jyothi Marbin** described her 16-student, 5-year medical school program, in which the preclinical training is done at UC Berkeley and the clinical years are done at UC San Francisco. The students get an MD and a Master’s degree in Health and Medical Science rather than an MPH, focusing on transformational health leadership, systems change, and anti-racism. Both degrees come from UC Berkeley.
- California Health Sciences University (CHSU, Clovis): **Sara Goldgraben** said that this newest California osteopathic medical school is interviewing for a first year class of 150 students. When the school opened in 2020, its first class (now progressing to become the first to reach the third year) had 80 students, so there has been significant growth.
- Loma Linda University: **April Wilson**, Chair of the Preventive Medicine Department, reported that the Addiction Medicine fellowship has experienced recent growth, and is responsible for the university’s graduate training for addiction medicine other than dual diagnosis. The Preventive and Occupational Medicine residencies continue to do well. This coming academic year will be the last for the Combined Family and Preventive Medicine residency.
- California University of Science and Medicine (CUSM): This is the first meeting at which this medical school has been represented on the Forum. **Zohray Talib**, Chair of the Department of Medical Education, was cordially welcomed. This year marks the first in which the school has all four years of medical school, and the first MDs will graduate this year. The first medical class had 64 students, and as at CHSU, over the

next two years, class size increased to 130 each year. The university also offers a Master's degree in Biomedical Science.

- UC Riverside: **Mark Wolfson** introduced himself as Chair of Social Medicine, Population, and Public Health. The medical school has been full-fledged and independent for 8 years, prior to which the Haidar program provided training for the first two years, then sent the students to UCLA for the two clinical years. A Master's in Public Health is in development, and must gain final approval by the Faculty Senate, then the central University of California system, in addition to accreditation. It will be housed in Mark's department at the School of Medicine, but will be an inter-departmental program of UC Riverside, and some faculty will come from other schools. There will be a social and behavioral focus, and devote attention to the Inland Empire in keeping with the mission of the medical school. There is interest in eventually developing a dual MD/MPH degree. The first class should start in 2023.
- Kaiser-Permanente: **Rose Rodriguez** reported that this new school is in the process of an accreditation site review. She presented a brief report on behalf of Paul Chung, who is involved in that review. The medical school now has a first and a second year class. There is a plan to allow students to take a leave of absence after the third year to pursue a Master's degree elsewhere. Options will include an MPH at UCLA Fielding School of Public Health or a Master's in health administration.
- Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (WesternU/COMP): **Andrew Pumerantz** presented his report recorded under Special Topic, below.
- University of Southern California (USC): **Howard Hu** presented his report recorded under Special Topic, below.

Schools of Public Health

- San Diego State University: **Eyal Oren** said that the School of Public Health is in its 41st year, and that an MPH has been offered to UC San Diego Preventive Medicine residents since 1983 (about 39 years). San Diego State provides the MPH to residents tuition-free. Most of the residents take the MPH concentration in epidemiology, but a few choose the concentration in environmental health, health policy, or health promotion. There is a new concentration in health informatics that may prove attractive to some in the future.. Collaboration between the two universities has remained strong regardless of UC San Diego opening its own school of public health. There is also collaboration in doctoral programs. Eyal said that there is plenty of public health work to go around, for the two schools of public health.
- Loma Linda University: **Lori Wilber** presented her report under Special Topic, below.

2. Election at Next Meeting; Should this Forum Create a Position of Vice-Chair, Including Assistance with Programs?

Reference: Current Bylaws of this Forum, attached to announcement email

Since the formation of this Forum, there have been only two officers, a Chair and an appointed Secretary. The Bylaws permit appointment of additional officers, Mark Horton and Ron Hattis would like to create a Vice-Chair position to assist with programs and contacts, and to be available to conduct meetings in the absence of the Chair. There was no objection raised in discussion.

Action: Volunteers to serve as Vice-Chair will be recruited. The Chair elected at the next meeting will appoint one, if a suitable volunteer from within our membership can be elicited. Forum members are invited to express interest.

3. Today's Special Topic: Providing Public Health Education to Medical Students, Residents, and Practicing Physicians

References: Draft lists of MPH programs and of PrevMed and OccMed residencies in California, attached to announcement email; updates requested before posting on the CAPM Website

The following were not presented in direct sequence.

a. Loma Linda University, Lori Wilber:

A special MPH track ("Population Medicine") is provided in the school of public health, which was designed for Preventive and Occupational Medicine residents, but has been selected by other physicians and by some dentists and pharmacists totaling 20-30 students annually. There have also been adjustments to other didactics during the residencies, to satisfy board requirements for Preventive Medicine and Occupational Medicine. Loma Linda has long had both a medical school and a school of public health, but there has not been a dual degree program for some time and this, too, is being planned.

Lori showed slides describing the Population Medicine MPH program. It is virtual and asynchronous. The standard portions of the curriculum are a core MPH classes on epidemiology, biostatistics, policy, health education, etc., electives selected with the advisor, and an ethics class (all Loma Linda degree programs require either a religion or an ethics class). The special feature is a Population Medicine (PMED) concentration, which includes risk, prevention, well-being leadership, and evidence. There is a focus on learning outcomes that satisfy requirements for the residents, specifically ACGME competencies in risk/hazard control and communication, ACPM milestones for Occupational Medicine on hazard recognition and management, and ABPM board exam topics on risk management. These involve such things as formulating, creating, and designing plans and strategies, and integrating evidence into practice. Lori's slides included some details revised for the next academic year.

The dual degree MD/MPH will be a five-year program coordinated by the School of Public Health. The MPH Core and PMED concentration are unique requirements taken in the fourth year, but electives and the ethics course can be shared with the first three years of the standard medical school curriculum. Year 5 is the standard fourth year medical school curriculum.

b. University of Southern California, Howard Hu:

Howard introduced himself as an internist and epidemiologist who formerly worked on the East Coast for many years (including at Harvard). He chairs the Department of Population and Public Health Science, a large, research-intensive operation with 115 faculty, 6 divisions, 3 institutes, and 16 centers. There is a large MPH program that began in 1993, with two options, residential (in-person) and online. The online MPH is quite large with about 300 students. The most significant recent development is that the President of the university has approved the department developing into a School of Public Health. For the first few years, this will be a “school within a school,” as a part of the Keck School of Medicine.

The MD/MPH dual degree program began in 2000 and was accredited in 2001. The current director is Dan Lieberman. Jo Marie Reilly, the other USC representative to this Forum, is a Co-director; neither of them could make this meeting. The most important feature is that the Keck School of Medicine provides the MPH tuition-free to the 5-12 medical students who participate annually, after the third year of medical school. The MPH is the residential version, and although it was temporarily mostly online during the worst of the pandemic, it is back to almost entirely in-person since the beginning of this academic year. The basic format is similar to other MPH programs, but the “capstone” is a community-based joint project done collaboratively by the students. This results in multiple presentations at a big event that has been attended by community and political leaders including a Congress member. The program is housed in Howard’s department, but the faculty members typically have dual appointments, in both that department and a clinical department such as Family Medicine.

Another significant new development noted by Howard is the announcement this week that the California Endowment will fund a \$4 million grant to create an academic public health department program at the California Department of Public Health. The intent is to promote collaboration between schools that teach public health and local public health departments, which can help develop new Preventive Medicine residencies and other expanded public health training. Michael Lu, Dean of the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, was the leader of this initiative.

c. UC Irvine, Bharath Chakravarthy:

Bharath introduced himself as a professor of Emergency Medicine and Public Health at UCI. He works to integrate those two specialties by emphasizing issues like safe driving, mental health, and substance abuse. He helped establish the MD/MPH program in 2013 and remains the director. It was initially tailored for the “Prime LC” students from the Latin community, and more recently also the “Lead ABC” students, a diversity program for African, black, and Caribbean students.

Like some others presented here, this program takes 5 years and inserts most of the MPH didactics into the fourth year of medical school. The MPH practicum and final requirements are completed in the fifth year along with clinical rotations usually done in the fourth year of medical school. About 2 to 4 students a year choose this path, applying after their second year. The program is part of the School of Medicine. That school in turn is part of the College of Health Sciences, which also includes a program in public health that will soon become a school of public health. It already has a dean and is recruiting faculty for this purpose. The College also contains an Institute of Integrative Health, and the schools of nursing and pharmacy. Once the School of Public Health is operational, it will change the nature of the dual degree program. MD/MPH students may then be recruited “from the get-go” rather than only from within the UC Irvine medical school student body. A few years down the road, as some medical school courses get condensed, the dual degree program might only take four years.

d. Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (WesternU/COMP), Andrew Pumerantz:

Andrew reported on the DO/MPH dual enrollment program at Western in collaboration with Claremont Graduate University (CGU). He is Co-Director of this program with Darlene Peterson of CGU, and has academic positions at both institutions, including Director of the Department of Population Health Science (which began in 2018) at Western. CGU was started in 1925 as an independent member of the Claremont Colleges. It started a School of Community and Global Health in 2008 with a 2-year residential MPH program. Western University was founded in 1977 as COMP, the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific, the first new osteopathic school in California since 1962. Faculty and administrators began discussions in 2020 about a combined DO/MPH program, and this was approved in 2021, the first in California between two private universities. The “charter cohort” (9 from the 2025 class and 5 from the 2024 class) enrolled and began taking online MPH classes. As of January 2022, all 14 students had completed their first semester of MPH classes and began the second semester. All MPH classes so far have been virtual.

CGU offers three concentrations in its MPH program, applied biostatistics and epidemiology; health promotion, education, and evaluation; and leadership and management. In answer to a question from Zohray Talib, he said that tuition is one

of the highest in the U.S., but Western students get a 30% fellowship discount from CGU, and financial aid is available from both universities, with a coordinated process for applying. The dual enrollment program is integrated into the medical class schedule, starting in the first year with one core MPH class each semester. “Capstone” projects can be done in conjunction with yearlong remote assignments for rotations during the third year, in Ventura, Bakersfield, or Palm Springs. All in all, it is expected that both degrees can be completed within 4 years, a year less than most other dual degree programs. The class of 2026 was questioned in a survey on the application, about interest in the program. Of 184 students who have been seated so far, an astounding 32% indicated that they are interested. The maximum size that the program can accommodate is to be determined.

4. Minutes of December 14, 2021 Meeting (previously shared with presenters; handout

Action: Minutes were approved without additions or corrections.

5. Should the Forum Pass a Motion Recommending Priority Attention by CDPH and CDC to Increases in Non-COVID Mortality?

Reference (Presented at last meeting): Increases in Non-COVID Mortality in California: Michael Samuel, CDPH

https://skylab.cdph.ca.gov/communityBurden/_w_dc5c1565/xMDA/2020_Excess_Mortality.html

Forum members were impressed and concerned by the presentation at the last meeting by Michael Samuel from the CDPH Fusion Center, indicating that mortality from multiple causes other than COVID itself increased in 2020 and further increased in 2021. Ron Hattis proposed that we send letters to CDPH and CDC leadership, suggesting enhanced surveillance and prioritization of these trends, and commending any action already being taken along these lines. In discussion, there was no objection and a concurrence about the importance of the issue.

Jessica Nunez de Ybarra from CDPH supported this idea and suggested that the department might want support and advice from this Forum’s constituent components in responding to the concerns.

Action: Ron Hattis will draft letters for Mark Horton’s approval. Jessica Nunez de Ybarra may be of help in assuring attention to the matter.

6. Next Virtual Meeting: Tentatively June 14, 2022 (incorrectly expressed as June 8): Election; Special Topic to be Determined.

These minutes were accepted at the Forum meeting of June 14, 2022.

Ronald P. Hattis, MD, MPH, Secretary

