The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

Eleanor Roosevelt
(1884 - 1962)
Council Chair:
J. Leighton Read, MD
Chairman of the Board, Aviron

Immediate Past Chair:
Linda Hawes Clever, MD, MACP
Chair, Department of Occupational Health
California Pacific Medical Center

Anne Bakar
President & CEO, Telecare Corporation

Robert N. Beck, MS
Vice President - People, Scient Corporation

Margaret Cary, MD, MBA, MPH
Sr. Vice President and Medical Director
Vox Medica

Farah Champsi, MBA
General Partner, Alta Partners

Alfred W. Childs, MD, MPH
Physician

Robert M. Crane, MPA
Sr. Vice President & Director
Health Policy Institute, Kaiser Permanente

Ann Flinn
Volunteer & Philanthropist

Shand Lathrop Green, JD
Volunteer & Philanthropist

Nancy K. Lusk
Chairman of the Board, The Lusk Company

Edward O’Neil, PhD, MPA, MA
Director, UCSF Center for Health Professions

Barbara S. Terrazas, MPH
Executive Director
Catholic Charities of the East Bay

Kenneth Taymor, JD
Mandel, Buder & Verges

Mary Woolley, MA
President, Research!America
On behalf of the School of Public Health Policy Advisory Council, we are pleased to welcome you to a very special celebration honoring this year’s University of California, Berkeley, Public Health Heroes.

The UC Berkeley School of Public Health was founded in 1943 as the first public health school west of the Mississippi River. Its mission is “to develop, apply and share knowledge from multiple disciplines that promote and protect the health of the human population, with sensitivity to multicultural perspectives and informed by human rights.” Consistently rated among the nation’s top schools of public health, Berkeley is noted for the high quality of its teaching, research, and service activities. Its programs are grounded in an understanding of the basic sciences and integrated through a focus on communities located throughout the state, nation, and world.

Today, society is confronted with a host of increasingly complex health threats, including the existence of dangerous new and reemerging infectious diseases, exemplified by the AIDS pandemic and its devastating impact, particularly in Africa and other non-industrialized areas of the world; the disturbing epidemic of violence that grips our nation’s youth and is readily recalled by names like “Columbine” or “Santee”; and an ongoing crisis in health care delivery and access, which perils the health of 44 million uninsured Americans. The School of Public Health is committed to developing and applying new interdisciplinary approaches that make use of the University’s wealth of diverse resources to help effectively address these and other complicated health issues.

Initiated by the School’s Policy Advisory Council, the Public Health Heroes honor was established in 1996 to broaden people’s awareness and understanding of the public health field by recognizing individuals and organizations for their significant contributions and exceptional commitment to promoting and protecting the health of the human population.

Again, thank you for joining us this evening as we honor three individual Heroes – Dr. Karl M. Johnson, Dr. H. Jack Geiger, Ms. Billie Weiss – and one organizational awardee – the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Leighton Read, MD
Chair, Policy Advisory Council
School of Public Health

Edward E. Penhoet, PhD
Dean
School of Public Health
Advisory Council Welcome
J. Leighton Read, MD
Chairman of the Board, Aviron

Thoughts from a Man of Words
Tom Abate
BIOSCOPE Columnist
San Francisco Chronicle

Dean’s Welcome
Edward E. Penhoet, PhD
Dean, School of Public Health
University of California, Berkeley

Honoring Public Health Heroes
J. Leighton Read, MD
Chairman of the Board, Aviron
and
Linda Hawes Clever, MD, MACP
Chair, Department of Occupational Health
California Pacific Medical Center

International Hero
Karl M. Johnson, MD
Adjunct Professor of Biology and Medicine
University of New Mexico
introduced by
William Reeves, MD
Professor Emeritus of Epidemiology
University of California, Berkeley
School of Public Health

National Hero
H. Jack Geiger, MD, MSci
Arthur C. Logan Professor Emeritus
of Community Medicine
City University of New York Medical School
introduced by
Meredith Minkler
Professor of Health and Social Behavior
University of California, Berkeley
School of Public Health
P R O G R A M

California Regional Hero
Billie P. Weiss, MPH
Director of the Injury and Violence Prevention Program, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
introduced by
Gerald Factor
and
Lorraine Facto
Gerald Factor
Trustee, Max Factor Family Foundation

Invited Remarks
Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives

Organizational Hero
San Francisco Department of Public Health

Public Health Directors (1981-2001)
Mervyn Silverman, MD, MPH
Director, 1977-1985
David Werdegar, MD, MPH
Director, 1985-1990
Raymond Baxter, PhD
Director, 1990-1993
Sandra Hernández, MD
Director, 1994-1997
Mitchell Katz, MD
Director, 1997-present
introduced by
Donald P. Francis, MD, DSc
President and Cofounder
VaxGen, Inc.

Acknowledgements
J. Leighton Read, MD
Chairman of the Board, Aviron
They can strike anywhere, anytime – in a local restaurant, on a cruise ship, in a grassy field or at the hospital you entered to get well. And anyone can be a carrier: the stranger coughing in the next seat on the plane, the college classmate just returned from a trip abroad, even a significant other you thought you knew. In fact, wherever we go and whatever we do, we are accosted by invaders from an unseen world. Protozoans, bacteria, viruses – a whole menagerie of microscopic pests – constantly assault every part of the human body. Many are harmless or easy to fight off. Others are incurable killers.

With the widespread use of antibiotics in the years following World War II, many began to think the war against infectious diseases was nearly won. Today, however, the battle continues. With over three dozen newly identified threats – of which AIDS is just one – and a startling resurgence of decades-old strains such as tuberculosis and whooping cough, infectious diseases remain the world’s leading cause of death, killing an estimated 20 million people annually.

The Threat: New & Reemerging Infectious Diseases

For more than 50 years, the School of Public Health has built a strong record of excellence in the study of infectious diseases, including such early highlights as the pioneering research of coccidioidomycosis (Valley Fever) by the late Charles E. Smith, and landmark work by Professor Bill Reeves on the surveillance, prevention, and control of arborvirus disease.

Infectious disease-related research by current faculty includes work by Lee Riley, MD, who has synthesized the protein that helps the tuberculosis bacteria gain entry into human cells, a technique that could improve the efficacy of vaccine delivery. In addition, Dr. Riley was among the first scientists to recognize, study, and offer preventive measures to address the problem of antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections in hospitals.

Other efforts include work by Eva Harris, PhD, and her colleagues, who have developed simplified PCR (polymerase chain reaction) procedures that are easily and inexpensively used in the field to identify such infectious agents as the Leishmania parasite and dengue virus, the current focus of Professor Harris’ research. The Chlamydia Genome Project, headed by Professor Richard Stephens, successfully sequenced the genome for Chlamydia trachomatis, the bacterium that causes both chlamydial genital tract infectious, which are sexually transmitted, and trachoma, a leading cause of preventable blindness. To aid in the development of effective vaccines for diseases such as tuberculosis and AIDS, Daniel Portnoy, PhD, is studying the bacteria Listeria monocytogenes, an intracellular pathogen that interacts with the human immune system in ways similar to HIV, while Fenyong Liu, PhD, studies the biology and therapeutic intervention of the human herpesviruses infection, specifically focusing on the functions of viral genes in pathogenesis to identifying new viral targets for antiviral drug development. The research of Gertrude Buehring, PhD, focuses on the role of bovine leukemia virus in the etiology of breast cancer.

In addition, a number of the School’s epidemiologists specialize in the epidemiology and control of infectious diseases, outbreak investigation, and disease surveillance.
Karl M. Johnson, MD, studied botany at Oberlin College and medicine at the University of Rochester. Two years of training in internal medicine at Columbia University were succeeded by a soft landing in the laboratory of Robert Chanock at the National Institutes of Health. After contributing to the emerging swarm of viruses causing acute respiratory disease (parainfluenza 4, five rhinoviruses, Coxackie A21), he took his leave from Bethesda to work in a small NIH field laboratory in the Panama Canal Zone. From that base he became intimately acquainted with the first of several new agents causing hemorrhagic fever, Machupo virus, from the Ilanos of eastern Bolivia.

Working on Machupo virus with Fred Murphy at the CDC, their team described a new virus family designated the Arenaviridae. Subsequent adventures in Africa and Korea were mounted from CDC, where Dr. Johnson established the laboratory of “Special Pathogens.” This rock-turning in far places eventually led to the description of another new virus family and a unique genus; the Filoviridae (Ebola and Marburg viruses) and the hantaviruses.

Beyond discovery and description of new zoonotic viruses, Dr. Johnson has worked on the epidemiology and experimental therapy of several of these agents. Retired from active research, he is adjunct professor of biology and medicine at the University of New Mexico, where he assists in developing an integrated research program comprising both laboratory and field studies of pathogenic hantaviruses of the Americas.

Award Presenter

Dr. Johnson is being introduced by one of his contemporaries, who is also a former dean of Berkeley’s School of Public Health and a respected member of the school’s emeriti faculty, Professor William C. Reeves, PhD. Over the course of his highly successful career, which spans more than half a century, Professor Reeves has focused his research primarily on the epidemiology and control of vector borne diseases, such as mosquito-borne viral encephalitides.
The Threat: Violence

Our nation's epidemic of violence was not even considered within the purview of public health until 1985 when then Surgeon General C. Everett Koop conducted the first national workshop on violence and public health. Today, despite recent reductions in crime statistics, violence continues to threaten the lives of millions of Americans each year, disproportionately affecting children, adolescents, young adults, minority populations and women. This fact is confirmed by a number of alarming statistics, including: homicide is the second leading cause of death for persons 15-24 years of age and is the leading cause of death for African-Americans in this age group; approximately 1.5 million women and 834,700 men are raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually; and overall, suicide is the eighth leading cause of death for all Americans, and the third leading cause of death for young people aged 15-24.

The School of Public Health Responds

A number of activities undertaken at the Berkeley School of Public Health address violence as a public health issue, including the establishment of courses such as "Violence Prevention: A Community-Based Approach," which provides both a broad overview of this topic and specific sessions on research methodologies, data acquisition and analysis, program and policy development, and multidisciplinary approaches to violence prevention. Another course offering, titled "Health, Behavior and the Family," looks at family violence and examines approaches for public health interventions.

Under the direction of Dr. Linda Neuhauser, the University of California recently collaborated with the California Children and Families Commission, parents throughout the state, and many public and private partnerships, to produce the “Parents Guide” – a published resource that provides information to parents on what they can do to protect themselves and their children, what to do if attacked, and ways to prevent violence.

Due to a special grant program established by the Max Factor Family Foundation that offers stipend support, several MPH students have completed field placements with the Los Angeles Department of Health Services in the Injury and Violence Prevention Program. Student projects have ranged from Firearm Injury Taskforce Surveillance and Violence Prevention to Domestic Violence Epidemiology and Safe Communities. This practicum experience combined with classroom competencies, provides the student with the necessary tools to become community leaders in addressing the epidemic of violence.

The Emily Dion Endowment Fund, named in memory of a local child who was tragically the victim of a violent crime, provides fellowship support to students pursuing the study of violence as a public health issue.
In addition to serving as director of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Injury and Violence Prevention Program, Ms. Weiss is the executive director and a founder of the Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles. She holds a BS in molecular biology from California State University, Fullerton, and a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from UCLA.

Ms. Weiss is an authority on public health surveillance of violence and violence related injuries. In addition, her work includes the epidemiology of gang related homicides and assaults, pedestrian injuries among pre-school children, iron poisoning and residential pool drowning, and the evaluation of community based programs to reduce teen relationship violence, parenting for violence prevention, and comprehensive youth and family center programs. Ms. Weiss has designed and implemented grand rounds training and home visitor training for physicians and nurses to identify, diagnose, report and refer victims of domestic violence. Ms. Weiss is a member of the Interagency Gang Task Force, Los Angeles County Family Violence Task Force, The Domestic Violence Council, the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Death Review Team, the Los Angeles County Child Abuse Death Review Team, the American Academy of Pediatrics Poison Prevention and Injury Control Committee in Region 2, Women Against Gun Violence, the National HELP Network, and many other organizations directed toward reducing community violence and abuse. In addition, she has authored numerous papers, three book chapters, and is frequently called upon to make presentations to scientific, professional and community conferences and meetings on the topic of violence as a public health issue.

Award Presenters

Ms. Weiss will be presented with her Public Health Hero Award by two Berkeley alumni, Lorraine and Jerry Factor, whose interest in helping to improve society for their children and grandchildren motivated them to become active supporters of the Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles. Their generosity of spirit and desire to make a difference is also evidenced by the support they’ve extended to both the UCLA and UC Berkeley Schools of Public Health.
The Threat: Access to Care
Given the unprecedented prosperity of the past decade, with rising incomes and record low unemployment rates, one might expect a reduction in the number of uninsured; however, it continues to rise. Between 1992 and 1998, the number of Americans without health insurance rose from 39 million to more than 44 million. This amounts to approximately 16 percent of the entire U.S. population and is more than 18 percent of those under age 65. Of these 44 million, 11 million – one quarter – are children.

The School of Public Health Responds
The School of Public Health has a strong record on issues related to access and delivery of care, including efforts undertaken at two of the school’s centers: the Center for Health and Public Policy Studies, directed by Professor Helen Schaufller, which among other things provides data and organizes convenings that support public policies to develop an affordable, high-quality health care system; and the Nicholas C. Petris Center on Health Care Markets and Consumer Welfare, headed by Professor Richard Scheffler, which focuses on issues involving consumer protection, affordability and access to health care – especially for those with low and moderate-incomes – and the role of information in consumer choice.

Stephen Shortell, PhD, the Blue Cross of California Distinguished Professor of Health Policy and Management, is well regarded for his work in the area of integrated systems and community-focused health care, while Professor Sylvia Guendelman examines access to care for disadvantaged populations, including the working poor.

The Threat: Human Rights Abuses
The highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being. Health and well-being are nearly impossible to achieve when other fundamental rights are neglected or violated, which is the fate of millions of people around the globe. For example, in southern Africa, where HIV/AIDS exists in catastrophic dimensions, women continue to be infected at disproportionately high rates and often lack legal protection against discrimination and neglect of their rights. People fleeing war-torn regions are often politically and socially marginalized and subject to violence and neglect or violation of many of their rights, including those relating to access to basic social services. Despite advances in developing countries, the disparity between the fortunate few and the huge population of the poor results in the lack of adequate food, shelter, and health care for millions.

The School of Public Health Responds
School of Public Health Professor Eric Stover, directs the Human Rights Center on the UC Berkeley campus. Among its activities is the formation of research groups to study the health, social, and cultural consequences of gross violations of human rights and the rules of war. One such group, the Forced Migration Project, studied the health status and access to health care of refugees in Santa Clara County. The investigation has also examined the ways in which refugee status affects clinical treatment as reflected in the medical record.

Currently under development is a project to examine the historical, legal, and social aspects of the intersection between health and human rights in times of peace and war. The goal is to examine a wide range of issues, including refugee health care, forced psychiatric confinement, human experimentation, medical neutrality, and individual and social suffering. The project will bring together collaborators with national and international perspectives to describe the methods and procedures that have been used by medical and forensic investigators to expose and document mass killings and the social and economic consequences of conventional weapons.
Dr. Jack Geiger received his medical degree from Western Reserve University School of Medicine in 1958 and trained in internal medicine on the Harvard Service of Boston City Hospital from 1958-64. During this period he also earned a degree in epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health, was a research fellow at the Channing and Thorndike Laboratories, Harvard Medical School, and a postdoctoral research fellow with the Joint Training Program in Social Science and Medicine, Harvard University.

Most of Dr. Geiger's professional career has been devoted to the problems of health, poverty and human rights. He initiated the community health center model in the U.S., combining community-oriented primary care, public health interventions, and civil rights and community empowerment and development initiatives, and was a leader in the development of the national health center network of more than 800 urban, rural and migrant centers currently serving an estimated nine million low-income patients.

Dr. Geiger's work in human rights spans more than five decades. He is a founding member (1961) and past president of Physicians for Social Responsibility, the U.S. affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, which received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1985. During the past three decades he has published more than 25 scientific articles and book chapters on medical and biological effects of nuclear weapons, lectured widely on this subject in the U.S. and Europe, and appeared in "The Last Epidemic" and other documentary films. Dr. Geiger is also a founding member (1986) and immediate past president of Physicians for Human Rights, a national organization of health professionals whose goals are to bring the skills of the medical profession to the investigation and documentation of human rights abuses, violations of medical neutrality, war crimes and crimes against humanity, and to provide medical and humanitarian aid to victims of repression. The organization shared in the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1998.

**Award Presenter**

Presenting the Public Health Hero Award to Dr. Geiger is Meredith Minkler, DrPH, a professor of health and social behavior at UC Berkeley’s School of Public Health. Her research interests include social support and health of the elderly; the political economy of aging; intergenerational issues; and community organizing/building for health. Professor Minkler was founding director of the UC Berkeley Center on Aging and a cofounder of the San Francisco-based Tenderloin Senior Organizing Project (TSOP).
The Threat: HIV Infection and AIDS

The first recognized cases of AIDS – five apparently unrelated cases of Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia in five young gay men from Los Angeles – were reported in the "Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report" on June 5, 1981.

At that time it was never imagined that AIDS would develop into the devastating pandemic that exists today. However, it soon became apparent that the mysterious illness was also present among gay men in San Francisco. From 1981 to 1984, the numbers of AIDS cases reported from San Francisco rose almost exponentially – from a handful in mid-1981 to well over 800 towards the end of 1984.

Today the epidemic has claimed over 18.8 million lives worldwide and resulted in 13.2 million orphans – children who lost their mother or both parents to AIDS when they were under the age of 15.

The School of Public Health Responds

Not surprisingly, its close proximity to one the nation's largest outbreaks of AIDS, helped make the School of Public Health an early and active center for research on HIV infection and AIDS. Among the most prominent and far-reaching of these efforts was the landmark San Francisco Men's Health Study, directed by faculty member Warren Winkelstein, Jr., MD. This epidemiological and natural history study of HIV infection and AIDS helped researchers determine the link between sexual activity, especially types of behavior, and HIV infection. The educational value of the study is credited with helping reduce the annual rate of new infections in San Francisco from over 20% to near 1% in less than a decade.

Other AIDS related efforts at the School have included Professor Barbara Abrams' prospective study of dietary intake and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome in HIV-Seropositive homosexual men; Professor Jack Colford's research on factors associated with survival among HIV-infected patients with various diagnoses, including Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, Cryptosporidiosis, and very low CD4 counts; work by Malcolm Potts, the Bixby Professor of Population and Family Planning, on AIDS prevention strategies and resource needs, particularly in developing nations; Professor Art Reingold’s research on the interrelationship between tuberculosis and AIDS in developing countries and his study of Rochalimaea infections in AIDS patients; Professor Thomas Rundall's work on evaluating the impact of the HIV/AIDS crisis on the health care system; Professor George Rutherford's 12-year follow-up study of the San Francisco Men's Health Study cohort; and the pioneering work of adjunct faculty member Dr. Nancy Padian, who among other accomplishments is credited with conducting the nation's most comprehensive study of the risk factors in AIDS transmission among heterosexual couples.

The invaluable expertise and experience of the School’s faculty along with special programs, such as the Fogarty International AIDS Training Program, directed by Art Reingold, have provided students rich learning opportunities in the field of public health AIDS research.
The San Francisco Department of Public Health is charged with protecting and promoting the health of all San Franciscans. It is the city's largest department with over 6,800 employees and total annual expenditures in excess of $840 million. Each year in fulfilling its mission, the department must address a wide range of health issues, including for the past 20 years the difficult challenges associated with HIV/AIDS. Since 1981, there have been over 27,000 reported cases of AIDS in San Francisco, representing nearly 23% of statewide cases and four percent of those reported nationally. With over 18,000 reported deaths during the same time period, AIDS ranks as the second leading cause of premature death among males in San Francisco. As of December 1999, the City ranked third in the cumulative number of AIDS cases among metropolitan areas nationwide. In addition, it is estimated that another 17,000 to 18,000 San Franciscans are currently living with HIV and 500 to 600 acquire the infection annually.

While there have been shifts in HIV/AIDS-related trends, such as decreases in morbidity/mortality and increases in the number of people living with the disease, the challenges remain. Since 1981, each of San Francisco’s five health directors has provided leadership in combatting the epidemic. All have advocated strongly for funds aimed at prevention, research and care. They’ve consistently supported policies that sought to prevent discrimination of people suffering from the disease. While each has relied on scientific evidence and established public health practices to guide their actions, they’ve also shown innovative leadership and thinking in establishing a number of model research collaborations with area universities, state and federal government and community-based organizations. Finally, the importance of community involvement in helping to address the crisis was deemed important by each of the five directors, including Mervyn Silverman (1977-1985), David Werdegar (1985-1990), Raymond Baxter (1990-1993), Sandra Hernandez (1994-1997), and Mitchell Katz (1997-present).

Award Presenter

Dr. Donald P. Francis has been on the front lines in the battle against AIDS since 1981, when he arrived in San Francisco from the Centers for Disease Control to help investigate a mysterious disease. Dr. Francis was among the first scientists to suggest that the strange outbreak might be the result of an infectious agent. After 21 years with CDC, Dr. Francis joined South San Francisco biotech giant, Genentech, Inc. in 1992. Three years later, he joined with Dr. Robert Nowinski to guide the spin-off of Genentech’s HIV vaccine unit into VaxGen, Inc., where he currently serves as president.
The following individuals and organizations are thanked for their generous support of this year’s Public Health Heroes celebration:

**Gold Circle Support**

![Logo](image1.png)

![Logo](image2.png)

![Logo](image3.png)

![Logo](image4.png)

![Logo](image5.png)

![Logo](image6.png)

![Logo](image7.png)

![Logo](image8.png)

![Logo](image9.png)
Gold Circle Support Continued

Blue Circle Support
Physicians for Social Responsibility
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
See's Candies

Table Sponsors
- Raymond Baxter
- Robert and Margaret Beck
- Alfred and Eunice Childs
- James and Linda Clever
- William and Shand Green
- Margaret Liu Collins
- Nancy Lusk
- Lee Ann Monfredini
- Leighton and Carol Read
- Ken Taynor and Beth Parker
- Alfredo and Barbara Terrazas
- Violence Prevention Coalition
- Vox Medica
- Mary Woolley & Michael Campbell
- David and Kathryn Werdegar

Student Sponsors
- Richard and Patricia Buffler
- Sylvie Griffiths
- Richard and Joyce Lashof
- J. Michael Mahoney
- Linda Neuhauser
- Cheri Pies
- Nancy and Steve Selvin
- Richard Stephens and Sherrill Cook
- S. Leonard and Marilyn Syme
Past Public Health Hero Honorees

1996-1997
Kritiya Archavanitkul, PhD
Researcher and human rights activist Southeast Asia

The Breast Cancer Fund
National advocacy organization founded by Andrea Martin

William Foege, MD
Former Director, CDC
Led worldwide campaign to eradicate smallpox

Stanton Glantz, PhD
Professor of Medicine, UCSF
Anti-tobacco advocate

1997-1998
Family Violence Prevention Fund
Anti-domestic violence organization founded by Esta Soler

Laurie Garrett
Pulitzer Prize-winning science writer and best-selling author

Rodrigo Guerrero, MD
Former mayor of Cali, Colombia and anti-drug activist

Dorothy P. Rice, PhD
Professor Emerita, UCSF
Health economics research pioneer

1998-1999
Carol Bellamy, JD
Executive Director, UNICEF and former Peace Corps Director

L. Martin Griffin, MD, MPH
Environmentalist and coastal protectionist

Glide Memorial Church
and the Reverend Cecil Williams

Mark Rothstein, JD
Director, Health Law & Policy Center
University of Houston

1999-2000
Pamela Arbuckle, DDS, MPP
Community Dental Health, Alameda County

Sir Richard Doll, MD, DSc, DM
World renowned epidemiologist and cancer researcher

Kaiser Permanente
Non-profit health care provider

Louis W. Sullivan, MD
President, Morehouse School of Medicine and former Secretary of Health and Human Services