UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES

ANNUAL REPORT

FY23

JUNE 1, 2022 to MAY 31, 2023

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AT-A-GLANCE

The Department of Public Health Sciences yields sustainable, positive changes in global health by providing outstanding research, teaching, and service programs to nurture the next generation of public health leaders who endeavor to discover, test, and disseminate solutions to health threats.

Master's	220
MD/MPH	225
Ph.D.	43
STUDENTS	**488**
Primary Faculty	39
Secondary, Voluntary, and Emeritus Faculty	77
FACULTY	**116**
Research Staff	80
Administration Staff	29
STAFF	**109**

Total Students, Faculty and Staff:

713

INSTITUTIONAL & NATIONAL RANKINGS

National Institutes of Health research grants play a pivotal role in driving forward scientific research, fostering a deeper comprehension of a wide variety of disease and critical public health concerns.

#1

- The Miller School of Medicine is the No. 1 most NIH-funded institution in Florida.

(Source: Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research)

#4

- Out of 28 departments within the Miller School of Medicine, the Department of Public Health Sciences is the 4th most NIH-funded.

(Source: Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research)

#5

- The Department of Public Health Sciences ranks No. 5 out of the top 10 highest NIH funded departments within the University of Miami.

(Source: UM's Office of Research Administration)

#8

- Among 46 public health departments within schools of medicine nationwide, DPHS ranks 8th in NIH funding.

(Source: Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research)

#21

- DPHS favorably ranks 21st out of 66 in best NIH-funded Schools of Public Health, despite being structured as a department in a school of medicine.

(Source: Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research)

#44

- The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine ranks number 44 in the U.S. News & World Report's 2023 Best Medical Schools: Research rankings.

(Source: U.S. News & World Report)

#49

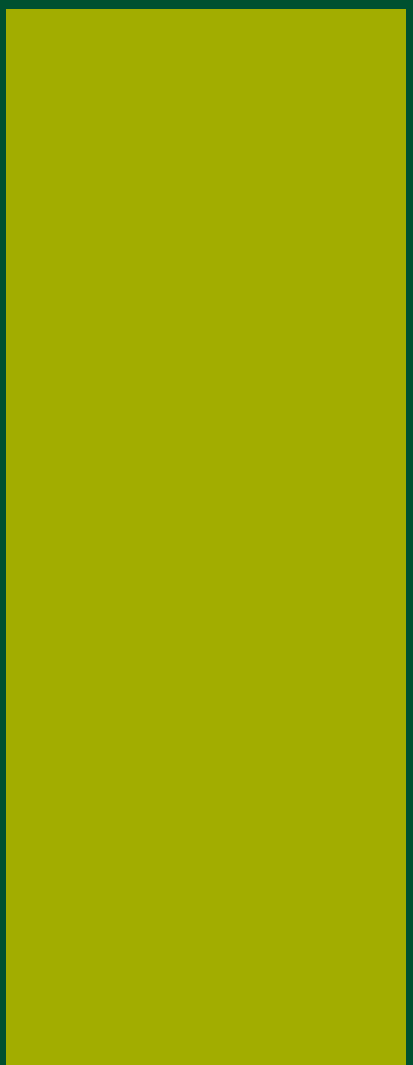
- The Department of Public Health Sciences ranks number 49 in the U.S. News & World Report's 2023 Best Ph.D. in Biostatistics Programs rankings.

(Source: U.S. News & World Report)

GRANTS + CONTRACTS PERFORMANCE

NEW AWARDED TOTAL
GRANTS & CONTRACTS

$22,222,143



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

8 Master's Programs

8

- MPH
- Online MPH (In Development) — Tentative Launch Date: Spring 2024
- MSPH
- 4 + 1 BSPH MPH/MSPH
- 4 + 1 BSHS MPH/MSPH
- MS in Biostatistics
- MS in Prevention Science and Community Health
- MS in Climate and Health

5 Joint Degrees

5

- MD/MPH
- MPH/MPA
- MPH/MAIA
- MPH/MALAS
- MPH/JD

3 Doctoral Programs

3

- Ph.D. in Biostatistics
- Ph.D. in Epidemiology
- Ph.D. in Prevention Science and Community Health

2 Graduate Certificates

2

- BEAM Certificate
- Public Health Graduate Certificate

AWARDS & HONORS

Our faculty, comprised of highly qualified, experienced, and diverse members, garner recognition at the state, national, and international levels for their impactful contributions to public health.

Dr. Mariano Kanamori-Nishimura received the 2022 National Award of Excellence in Mentorship from the National Hispanic Science Network.

Dr. Shari Messinger received the Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design (BERD) Special Interest Groups (SIG) Chairperson recognition for outstanding leadership.

Dr. Ariana Johnson was the recipient of the HIV & Implementation Science Fellowship 2023/2024.

Dr. Yan Guo received the International Conference on Intelligent Biology and Medicine Service Award.

Dr. James Shultz received the 2023 Miami-Dade County Healthcare Preparedness Coalition Honorary Award.

Drs. Elahe Nezami and Viviana Horigian were recipients of 2023 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Mini-Grant Award for The KIND Program: Kindle Inclusion Through Narratives of Diversity.

Our faculty engage in research initiatives spanning across various regions, contributing to a global landscape of knowledge and impact.

Dr. Taghrid Asfar received recognition from the American Academy of Health Behavior (AAHB). She also received the Outstanding Population Science Researcher of the Year award from the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Dr. Jose Szapocznik was inducted into the Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine of Florida (ASEMFL).

Dr. Alberto Caban-Martinez was named a Minority and Minority-Serving Institution Faculty Scholar (MMSIF) in Cancer Research Award, from the American Association of Cancer Research. He was also was Inducted Fellow, Collegium Ramazzini, International Academy of Occupational and Environmental Health, in Carpi, Italy.

Dr. Alberto Caban-Martinez received honorable mention for the NIOSH 2022 National Bullard-Sherwood Research to Practice (r2p) Award.

Dr. Patricia Moreno received the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research (ABMR) Early-Stage Investigator Award in March 2022.

LEADERSHIP NAMED

Leadership is at the helm. Our faculty bring expertise and innovation to the forefront, shaping and impacting the fields of public health.

- Dr. Scott Brown was appointed as Co-Chair of the Hispanic Community Health Study/ Study of Latinos (HCHS/SOL) Environment and Health Special Interest Group.
- Dr. Alberto Caban-Martinez was appointed as Co-Chair of the Administrative Services Committee. He was also appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to the CDC/NIOSH Board of Scientific Counselors for a 3-year term.
- Dr. Sunil Rao was named Emeritus faculty of the Department of Public Health Sciences.
- Dr. Patricia Moreno was named Chair of Diversity Council of American Psychological Association (APA) Society for Health Psychology.
- Dr. Eric Brown was appointed as Board Member and International Liaison, Society for Prevention Research (SPR), and Co-Chair, SPR Task Force on Standards of Knowledge in Prevention Science.
- Dr. Kathryn McCollister was appointed as Co-Chair of the Planning Committee for the Addiction Health Services Research annual meeting.
- Dr. Sara St. George serves as Health Policy Ambassador for Society of Behavioral Medicine.

RESEARCH/ SCHOLARSHIP

The Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine stands as one of the most influential public health programs in the United States, renowned for its pioneering work in public health education, research, and real-world application.

375
Peer-Reviewed Publications

12
Book Chapters and Books

18
New Extramural Grants Awarded

59
Lectures Delivered

TOP 20 RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Faculty Peer-Reviewed Publications:

- Jose Szapocznik, The importance of accountability in tackling future pandemics, Lancet, April 2023, Impact Factor: 202.7.
- Alberto Caban-Martinez, Association of mRNA vaccination with clinical and virologic features of COVID-19 among U.S. essential and frontline workers, JAMA, October 2022, Impact Factor: 157.3.
- Jose Szapocznik, An effective pandemic treaty requires accountability, Lancet Public Health, July 2022, Impact Factor: 72.4.
- Jose Szapocznik, Funding pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response through partnership models, Lancet Public Health, December 2022, Impact Factor: 72.4.
- Felicia Knaul, A multinational delphi consensus to end the COVID-19 public health threat, Nature, November 2022, Impact Factor: 72.4.
- Felicia Knaul, Serious health-related suffering in Latin America: A secondary analysis, Lancet Oncology, July 2022, Impact Factor: 54.4.
- James Shultz, Climate-driven Atlantic hurricanes create complex challenges for cancer care, Lancet Oncology, December 2022, Impact Factor: 54.4.
- Tulay Koru-Sengul and Patricia Moreno, Symptoms and needs monitoring in diverse ambulatory oncology patients: usage characteristics and impact on emergency room visits and hospitalization, Journal of Clinical Oncology, October 2022, Impact Factor: 50.7.
- Alberto Caban-Martinez, Carcinogenicity of occupational exposure as a firefighter, Lancet Oncology, August 2022, Impact Factor: 41.3.
- Xi Chen, Clinical proteomic tumor analysis C. Histopathologic and proteogenomic heterogeneity reveals features of clear cell renal cell carcinoma aggressiveness, Cancer Cell, January 2023, Impact Factor: 38.5.
- Yuguang Ban, Cell-autonomous Cxcl1 sustains tolerogenic circuitries and stromal inflammation via neutrophil-derived TNF in pancreatic cancer, Cancer Discov, June 2022, Impact Factor: 41.3.
- Xi Steven Chen, Histopathologic and proteogenomic heterogeneity reveals features of clear cell renal cell carcinoma aggressiveness, Cancer Cell, December 2022, Impact Factor: 38.5.
- Yuguang Ban, Cell-Autonomous Cxcl1 Sustains Tolerogenic Circuitries and Stromal Inflammation via Neutrophil-Derived TNF in Pancreatic Cancer, Cancer Discovery, February 2023, Impact Factor: 38.2
- Yuguang Ban, combined MEK and STAT3 inhibition uncovers stromal plasticity by enriching for cancer-associated fibroblasts with mesenchymal stem cell-like features to overcome immunotherapy resistance in pancreatic cancer, Gastroenterology, August 2022, Impact Factor: 33.8.
- Patricia Moreno, Stress management interventions to facilitate psychological and physiological adaptation and optimal health outcomes in cancer patients and survivors, Annual Review of Psychology, January 2023, Impact Factor: 27.7.

- David Lee, Evolving science on cardiovascular disease among Hispanic/Latino adults, JACC, April 2023, Impact Factor: 27.2.
- Tulay Koru-Sengul, Toxicity and outcomes in octo- and nonagenarians with AML treated with venetoclax and hypomethylating agent therapy, Blood, November 2022, Impact Factor: 25.4.
- Jennifer Hu, Evidence of novel susceptibility variants for prostate cancer and a multiancestry polygenic risk score associated with aggressive disease in men of African ancestry, European Urology, February 2023, Impact Factor: 24.3.
- Daniel Diaz, High-dimensional mode hunting using pettiest components analysis, IEEE, April 2023, Impact Factor: 24.3.
- Hemant Ishwaran, Cancer cells resistant to immune checkpoint blockade acquire interferon-associatedepigenetic memory to sustain T cell dysfunction, Nature Cancer, January 2023, Impact Factor: 23.1.
- Alberto Caban-Martinez, Parental intentions and P\ perceptions toward COVID-19 vaccination among children aged 4 months to 4 years - PROTECT cohort, four states, July 2021-May 2022, MMWR Morb Mortal WklyRep, September 2022, Impact Factor: 23.0.
- Alberto Caban-Martinez, Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 infection history and antibody response to 3 coronavirus disease 2019 messenger RNA vaccine doses, Clinical Infectious Diseases, December 2022, Impact Factor: 20.9.

NEW GRANTS AWARDED

Biostatistics:

- Sunil Rao, AWD-007904: Modernizing Mixed model prediction, Project Start Date: 09/01/2022, $491,391.
- Lily Wang, AWD-008159: New computational tools for understanding and predicting AD via age-associated DNA methylation changes, Project Start Date: 09/15/2022, $2,020,719.
- Lily Wang, AWD-Neuro TSA-01: Sex-Specific DNA Methylation Signatures of Cognitive Resilience, Project Start Date: 01/03/2023, $75,000.
- Ishwaran Hemant, AWD-008787: Real time risk prognostication via scalable hazard trees and forests, Project Start Date: 04/01/2023, $2,332,568.

Environment and Public Health:

- Alberto Caban-Martinez, AWD-008493: Do volunteer firefighters implement cancer prevention guidelines? Understanding and filling the gaps [Graber FEMA FY21], Project Start Date: 09/22/2022, $127,655.21.

Epidemiology and Population Health Sciences:

- James Shultz, AWD-007827: Resilience powerpoint, Project Start Date: 04/01/2022, $29,000.
- Jennifer Hu, AWD-007996: Impact of precision intervention on reducing breast cancer disparities, Project Start Date: 07/01/2022, $100,000.
- Taghrid Asfar, AWD-008726: Expanding the role of the safety manager to implement a workplace smoking cessation program in the construction sector, Project Start Date: 04/01/2023, $1,423,500.
- Jennifer Hu, Impacts of medical marijuana use on inflammasome activation and breast cancer clinical outcomes, Project Start Date: 07/01/2023, $130,000.
- Jennifer Hu, AWD-009298: Assessing benefits and harms of medical cannabis and cannabinoid use in breast cancer patients during and after treatments, Project Start Date: 09/20/2023, $3,264,625.72.

Health Services Research and Policy:

- Elizabeth Alonso, AWD-008380: NIDA CTN-0109: Randomized, placebo-controlled trial of extended-release naltrexone and monthly extended-release buprenorphine for cocaine use disorder (CURB-2), Project Start Date: 03/01/2022, $113,284.54.
- Jose Szapocznik, AWD-008106: reSET for the treatment of stimulant use in HIV clinics: care optimization supporting treatment adherence (COSTA), Project Start Date: 09/01/2022, $4,979,853.
- Tyler Bartholomew and Kathryn McCollister, AWD-008386: HEAL Data2Action modeling and economic resource center, Project Start Date: 09/01/2022, $1,673,441.65.
- Jose Szapocznik, AWD-005736: principles for global public health convention, Project Start Date: 01/01/2023, $562,167.60.

Prevention Science and Community Health:

- Patricia Moreno, Patient activation and palliative care among hispanics/latinos with metastatic cancer, Project Start Date: 09/01/2021, $75,000.
- Adam Carrico, AWD-008071: MyTPill: A novel strategy to monitor antiretroviral adherence among HIV+ prescription opioid users, Project Start Date: 01/13/2022, $452,336.
- Adam Carrico, AWD-008339: Optimizing HIV prevention for highly vulnerable methamphetamine using sexual minority men, Project Start Date: 04/08/2022, $241,173.06.
- Mariano Kanamori-Nishimura, AWD-007916: FINISHING HIV: An EHE model for latinos integrating one-stop-shop PrEP services, a social network support program and a national pharmacy chain, Project Start Date: 06/23/2022, $3,546,308.
- Mariano Kanamori-Nishimura, AWD-008171: LatiNET, a multilevel social network model to examine and address SARS-CoV-2 misinformation in low-income latinx communities, Project Start Date: 09/20/2022, $3,847,735.
- Mariano Kanamori-Nishimura, AWD-009032: ÚNETE: combining friendship support networks and targeted messaging from celebrity influencers to reduce latinx substance use disparities has completed the first phase of peer review., Project Start Date: 08/01/2023, $3,938,406.

Just-in-Time (JIT) Status:

- John Beier, CDC Southeastern Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases: Gateway Program, Project Start Date: 07/01/2022, $548,785.53.
- Lily Wang, New computational tools for understanding and predicting AD via age-associated DNA methylation changes, Project Start Date: 07/01/2022, $3,577,350.
- Raymond Balise, Real time relapse risk scoring for opioid use disorder (OUD) from clinical trial datasets, Project Start Date: 09/01/2022, $814,879.
- Naresh Kumar, Health effects of hurricane Ian, Project Start Date: 01/01/2023, $434,683.
- Taghrid Asfar, Enhancing smoking cessation intervention outcomes for spanish-speaking women, Project Start Date: 03/01/2023, $75,603.
- Adam Carrico, Developing a U.S. national cohort to improve virologic suppression among stimulant-using men living with HIV (LITE-VS), Project Start Date: 03/01/2023, $228,000.
- Adam Carrico, Mitigating stigma and shame as barriers to viral suppression among MSM with substance use disorders, Project Start Date: 04/01/2023, $1,378,623.
- Lily Wang, New DNA methylation biomarkers for predicting AD and cognitive decline, Project Start Date: 12/01/2023, $3,840,328.
- Mariano Kanamori-Nishimura, CERCA DE TI: leveraging an Eetablished academic and CVS health® partnership to advance biomedical HIV prevention with a new pharmacy-based PrEP program, Project Start Date: 07/01/2023, $451,357.
- Patricia Moreno, Cultural attunement and evaluation of an eHealthfFertility preservation decision aid for young adults with cancer: fertilit-e, Project Start Date: 01/01/2024, $96,111.60.

WELCOME FACULTY

Dr. Farren Briggs
Associate Professor
Epidemiology and Population Health Sciences

Dr. Michele Ceccarelli
Research Professor
Biostatistics

Dr. Yan Guo
Professor
Biostatistics

Dr. Limin Jiang
Research Assistant Professor
Biostatistics

Dr. Ariana Lea Johnson
Assistant Professor
Prevention Science and Community Health

Dr. Wendy Lichtenthal
Associate Professor
Prevention Science and Community Health

Dr. Mariya Petrova
Research Assistant Professor
Health Services Research and Policy

Dr. Leonardo Tamariz
Professor of Clinical
Health Services Research and Policy

WELCOME STAFF

Michelle Cabrera
Manager of Administrative Operations

Tanvi Hathiramani
Sr. Program Coordinator
Admissions and Recruitment

Denatra Lewis
Manager of Sponsored Programs
Pre-award

Alicia Pearce
Manager of Sponsored Programs
Post-award

John P. Soto
Web Developer

Shamaah Walls
Sr. Manager of Sponsored Programs
Post-award

TEACHING

ENROLLMENT

The Department of Public Health Sciences exceeded the enrollment target for FY23 admissions by 4%. The combined target for Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 was 72 MPH, and MSPH students, and 75 students were brought in. The slight increase in enrollment can be attributed to several factors, including an increased interest in public health due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social justice issues, a robust scholarship program to make our graduate degrees more affordable for all students, coupled with innovative ways to recruit students virtually. Retention outreach efforts were also strengthened.

TEACHING MODALITY

In FY23, we continued to provide some flexibility during Spring 2022 to accommodate students while they were transitioning from the COVID-19 pandemic remote access to residential classes. During Fall 2022 and Spring 2023, our courses were delivered primarily in person as a residential program while offering some courses online (three established online/asynchronous courses, plus some special requested courses offered online-synchronous). In February 2023, the University fully approved creating an online version of the existing MPH program. The first cohort is planned to begin in Fall 2024. The Online MPH degree represents an excellent opportunity within our institution to increase our capacity to train future public health leaders significantly.

During FY23, we received approval for a new 4+1 set of programs with the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. The new programs are modeled after the existing 4+1 program with the Bachelor of Science in Public Health. The new 4+1 programs are 1) Bachelor of Science in Health Science + MPH and 2) Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences + MSPH, where approved by the University Faculty Council. Our first student in BSHS/MPH4+1 will start in Fall 2023.

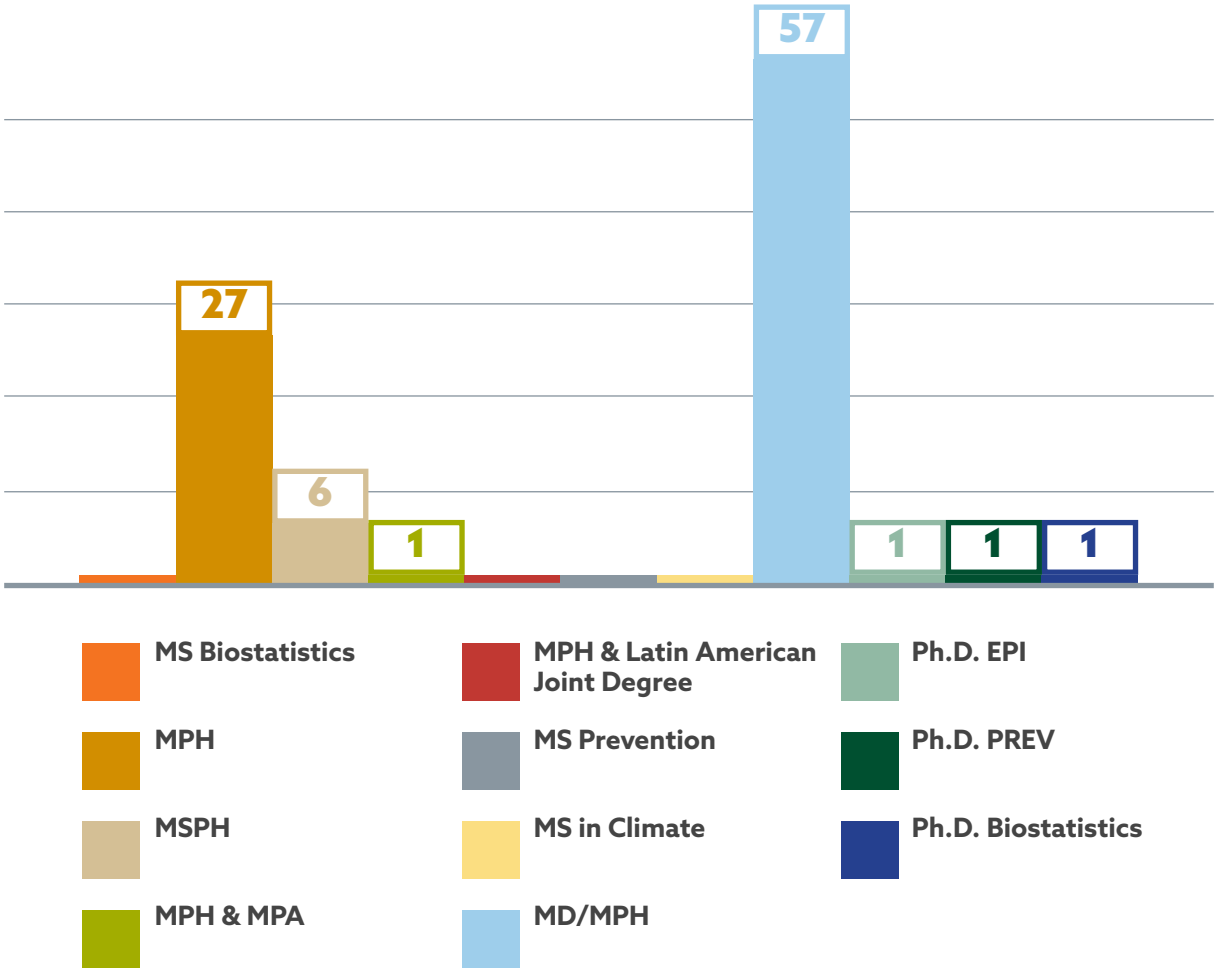
Name:
Teacher: Ms. Williams
Tuesday
UHealth
Jackson

GRADUATION

The mission of the Graduate Programs in Public Health is to develop leaders who can generate and translate knowledge into policy and practice to promote health and prevent disease in human populations.

STUDENT GRADUATION

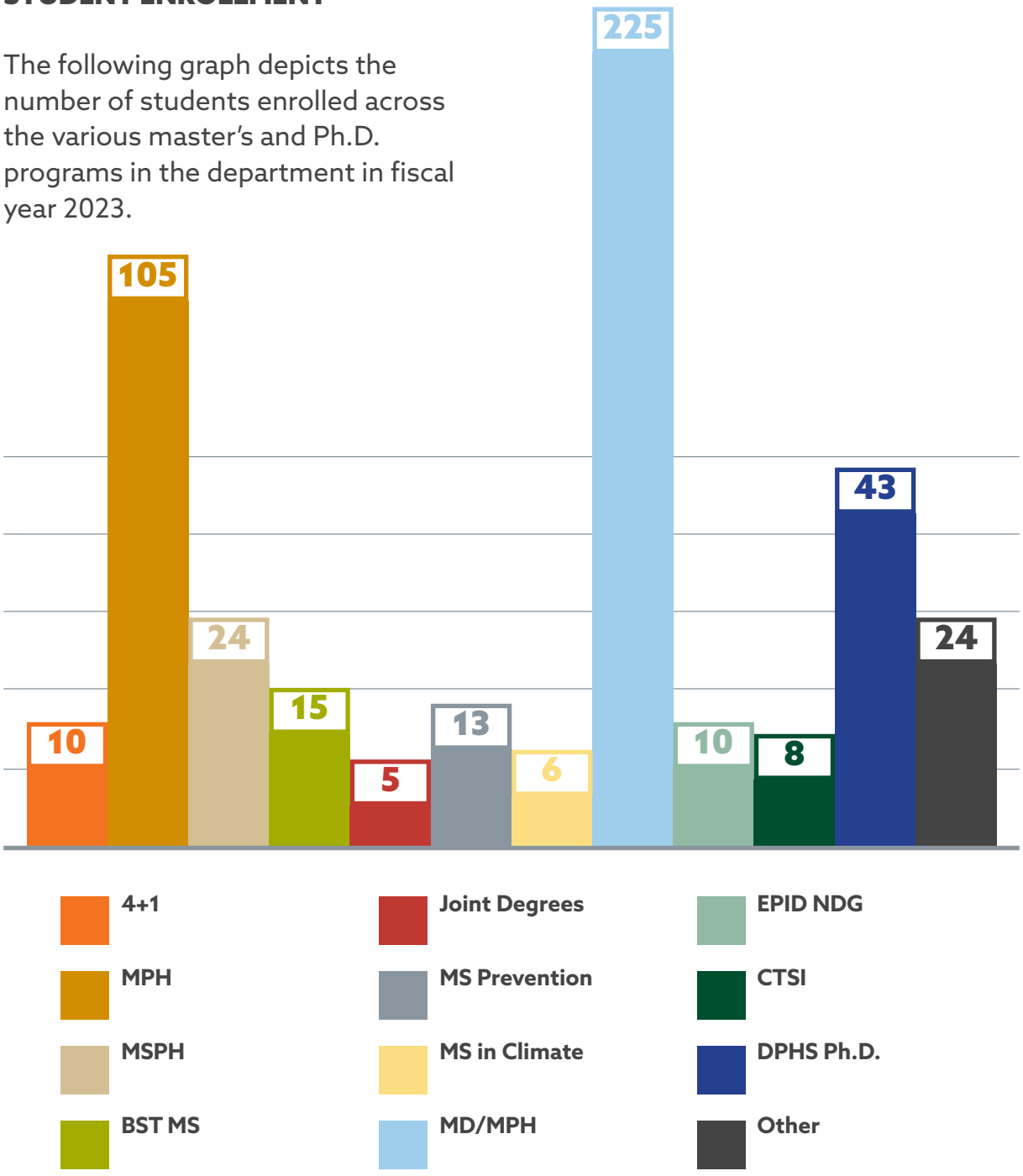
The following graph depicts the number of students that have graduated across the various master's and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Public Health Sciences in fiscal year 2023.



ENROLLMENT

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

The following graph depicts the number of students enrolled across the various master's and Ph.D. programs in the department in fiscal year 2023.



This scholarship is not just an individual accomplishment; it's a family achievement.

— Nathalia Torres
Scholarship Recipient

DPHS RESILIENCY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Department of Public Health Sciences launched its Resiliency Scholarship Program in 2021, aimed at empowering resilient MPH and MSPH students. This initiative provides crucial support for their pursuit of graduate studies, enabling them to effectively tackle community or global public health challenges.

As a second-year Master of Public Health student, Nathalia Torres stands as the second recipient of the Department of Public Health Sciences Resiliency Scholarship, in recognition of her dedication and resilience in the field of public health.

Receiving the scholarship holds a deep personal significance for Nathalia. As the daughter of immigrant parents, her achievements are a testament to their hard work and sacrifice.

"My path to graduate school was marked by uncertainty, but with the support of the department, I was able to navigate the application process for the Resiliency Scholarship and found my way to the Department of Public Health Sciences family," said Nathalia Torres.

Nathalia is starting an internship with the Florida Department of Health. She is considering pursuing a Doctorate in Public Health or Health Administration after graduation.

ACCREDITATION

The Department of Public Health Sciences has achieved a comprehensive 7-year accreditation term from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), marking its successful completion of the second year in the accreditation process. CEPH serves as the governing body responsible for accrediting schools and programs in the field of public health.

The University of Miami Graduate Programs in Public Health has been accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) since 1982.

The Graduate Programs participated in the most recent CEPH site visit in October 2021 and was awarded reaccreditation in March 2022 for a full 7-year term that extends through the summer of 2029.

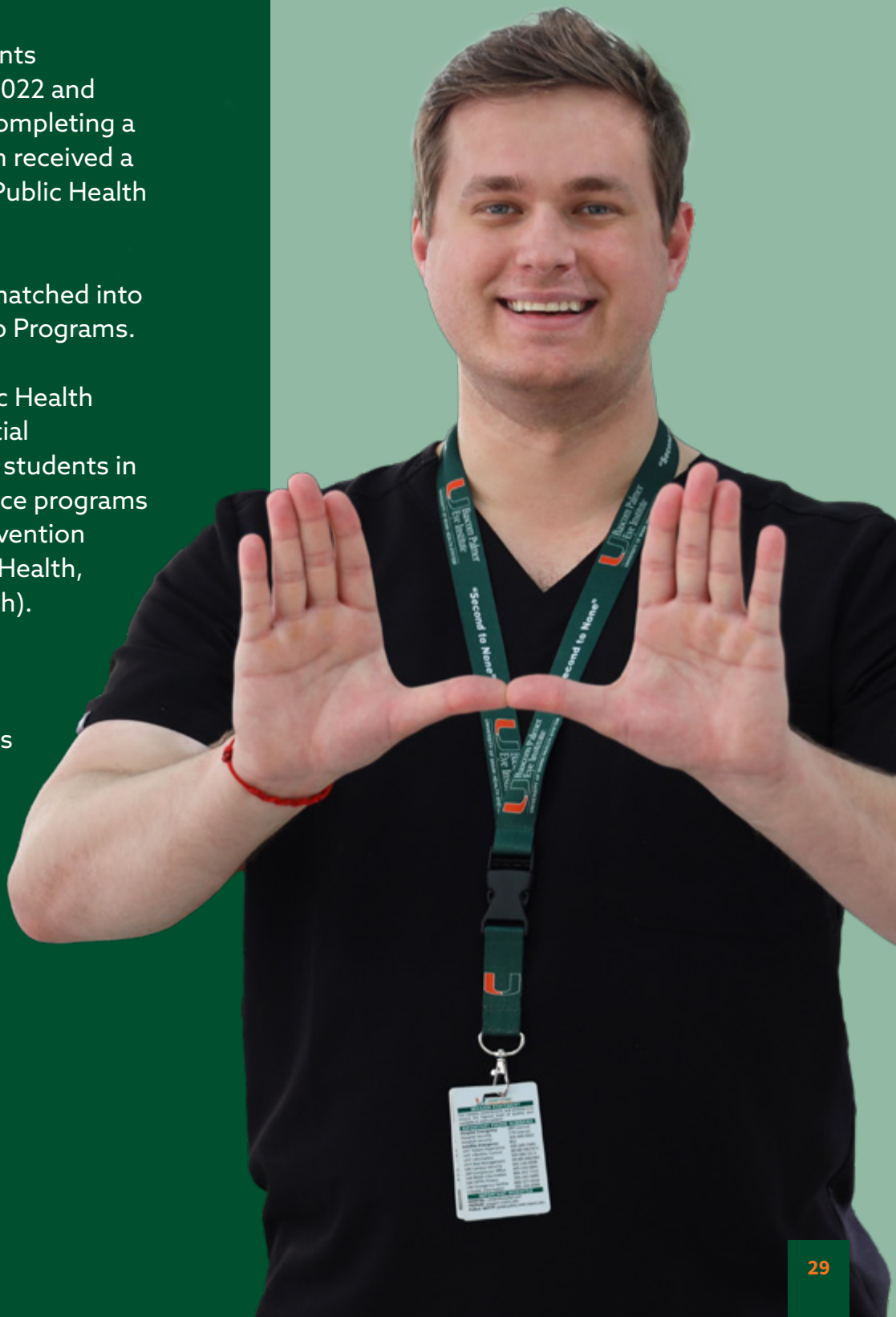
SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

All MPH and MSPH students matriculating in the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 semesters completing a 45-credit degree program received a $20,000 Department of Public Health tuition award.

100% of students were matched into Residency and Fellowship Programs.

The Department of Public Health Sciences guaranteed partial scholarships to accepted students in the three Master of Science programs (MS Biostatistics, MS Prevention Science and Community Health, and MS Climate and Heath).

The department also offered public health graduate students various opportunities to gain professional experience while working as a Graduate Assistant, Teaching Assistant, and Research Assistant.



DOCTORAL FUNDING

All doctoral students in Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Prevention Science and Community Health receive comprehensive support from a variety of sources.

Full-time Ph.D. students are provided with the following benefits:

- **Full tuition support for the length of the Ph.D. program**
- **Annual Stipend of $41,000, paid on a monthly basis**
- **Graduate Student Health Insurance**

Doctoral students also have access to research grants, fellowships, conferences, and workshops, which serve to promote innovation, collaboration, and networking within their respective fields.

CPH EXAM

The Department of Public Health Sciences extended a distinctive opportunity to both current students and alumni, enabling them to attain certification in the field of public health. DPHS provided sponsorship vouchers, allowing eligible current students and alumni to enroll for the CPH Exam in Spring 2023. 100% of graduating students who took the CPH exam passed.

"The test prep course and support from DPHS gave me confidence – that I would pass the CPH exam, but also (more importantly) that I can put my years of public health education to good use and make a positive impact in the world. Without the scholarship, I might not have chosen to pursue CPH certification. Now I am proud to be certified in public health, to be part of this global community of professionals and have validation of my dedication and commitment to the field.

— Vaughn Edelson, MPA, MPH
CPH Exam Voucher Recipient

CPH Certified in Public Health
by National Board of Public Health Examiners

publichealth.med.miami.edu
graduatestudies.publichealth.med.miami.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

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Designed by John P. Soto