



SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH



DELTA OMEGA  
GAMMA ZETA CHAPTER  
*Induction Ceremony*  
&  
*Awards Reception*

**May 6, 2022**  
School of Public Health  
Online Recognition

# VIRTUAL INDUCTION CEREMONY & AWARDS RECEPTION

Delta Omega is the honorary society in public health. The Gamma Zeta chapter of Delta Omega was established at the University of Maryland School of Public Health in 2011 to honor our distinguished students, alumni, faculty and honorary members. The mission of the society is to encourage and recognize excellence in practice, research, education and academic achievement in the field of public health.

## WELCOME

Boris D. Lushniak, MD, MPH, *Dean and Professor*  
Brit Saksvig, PhD, *Gamma Zeta Chapter President*

## INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Brit Saksvig, PhD

## PRESENTATION OF STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER AWARDS

Dina Borzekowski, PhD, *Director of Research Posters*

## PRESENTATION OF COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD

Dina Borzekowski, PhD

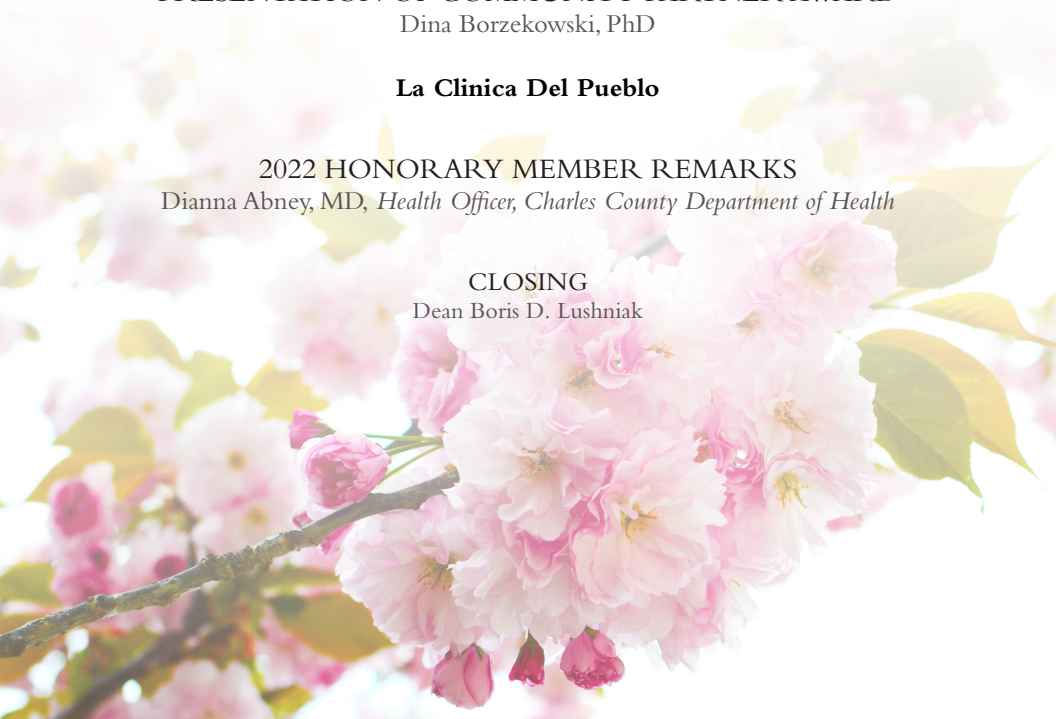
## **La Clinica Del Pueblo**

## 2022 HONORARY MEMBER REMARKS

Dianna Abney, MD, *Health Officer, Charles County Department of Health*

## CLOSING

Dean Boris D. Lushniak



*Delta Omega Honorary Society*  
**GAMMA ZETA CHAPTER**  
**INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

**STUDENTS**

**Suhana Chattopadhyay**, PhD '22 (MIAEH)

**Kathryn Costello**, MPH '22 (KNES)

**Amara Channel Doig**, PhD '22 (BCH)

**Allison Gamblin** '22 (FMSC)

**Melissa Garcia**, MPH '22 (EPIB)

**Lindsay Mallick**, PhD '24 (FMSC)

**Heidi Mattick**, MPH '22 (KNES)

**Kayley Milor** '22 (KNES)

**Bethany Ogbenna**, PhD '24 (EPIB)

**Clarie Percil**, MPH '22 (HPM)

**Venchele Saint Dic**, MPH '22 (HPM)

**John Salerno**, PhD '22 (BCH)

**Deborah Shelef**, PhD '23 (FMSC)

**Izidora Skračić**, PhD '22 (FMSC)

**Darya Soltani**, MPH '22 (BCH)

**Merianne Spencer**, PhD '24 (HPM)

**Lakeshia Watson**, PhD '22 (EPIB)

**FACULTY**

**Jessica Fish**, PhD (FMSC)

**Ali Hurtado**, PhD (FMSC)

**Roderick King**, MD, MPH (HPM)

**Evelyn King-Marshall**, PhD (BCH)

**ALUMNI**

**Laura Koo**, PhD '21 (BCH)

**Dyllis Minang**, PhD '20 (HPM)

*Delta Omega Honorary Society*

**GAMMA ZETA CHAPTER**

**INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

**HONORAY MEMBER**

**Dianna Abney, MD**

Health Officer, Charles County Department of Health

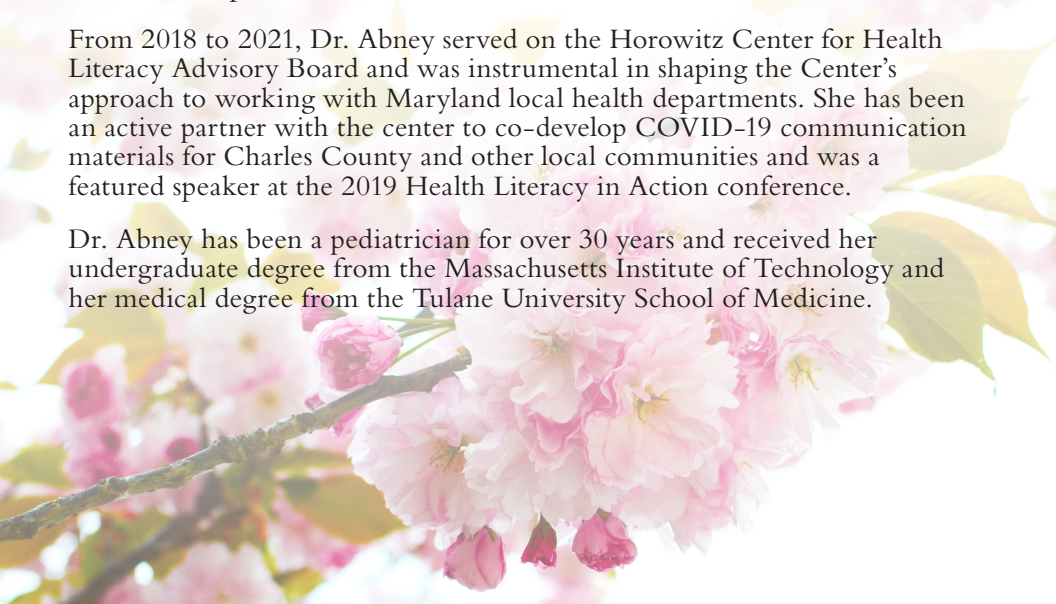
Dr. Dianna E. Abney has recently returned as the health officer for the Charles County Department of Health. Prior to her role as the health officer, she was the medical director of the county's Child Abuse and Neglect program.

Under her leadership the Charles County Department of Health offers a wide range of public health services, and decreased disparities by increasing access to dental, behavioral health and primary care services. One of her proudest accomplishments was bringing primary care back to Nanjemoy by opening a family medicine clinic in the community center. That clinic is now operated by Health Partners Inc. Dr. Abney represents the health officers on the Child Environmental Health and Protection Council and the Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations, which she chairs. She was the past chair of the Healthcare Disparities Committee of MedChi, the Maryland Medical Society.

Dr. Abney participates in practice-based research with the Academy of Pediatrics. Her research interests include prevention of childhood obesity, treatment and prevention of child abuse, immunizations, and decreasing healthcare disparities.

From 2018 to 2021, Dr. Abney served on the Horowitz Center for Health Literacy Advisory Board and was instrumental in shaping the Center's approach to working with Maryland local health departments. She has been an active partner with the center to co-develop COVID-19 communication materials for Charles County and other local communities and was a featured speaker at the 2019 Health Literacy in Action conference.

Dr. Abney has been a pediatrician for over 30 years and received her undergraduate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her medical degree from the Tulane University School of Medicine.



*Delta Omega Gamma Zeta Chapter*

2022 NATIONAL DELTA OMEGA  
STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER  
COMPETITION NOMINEES

**Suhana Chattopadhyay** (PhD '22, Maryland Institute for Environmental Health)  
Distinct Oral Bacterial Communities Observed Between Tobacco Users and Non-  
users: A Longitudinal Oral Microbiome Study  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amy R. Sapkota

**Caitlin Flouton** (PhD '25, Epidemiology and Biostatistics)  
The Associations of Vaccination Speed with Incidence of COVID-19 and Social  
Vulnerability: An Ecologic Study in Maryland  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Hongjie Liu

**Zofia Cieslak** '22 (Kinesiology)  
Loneliness and Social Isolation During the COVID-19 Initial Lockdown Are  
Associated With Greater Symptoms of Anxiety  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. J. Carson Smith



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# SPH STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER COMPETITION AWARDEES

## **BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH**

### **MASTER'S STUDENT WINNER**

**Darya Soltani, MPH '22**

Strengthening Mental Health Knowledge and Skills in Rural Honduras  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dina Borzekowski

### **DOCTORAL STUDENT WINNER**

**David Hawthorne, PhD '23**

Sexual Risk Behavior and Lifetime HIV Testing: The Role of Adverse  
Childhood Experiences  
Faculty Mentors: Drs. Mona Mittal, Typhanye Dyer and Rodman Turpin

## **EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIostatISTICS**

### **MASTER'S STUDENT WINNER**

**Anne Mamish, MPH '22**

COVID-19 Vaccination Education Through Social Media  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jinhee Kim

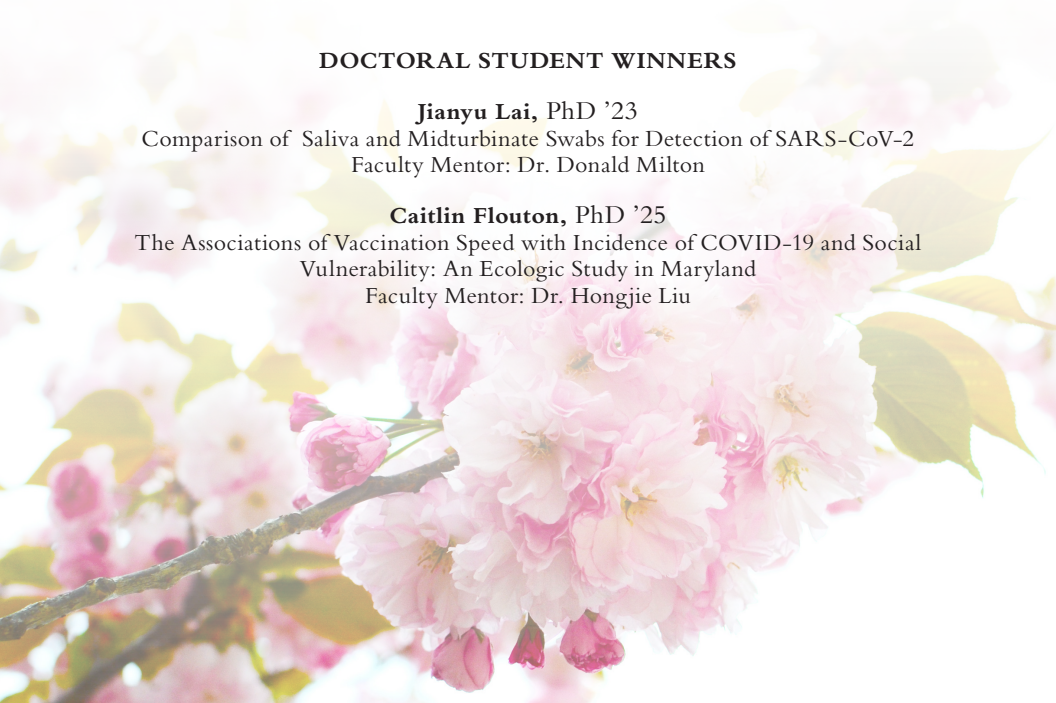
### **DOCTORAL STUDENT WINNERS**

**Jianyu Lai, PhD '23**

Comparison of Saliva and Midturbinate Swabs for Detection of SARS-CoV-2  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Donald Milton

**Caitlin Flouton, PhD '25**

The Associations of Vaccination Speed with Incidence of COVID-19 and Social  
Vulnerability: An Ecologic Study in Maryland  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Hongjie Liu



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# SPH STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER COMPETITION AWARDEES

## **FAMILY SCIENCE**

### **DOCTORAL STUDENT WINNERS**

**Izidora Skračić**, PhD '22

Changes in Contraceptive Intent After a Title X Provider Visit  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Julia R. Steinberg

**Sahra Ibrahim**, PhD '23

Spousal Violence and Contraceptive Use Among Married  
Afghan Women in a Nationally Representative Sample  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Julia R. Steinberg

**Krystle McConnell**, PhD '20

Early Outcomes from an Evaluation of a School-based Teen  
Pregnancy Prevention Program for Latino Youth  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amy Lewin

## **HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT**

### **DOCTORAL STUDENT WINNERS**

**Elsie A. Essien**, PhD '24

Health Equity as a New Normal: Centering Community Voices in Pandemic Recovery  
Efforts in Prince George's County, Maryland  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Thomas

**Jun Chu**, PhD '22

Effects of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act - New Evidence  
from National Health Interview Survey  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michel Boudreaux

*Delta Omega Gamma Zeta Chapter*

# SPH STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER COMPETITION AWARDEES

## **KINESIOLOGY**

### **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT WINNER**

**Zofia Cieslak '22**

Loneliness and Social Isolation During the COVID-19 Initial Lockdown Are Associated With Greater Symptoms of Anxiety  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. J. Carson Smith

### **DOCTORAL STUDENT WINNERS**

**Gabriel Pena, PhD '23**

Monocyte Polarization as a Biomarker of Cardiorespiratory and Cognitive Health in Active Older Adults: A Pilot Study  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. J. Carson Smith

**James Heilman, PhD '23**

Effects of Oxidative Stress Versus Cytokine-dependent Inflammation on the Release of Endothelial Microparticles  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Steven J. Prior

**Yash Kommula, PhD '25**

Acute Aerobic Exercise and Emotional Processing in Active Older Adults  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. J. Carson Smith

## **MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

### **MASTER'S STUDENT WINNER**

**Cameron Smith, MPH '23**

Baltimore City Irrigation Water Quality: Current Use and Needs From Baltimore City Farmers and Gardeners  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rachel Rosenberg Goldstein

### **DOCTORAL STUDENT WINNER**

**Suhana Chattopadhyay, PhD '22**

Distinct Oral Bacterial Communities Observed Between Tobacco Users and Non-Users: A Longitudinal Oral Microbiome Study  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amy R. Sapkota



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# SPH STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER COMPETITION AWARDEES

## **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH POSTER WINNERS**

### **FIRST PLACE**

**Lisa Anoruo** '22 (Public Health Science)

Integrating Culturally-based Approaches into Sexual and Reproductive Health Programs for  
Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Faculty Mentors: Charlene Kuo and Dr. Liz Aparicio

### **SECOND PLACE**

**Kimberly Tan** '22 (Public Health Science) Accelerated BS/MPH Student, MPH '23  
Mitigating Substance Use Disorder (SUD) in UMD Students through Education,  
Awareness, and Harm Reduction Approaches

Faculty Mentor: Courtney Butler

### **THIRD PLACE**

**Nikki Emamian** '23 (Biology and Public Health Science)

Mindfulness for Families Managing Chronic Disease

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Robin Puett



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# SPH STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER COMPETITION AWARDEES

## **INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGES AWARD**

### **FIRST PLACE**

**Maya Hatoum '22** (Public Health Science)

iRAM, an AI-based Screening Tool That Redefines the BMI Scale to Include Black and Latino Patients in Disease Risk Assessments

### **SECOND PLACE**

**Weijun Yu** (PhD '23, Epidemiology and Biostatistics)

Leveraging Social Networks and Spatial Analysis to Uncover Asymptomatic COVID-19 Cases

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Quynh Nguyen

### **THIRD PLACE**

**Emily Healey** (PhD '25, Maryland Institute for Environmental Health)

Evaluating Indicator Bacteria and Heavy Metal Presence and Concentration in Irrigation Water on Urban Farms in Baltimore City, MD

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rachel Rosenberg Goldstein

### **HONORABLE MENTIONS**

**Jianyu Lai** (PhD '23, Epidemiology and Biostatistics)

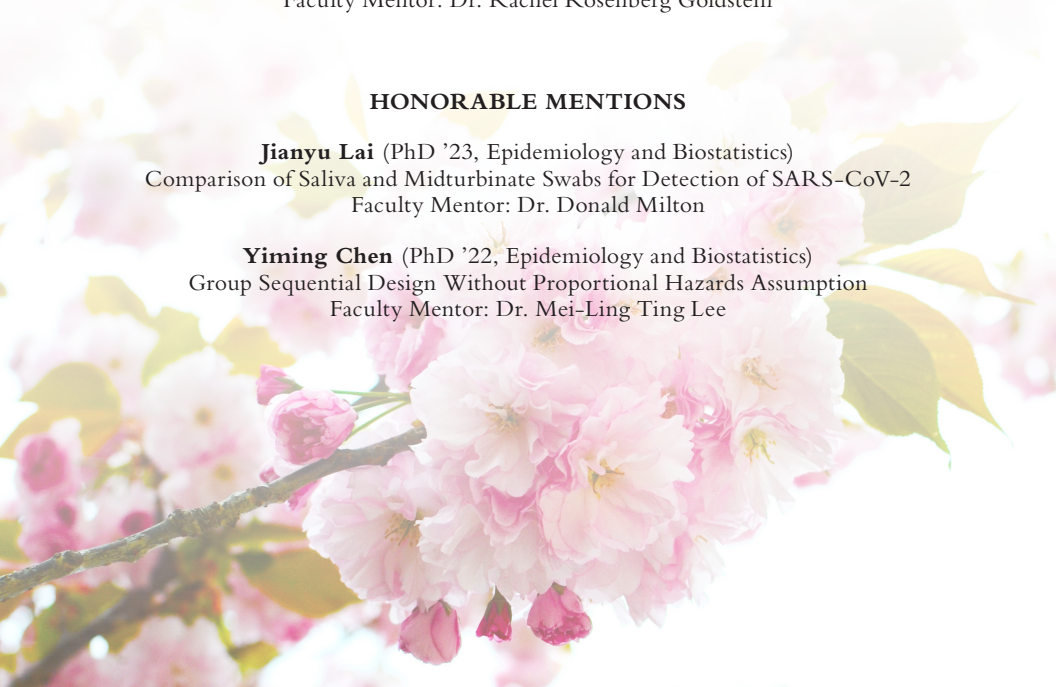
Comparison of Saliva and Midturbinate Swabs for Detection of SARS-CoV-2

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Donald Milton

**Yiming Chen** (PhD '22, Epidemiology and Biostatistics)

Group Sequential Design Without Proportional Hazards Assumption

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mei-Ling Ting Lee



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# SPH STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER COMPETITION AWARDEES

## **RESEARCH ON HEALTH DISPARITIES AWARD IN MEMORY OF MITCHELL STEWART**

### **FIRST PLACE**

**Katelyn Reynolds** '23 (Biology)

Multilevel Factors Influencing the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Female Youth  
Experiencing Homelessness  
Faculty Mentor: Elizabeth Aparicio

### **SECOND PLACE**

**Isha Chawla** (PhD '24 Family Science)

Race-based Traumatic Stress Symptoms and Self-rated Health/Life Satisfaction Among the  
People of Color: The Role of Financial Difficulties  
During COVID -19  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jinhee Kim

### **THIRD PLACE**

**Kimberly Tan** '22 (Public Health Science) Accelerated BS/MPH Student, MPH '23  
Mitigating Substance Use Disorder (SUD) in UMD Students through Education,  
Awareness, and Harm Reduction Approaches  
Faculty Mentor: Courtney Butler



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## 2022 COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD

The Delta Omega Gamma Zeta Chapter's Community Partner Award honors our community partners who demonstrate outstanding commitment and dedication and meritorious distinction to the field of public health.

### **La Clínica Del Pueblo**

La Clínica del Pueblo (LCDP) has been committed to improving the health of Latinx immigrants and low income families for more than three decades. As a non-profit, LCDP addresses the distinct health needs of the Latinx immigrant community in the Washington metropolitan area through comprehensive primary medical care with wrap-around services across the life spectrum, including mental health and substance use treatment, medical interpretation and language access advocacy, community health including health education and safe spaces and advocacy strategies to increase inclusion and health equity for Latinx immigrants. Created and inspired by social justice movements, LCDP is committed to reducing health inequities based on immigration status, language, gender identity, sexual orientation and race.





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