



Proposed 2024 Annual Meeting Program Emphasis

(Governing Councilors must select 1 choice)

1. THEME: Creating the Healthiest Nation in a Generation: Healthy Aging for All Ages

Summary: Public health practitioners must employ a multi-generational approach to develop policies, programs, and activities that recognizes diverse population aging and promote healthy aging across the lifespan

Healthy aging depends upon a host of social and environmental factors throughout the lifespan. Structural inequities in these factors lead to dramatically different outcomes in older age through health inequalities. We expect that by 2030, more than 20% of the U.S. population will be over the age of 65, up from 13% today, and by 2050, the number of individuals over the age of 65 will double from 2012 levels.¹ Increases in demand for complex care will continue to strain the health care system. Medicare alone is expected to be nearly 18% of federal spending by 2030² due to increases in chronic conditions and comorbidities³ as well as lack of funding for local communities to support aging in place and necessary intergenerational connections. Therefore, public health practitioners must employ a multi-generational approach to develop policies, programs, and activities that recognizes diverse population aging and promote healthy aging across the lifespan.⁴ Older age should be viewed not as the end of life but as an integral part of the human condition. A lifespan approach to public health and aging demands reliable assessment and early interventions to effect positive health outcomes and better social connections at the individual and population levels.

2. THEME: Creating the healthiest nation by optimizing the health of people and ecosystems

Summary: Achieving optimal health and well-being requires a One Health approach to facilitate multi-sectoral efforts to tackle risks and impacts to human, animal, plant, and environmental health

Our world has become increasingly connected and interdependent over time. As a result, there are increasing challenges that directly and indirectly affect the health of humans, animals, and our shared environment. Mobilization across multiple sectors, disciplines, and communities is essential to address these complex issues effectively and sustainably and must occur at local, national, regional, and global levels. One Health is a transdisciplinary approach that focuses on improving coordination, communication, collaboration, and capacity to promote the health and well-being of all species. Emerging infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, climate change, and food and water safety and security represent significant threats to health and ecosystems, and the One Health approach is crucial to comprehensive understanding and response to planetary health challenges. A 'One Health' meeting theme for the American Public Health Association would encourage the team-oriented collaborative

approaches needed to address complex health problems linked to environmental crises and promote a framework for the holistic understanding of factors impacting our health to guide strategies for prevention and resilience.

3. THEME: Reimagining Public Health: Science, Politics, and Public Health in The Next Decade

Summary: Public Health is inherently future-focused, looking towards prevention and promotion to enable populations to live longer, healthier lives. But recent political polarization, underfunding and distrust of scientific research threaten our ability to create the healthiest nation in a generation. The promise and effectiveness of public health is challenged by pseudoscience. Given this discord, what is the future of public health, and how do we rebuild trust in public health and science?