Dear colleagues and supporters,

_It’s been a year like no other in recent history._

We left last year’s APHA Annual Meeting with a spirit of hopefulness for our future and plans to get together again this October to share the best science and network with colleagues. But by February, we began to understand that this year would be like no other in more than 100 years.

Today, just a week away from our first virtual Annual Meeting, the U.S. has lost nearly 220,000 people to COVID-19 and confirmed more than 8 million cases, making up nearly a fifth of the global death toll and far outpacing the rest of the world. Millions of out-of-work Americans are facing hunger, eviction and loss of health care. Families are struggling under tremendous pressures, trying to manage jobs, child care and schooling, with inequities in educational opportunities growing wider by the minute. More than 1,200 front-line health workers have died, and states are still reporting shortages in personal protective equipment and testing supplies.

People and workers of color are bearing a disproportionate brunt of the pandemic’s health and economic hardship, with the virus exacerbating existing inequities in a cascade of domino effects, the consequences of which we won’t fully know for many years.

On the front line, many of you — who spent years preparing and training for a pandemic and had repeatedly warned of the consequences of chronically underfunding public health systems — are throwing everything you have at the novel coronavirus, only to be undercut by a chaotic, under-resourced and poorly led national response. In addition, there’s been an active campaign of science denialism from many elected leaders and astonishingly, some of our colleagues have experienced violent threats and abuse for simply giving people their best public health advice available. Public health measures like wearing face masks have become political issues, and social media platforms have turned into dangerous vehicles for misinformation.

It’s impossible to overstate the urgency of the moment, with deadly hotspots rolling across our communities and growing evidence that political appointees are hobbling public health institutions and muzzling the science that will put us on the path to recovery. Times feel grim, as they should — we have the world’s highest pandemic death toll and the loss of family, friends and loved ones should be collectively mourned. Indifference to the thousands dying from COVID-19 every week must not be normalized.

Much of what’s unfolded in the last eight months is due to a poorly managed emergency response to a significant novel pandemic. But some is the result of many years of decisions to slash public health budgets, cut safety nets and ignore warnings that growing inequities aren’t only unjust, they make us more vulnerable and less resilient as a nation. The pandemic has put a spotlight on public health like never before, and we must use this moment to build the sustainable and well-funded public health systems that all communities deserve.

COVID-19 certainly dominated APHA’s work during most of 2020, and like all of the Association’s work, science and equity guided our efforts.

Inundated with media requests and with misinformation rampant, we’re using our trusted voice and large social media following to amplify evidence-based information, stand with public health workers and shed light on the pandemic’s disproportionate impacts. At the federal level, we urged lawmakers to take quick action to protect people from the virus’ health and economic fallout, and testified on the need for science-driven reopening guidelines. On the practice side, we partnered with the National Academy of Medicine to host COVID-19 Conversations, a free webinar series on the latest science that had 80,000 registrants by August.

In addition to our COVID-19 work, APHA continues to be a leading voice on a range of other urgent public health issues, including racial equity, standing with the millions who marched for justice after the police killing of George Floyd and calling out racism as a public health crisis. We’ve also been at the forefront of resisting environmental health rollbacks, supporting gun violence prevention and...
promoting access to quality, affordable health care.

In the last fiscal year, APHA members and supporters sent more than 9,000 messages to Congress, and more than 11,000 news stories cited APHA leaders, members, events and publications. Hundreds of partners nationwide took part in this year’s National Public Health Week observance. Our social media platforms are reaching more than 1 million followers, and the American Journal of Public Health continues to be among the most highly cited peer-reviewed journals in the country. The 2019 APHA Annual Meeting and Expo welcomed more than 12,000 attendees to Philadelphia last November.

Near the end of the 2020 fiscal year, APHA’s Center for Public Health Policy kicked off its Advancing Racial Equity webinar series; its first episode, “Racism: The Ultimate Underlying Condition,” had nearly 9,000 live participants. APHA staff have also been busy tracking and commenting on regulatory threats to public health, and APHA has continued its work on another urgent, but slow-moving public health disaster — climate change. I hope you’ll take a moment to read about these accomplishments and more in the following pages.

Right now, as I write this letter, the future feels uncertain and overwhelming for many of us. But public health has been here before — and in fact, public health is the only path forward to safely opening up our society and rebuilding our economy. The American people know it, too, with 73% of voters in a July poll saying public health departments play an important role in keeping people healthy, up from 56% in 2018. With the people’s support and an unwavering commitment to following the science, we can get to the other side of this pandemic ready to rebuild our public health system and achieve equity for all. We here at APHA stand with you.

Thank you for lending your voice to ours in this unprecedented time — we couldn’t do it without your guidance and support. Now, more than ever, we must move forward together.

In solidarity and good health,

Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Executive Director

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JULY 2019
APHA and the American Lung Association file suit against EPA for repeal of the Clean Power Plan, the first federal policy to reduce carbon pollution from power plants.

The American Journal of Public Health boosts its impact and influence, rising in the Science Citation Index from 16 to 12.

APHA calls on members of Congress to pass the Scientific Integrity Act of 2019, which safeguards the rights of federal scientists and prohibits political appointees from suppressing scientific findings.

AUGUST 2019

APHA mourns two more mass shootings — in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio — and calls for universal background checks: “Even one mass shooting is too many, and we have seen more than 250 of them this year.”

SEPTEMBER 2019
APHA co-hosts “Policies That Work to Reduce Gun Violence,” a half-day gun violence forum in Washington, D.C., that highlights science and practices to prevent gun injuries and deaths.

APHA calls out the Trump administration for revoking California’s waiver to issue cleaner vehicle emission standards: “States need to use every possible tool to address climate change.”

Even with vaccines on the horizon, we’re nowhere near the end of this pandemic. Until then, the only way forward is to follow the science and let public health lead — millions of lives depend on it. APHA won’t stop using its voice to support practitioners in the field, stand with science, and speak out against dangerous misinformation and politicization.

With the arrival of COVID-19, APHA’s perspective and insight are in very high demand. We’re using the opportunity to elevate evidence-based information, promote prevention, support a science-driven and transparent process, and call out disproportionate impacts in Black, Hispanic and Tribal communities.

“In the face of a disease we are still learning about, it would be highly reckless to allow political interference in the delivery of science-based health information to the public,” said APHA Executive Director Georges C. Benjamin, MD, back in February. “We must reject any attempt to prioritize politics over the public’s health.”

In the many months since, Benjamin, along with other APHA leaders, have brought APHA’s perspective to millions of readers and viewers in hundreds of interviews. The Association is also leveraging its network of more than 1 million social media followers to crowd out misinformation with trusted sources of science and guidance, and using its influence on Capitol Hill to demand emergency funding to fight the virus and protect people from its economic fallout.

APHA is also working with partners to create new resources for the public and for practitioners. In May, for example, APHA and partners released Healthy Voting Guides and co-launched HealthyVoting.org to help people make a safe plan to exercise their right to vote based on the laws and practices in their state. For practitioners, policymakers and the public, APHA, in partnership with the National Academy of Medicine, launched COVID-19 Conversations, a free webinar series on the pandemic’s quickly evolving science.

The series debuted in March and featured leading scientists and practitioners from across public health and medicine. The first installment on the “Science of Social Distancing” got more than 10,000 registrants and by August, the series had welcomed 80,000 people and covered a range of topics, from equity and long-term impacts to vaccine distribution and therapeutics development.

“There is a real need for trustworthy, scientific analysis and dialogue on the latest COVID-19 developments,” said Victor Dzau, MD, president of NAM during the series’ first installment in March. “And I am particularly pleased that APHA is partnering with us on this webinar series — (it’s) an opportunity for the two organizations to serve as a trusted source of information and learned opinions.”
In letters to leaders in the U.S. House and Senate, APHA urges lawmakers to pass the Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act to help address the country’s maternal mortality crisis.

**OCTOBER 2019**

APHA joins an amicus brief against attempts to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, noting that about 27,000 U.S. health care workers depend on DACA.

With CDC programs “woefully underfunded,” APHA urges Congress to increase funding: “CDC serves as the command center for the nation’s public health defense system against emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.”

**NOVEMBER 2019**

About 13,000 public health practitioners from around the world rally around a theme of “Creating the Healthiest Nation: For science. For action. For health.” at the APHA 2019 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

APHA denounces U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate accord and “stands with the public health community, individuals, organizations, businesses and governments that continue to act at the state and local level to address the climate crisis.”

Equity has long been a driving force in APHA’s work. But recent events — police killings of unarmed Black Americans and disparate COVID-19 impacts in Black, Hispanic and Native communities — have heightened the work’s urgency. We can’t create the healthiest nation without recognizing racism as a public health crisis.

In June, APHA’s Center for Public Health Policy launched its Advancing Racial Equity webinar series, welcoming thousands of live viewers to the first installment on “Racism: The Ultimate Underlying Condition.”

“As we start this new series, I invite us all to take a moment to remember that race isn’t a determinant of police violence or COVID-19 or HIV or maternal mortality or diabetes or gun violence or heart disease,” said APHA President-elect José Ramón Fernández-Peña, MD, MPA, during the inaugural webinar. “Racism is.”

In all, nearly 9,000 people watched that first broadcast, which garnered 1,000 views within its first month on YouTube. Webinars continued through the summer, with expert panels taking on issues such as reproductive justice, police reform and models for racial healing.

Advancing equity was also the focus of new APHA resources, publications and advocacy efforts. In addition to the webinar series, the Center for Public Health Policy began monitoring and tracking localities that officially declared racism a public health crisis. It also released a new brief on inequities in safe water access; and tracked and submitted comments on harmful federal regulatory proposals, like those that would restrict housing assistance based on immigration status or roll back antidiscrimination policies in health care.

At APHA’s Center for Climate, Health and Equity, staff co-authored a “U.S. Call to Action on Climate, Health and

**Equity: A Policy Action Agenda,**” which calls on stakeholders to recognize climate change as a public health emergency and demands equity be at the center of climate action. So far, more than 150 organizations — including schools, nonprofits, and large health and medical associations — have signed onto the document.

In August 2019, APHA Press released “Racism: Science & Tools for the Public Health Professional,” which explores the impact of racism on U.S. institutions and policies. The book features a diverse group of scholars writing on topics such as mass incarceration, the lasting effects of segregation, and antiracism strategies. The book has been one of APHA’s best sellers.

“At the end of the day, racism is the original sin here,” Benjamin told the Los Angeles Times in June. “Racism attacks people’s physical and mental health. …(It’s) an ongoing public health crisis that needs our attention now.”
DECEMBER 2019
APHA backs the federal Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act: “No one should face violence, intimidation or fear for their safety while working to help others and save lives.”

JANUARY 2020
FDA’s watered-down rules on flavored e-cigarettes fall far too short, says APHA: “We need to ban all flavored tobacco products, including menthol.”

The American Journal of Public Health releases a new supplement on the public health harms of mass incarceration.

FEBRUARY 2020
Hundreds of people attend the second APHA Policy Action Institute — “All Hands on Deck: Improving Community Health” — to hear from elected officials, health leaders and policy experts in Washington, D.C.

APHA’s Center for Climate, Health and Equity rolls out its new Early Climate Optimists Bookworms club — or ECO Bookworms.

As COVID-19 arrives, APHA calls on leaders to listen to public health: “Attempts to silence public health officials — or manipulate public information — will only make it harder to get ahead and stay ahead of this virus.”

APHA remains dedicated to serving as an innovative professional resource for public health practitioners across the discipline, from seasoned professionals to students just starting out. There’s no public health without the people who make it happen.

Last November, thousands of public health workers, researchers, leaders, students, educators and advocates gathered in Philadelphia for APHA’s 2019 Annual Meeting and Expo, which rallied around a theme of “Creating the Healthiest Nation: For science. For action. For health.”

In all, nearly 13,000 people attended the Annual Meeting — APHA’s 147th — which featured hundreds of oral and poster sessions on the latest public health science, the chance to hear from leaders across the profession, a variety of networking and social events, and much more.

The meeting’s Public Health Expo hosted nearly 400 booths representing public health schools, publishers, agencies, nonprofits and research groups. More than 1,500 Annual Meeting attendees earned continuing education credits, and nearly all of APHA’s 2019 Learning Institutes — full- and half-day courses held in conjunction with the meeting — were sold out.

Our annual Help Us Help Them campaign — which benefits a local nonprofit in the meeting’s host city — raised $11,700 for Turning Points for Children, which provides health and social services to vulnerable families.

“We must redouble our efforts, do the research, translate science into practice and expand our grassroots advocacy to engage local leaders, build trust and change both the hearts and the minds in the vast middle,” Benjamin told thousands of attendees at the meeting’s Opening General Session.

The American Journal of Public Health continues to be on the cutting-edge of public health science and practice, rising in the Science Citation Index from No. 16 to 12, with an impact factor of 6.464. In 2019, APHA Press released “Physical Activity & Public Health: A Practitioner’s Guide,” which explores how community organizers and public health workers can build successful physical activity programs; as well as “Racism: Science & Tools for the Public Health Professional” — one of its best sellers.

As of fall, more than 10,000 people had received continuing education credits by participating in either APHA’s Advancing Racial Equity webinar series or its COVID-19 Conversations series, which is a partnership with the National Academy of Medicine. Hundreds of APHA members are also taking advantage of continuing education credits offered via AJPH.

APHA member groups took the lead on a number of new practice and discussion communities this year. The Association’s Intersectional Council, for example, launched two new online communities — one on suicide prevention, and another on disaster and emergency preparedness.
Throughout all of APHA’s work, from emergencies to the everyday, we’re guided by the core belief that all people deserve the opportunity to live long, healthy lives free from preventable disease and injury. And despite the big challenges before us, we will — and must — keep moving forward to create the healthiest nation.

In the fall of 2019, APHA took on the rising toll of U.S. gun violence at a forum in Washington, D.C., where hundreds of attendees heard from experts on gun policy and research.

“Policies That Work to Reduce Gun Violence,” co-hosted with the Bloomberg American Health Initiative and held at the Newseum, highlighted the latest evidence and research on gun violence prevention. The half-day forum, which had an online audience as well, featured experts and researchers from around the country, and covered a range of topics, such as protecting domestic violence survivors and the impacts of gun licensing and assault weapon bans.

“Every day, a new tragedy occurs,” said Benjamin at the forum. “We have an opportunity to actually do something here — together.”

Creating a healthier nation is always a central message during National Public Health Week, which this year celebrated its 25th anniversary with a theme of “NPHW@25: Looking Back, Moving Forward.” During the April observance, hundreds of communities came together — virtually — to raise awareness of public health issues, spread the word about local resources, educate on COVID-19, and discuss issues around the evolving pandemic.

With grant support from APHA, 32 of the Association’s state and regional Affiliates used NPHW to highlight and drive participation in the National Institutes of Health’s All of Us Research Program, which is working to recruit 1 million participants and create one of the world’s biggest and most diverse health research datasets. APHA is among the program’s many partners.

APHA also developed new resources in the last year to help members create healthier communities. A couple examples include a webinar on “Achieving Environmental Justice in the 21st Century: The Way Forward”; and the new ECO Bookworms book club, an effort of APHA’s Center for Climate, Health and Equity to engage families and young kids in climate change action.

To help counter confusion and misinformation on COVID-19, APHA created a hub for evidence-based information at COVIDGuidance.org and a Spanish-language version at COVIDGuia.org. We also used our voice to educate on health issues arising from the pandemic, such as its impacts on mental well-being.

“Help us bring attention to the urgent need to prioritize mental health supports for everyone,” said APHA President Lisa Carlson, MPH, MCHES, in a May APHA news release on mental health, “and to address the perfect storm of the COVID-19 toll on physical and mental health alike.”
APHA is among the nation’s leading public health advocates, doggedly using its voice and influence — backed by our 25,000 members and many more supporters — to advance the health of all communities and fight for strong, well-funded public health systems. We’ve built a bullhorn for public health and we only intend to get louder.

COVID-19 certainly dominated APHA’s advocacy work in the last six months, but we didn’t take our eye off other serious public health problems, from environmental health rollbacks and maternal death disparities to the toll of tobacco and continuing attacks on the Affordable Care Act.

Between July 2019 and June 2020, APHA members and supporters sent more than 9,000 messages to Congress in response to APHA Action Alerts on a range of critical issues. APHA also authored or joined nearly 130 letters to lawmakers and submitted comments on 15 federal rulemaking proposals, including those on air quality, LGBTQ rights, school lunch standards and toxic substances. APHA joined 16 amicus briefs to federal courts, and is part of two lawsuits against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for weakening clean air protections.

APHA’s Benjamin testified before Congress on three occasions, offering expert advice on COVID-19 testing and tracing, and safely reopening colleges. In July 2019, he also testified in the U.S. House on the health costs of climate change: “Climate change is here today, is threatening our health now, and, if left unchecked, will lead to increases in both illnesses and deaths.”

In February, APHA led efforts urging Congress to increase funds for critical public health agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: “In addition to ensuring a strong public health infrastructure and protecting Americans from public health threats and emergencies, CDC programs are crucial to reducing health care costs and improving health.”

In May, APHA submitted an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court opposing ACA repeal: “The ACA, at 10 years old, has become an integral component of national public health policy. The nation could ill afford to see it struck down now.”

APHA’s Benjamin testified before Congress on three occasions, offering expert advice on COVID-19 testing and tracing, and safely reopening colleges. In July 2019, he also testified in the U.S. House on the health costs of climate change: “Climate change is here today, is threatening our health now, and, if left unchecked, will lead to increases in both illnesses and deaths.”

In February, APHA hosted its second APHA Policy Action Institute, which had a theme of “All Hands on Deck: Improving Community Health.” Hundreds of attendees — both in-person and online — attended the D.C. event, which featured health leaders, policy experts and elected officials. APHA leaders also raised scholarship funds to help 15 students and early-career professionals attend.
ADVOCACY

9,000+
Messages sent to Congress in response to APHA Action Alerts

129
Letters sent to Congress and federal agencies on public health issues

15
Comments submitted to federal agencies on regulatory proposals

16
Amicus briefs submitted to federal courts

3
Times that APHA’s executive director testified before Congress

POLICY, MEDIA & MEMBERS

11,700
News stories citing APHA leaders, members, events and publications

12.3 billion
Media audience reach

1,016,749
Followers on social media

6,909,243
Views on APHA websites

240
Attendees at APHA’s Policy Action Institute

8,993
People livestreaming the first in APHA’s Advancing Racial Equity series

17%
Increase in APHA’s Agency Membership Program

36%
Increase in APHA’s School-Sponsored Membership Program

APHA’S 2019 ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPO

12,700
Annual Meeting attendees

9,416
Abstracts submitted for presentation

839
Number of Annual Meeting oral and roundtable sessions

699
Number of Annual Meeting poster sessions

1,500+
Attendees who received continuing education credits

370+
Booths at the Public Health Expo

$11,700
Money raised for a charity in the Annual Meeting’s host city

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK 2020

728
NPHW partners

2,936
Tweets during the #NPHWchat

867
Viewers livestreaming the NPHW kickoff forum

170
People attending NPHW’s virtual Student Day panel

6,000
People participating in APHA’s Billion Steps Challenge

1.8 billion
Number of steps taken
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- University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
- University of South Florida College of Public Health
- University of South Florida Mental Health Institute
- Villanova University
**APHA FY 2020 REVENUE**  
$16.5 MILLION

- **Advising** 1%
- **Fundraising** 2%
- **Subscription fees/royalties** 10%
- **Membership dues** 18%
- **Government grants** 12%
- **Private foundations** 7%
- **Conventions** 43%
- **Books** 9%
- **The Nation’s Health** 4%
- **AJPH** 13%
- **Public Health Practice and Education** 10%
- **Public Health Policy** 11%
- **Membership services** 11%
- **NPHW** 2%
- **Government Relations** 5%
- **Affiliates** 2%
- **Get Ready** 0%
- **CareerMart and advertising** 2%
- **Fundraising** 1%
- **Conventions** 29%
- **Public Health Policy** 11%

*Above figures are preaudit*
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