

# THE NYSPHC BIMONTHLY BULLETIN

A NYSDOH Fellow Digest



March / April 2023 | Issue: 2

## Welcome to our new NYSDOH Fellows!

Cayla Lauder, CCH  
Arfin Shammi, CEH  
Gina Wierzbowski, OPCHSM  
Patrick O'Connor, CEH  
Ese Oghaghare, CEH  
Luke Grandis, AI  
Marissa Sogluizzo, CEH  
Randy Tangang, CEH  
James Hall, CEH  
Lorenzo Rodriguez, AI



We have

54

Active Fellows!

## PUBLIC HEALTH ESSENTIALS UPDATES

January Cohort:

*Ends on 5/3/23*

March Cohort:

*Starts on 3/29/23*

May Cohort:

*Starts on 5/31/23*

If you need any technical assistance with  
Cornell's website,  
please make sure to email  
[helpdesk@cornell.edu](mailto:helpdesk@cornell.edu)

## WHAT'S NEW!

We are creating a  
*NYSPHC NYSDOH Directory*  
so you can easily connect with  
other Fellows, Mentors &  
Supervisors.

Stay tuned for more information!

## March is Women's History Month

Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week." Throughout the next five years, Congress continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as "Women's History Week."

"In 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month." Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, presidents have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month." These proclamations celebrate the contributions women have made to the United States and recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in a variety of fields.

Source: Women's History Month  
([womenshistorymonth.gov](http://womenshistorymonth.gov))

## REMINDERS & HELPFUL LINKS

\* For any DOH Fellow Travel or Purchasing inquiries, please contact:

[NYSPHC\\_DOH\\_FELLOWS@health.ny.gov](mailto:NYSPHC_DOH_FELLOWS@health.ny.gov)

[NYSPHC Website](#)

[NYSPHC LinkedIn Group](#)

[NYSDOH Website](#)

[Fellow Training & Resources](#)

[Resources by Region](#)



# FELLOW SPOTLIGHT!

## Carly Burns

### Wadsworth Center, Laboratory of Environmental Biology - Division of Environmental Health Sciences

“ My fellowship placement is in the Laboratory of Environmental Biology in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences at the Wadsworth Center in Albany, NYS DOH. I have been conducting research on molecular detection assays of fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) in beach waters across the state. FIBs indicate the presence of fecal contamination, occur with waterborne pathogens, and are much easier to detect than the individual pathogens. Currently NYS uses the presence of *E. coli* and enterococci to make decisions on the public use of recreational beaches, but state regulations do not allow for newer more rapid molecular detection methods. My research involves analyzing samples collected from five local beaches between 2012-2022 for the number of *E. coli* and enterococci present using digital PCR technologies. Digital PCR allows for the direct counting of cells in a sample and the data is compared to real-time PCR (RT-PCR) results from established methods that only provide estimated numbers of cells. The data gathered from the digital PCR analyses will assist the lab with validating new methods of detection that are faster and more accurate.



I have gained a lot of hands-on laboratory experience and skills through working in this fellowship, and it has given me the perspective of what it is like to work in a professional lab. I can see myself working in a lab in the future and my next steps would be to go for further schooling for a master's degree in biology.

If you could choose one place to vacation where would it be and why?

**I would choose to vacation in Peru because of the scenery, outdoor activities, and tourist destinations, like Machu Picchu and the Andes Mountains. And of course, for the authentic Hispanic food!**



## Kacey Griffin, Office of Health Equity & Human Rights

“ I have been a part of the fellowship for just over 6 months now! I work in the Office of Health Equity and Human Rights, as the Health Program Coordinator. As a new office, we are very busy working to operationalize and build our team. During this time, we have had the exciting task of developing regulations and guidance around the Health Equity Impact Assessment (HEIA) requirement that goes into effect June 2023. The HEIA is an additional component for health care facilities, like hospitals, nursing homes, and diagnostic and treatment centers, that are filing an application through the Certificate of Needs (CON) process. The goal of the HEIA is for facilities to consider the impact their proposed projects have on the health equity in a service area, such as accessibility and delivery of health care services, specifically for medically underserved groups. In collaboration with Samantha Hom, a Columbia Mailman School of Public Health Student Assistant to the Commissioner's Office and in partnership with staff from OPCHSM and DLA, we have drafted proposed regulations, met with stakeholders, and are developing guidance for facilities.



I hope to continue to work in the Office of Health Equity and Human Rights for a few more years after the fellowship concludes, as I want to see where the office goes in the next five years. Being a part of the development of the Office from the ground up is a rare and exciting opportunity. I am excited to continue working in government and becoming a public health leader!

If you could choose one place to vacation where would it be and why?

**I would pick Istanbul, Turkey. As an epicenter of history and culture, I have always wanted to visit Istanbul to experience something larger than myself and fully appreciate the historical relevance and beauty of such a timeless city.**





# Fellows in the Community

## Spencer Keable, DOH Fellow *Center for Community Health, Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation & Research*



“ I recently started volunteering once a month with StreetSoldiers. They are a grassroots group that distributes food, clothing, and household necessities for free to those who are in need. This past Saturday, I brought more than 30 bologna sandwiches after assembling them with help from a couple of guys in my men’s group. It worked out well, as the last person in line grabbed our last sandwich. In the photo, you can see some of the sandwiches and other food being distributed.

StreetSoldiers also meets monthly in Albany and Schenectady. The organizers are very friendly and welcoming, as are the other volunteers. You don’t have to bring anything to volunteer, you can just show up! ”

For more information, check out their website, ([Street Soldiers – Doing What We Can, When We Can](#)), or visit their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/StreetSoldiersRensselaer>).

\* If you are doing interesting things within your community, let us know. We'd love to shout you out! \*



# NYSPHC DOH March Consortium Recap

Friday, March 10, 2023

We would like to give a **HUGE** thank you to **Dr. Kya Conner** for providing such a thought-provoking presentation on the topic of **JEDI** at our March **DOH Consortia Meeting!**



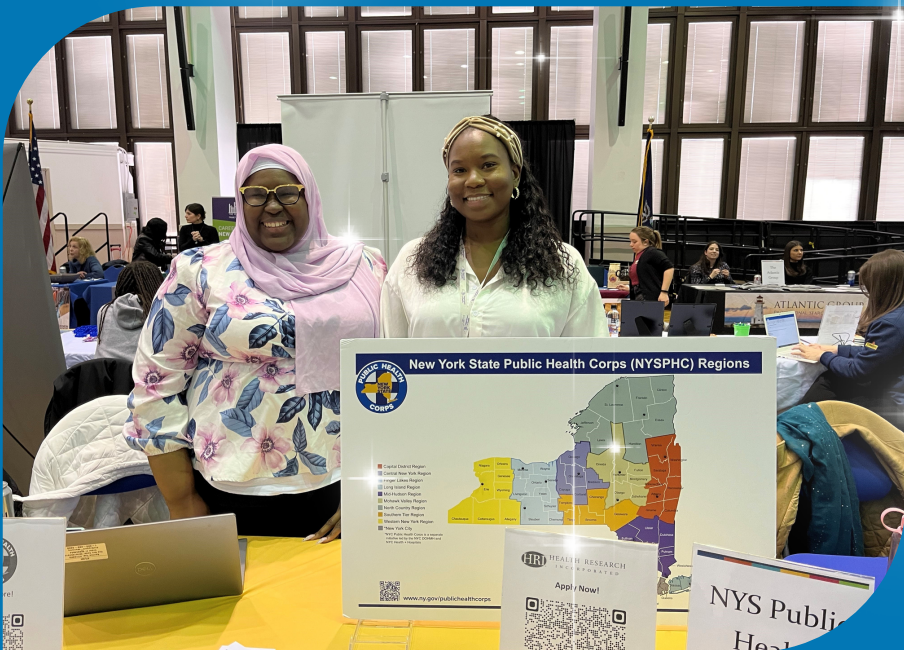
If you'd like to learn more or connect with Dr. Conner, visit her website [Kya Conner](#)

# ICYMI!

Visit the [NYS Department of Health](#) tab to access the recording and slides from Consortium!



## NYSPHC Outreach



NYSPHC Senior Fellows Binta Ceesay & Shakira Maki attended the Spring 2023 Career Fair at SUNY New Paltz on March 1, 2023 to promote the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to students!

NYSPHC Senior Fellows Shakira Maki & Kirstin O'Sullivan attended the Government and Non-Profit Job & Internship Fair at University at Albany on March 22, 2023 to promote the NYSPHC Fellowship Program to students!



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  - Public Service Loan Forgiveness

For more information, visit [health.ny.gov](#)



# NYSPHC DOH Mentor Spotlight!

## Christina Peluso

*Center for Community Health, Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research*



“ I am an Evaluation Specialist 3 and I work in the Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research. I'm assigned to the evaluation of the statewide Tobacco Control Program (TCP). The Bureau provides evaluation and research support to Chronic Disease Programs and is home to two programs: the NYS BRFSS and the NYS Coverdell Stroke program. I joined the Bureau in 2014, after working in a similar role at the AIDS institute. I provide technical assistance to TCP funded grantees in planning and executing local-level data collection projects to help them assess the impact of their work in real time. I also assist with planning and implementing surveillance, evaluation and research projects for the statewide evaluation of the TCP and disseminating findings to program partners so they can take action. I am an active member of the Division of Chronic Disease Prevention's Racial Justice Initiative workgroup. Finally, I am a mentor to a cohort of fellows participating in the NYSDOH Public Health Corp Fellowship program.



The cohort meets monthly, and we have dedicated our meetings to discussing topics such as navigating a career with the NYSDOH, interview processes and building interview skills, and presenting on current projects. The meetings are made possible with support from Shakira at the NYSPHC Fellowship program (Thank You!). We also set up an MS Teams channel, and I have shared a list of interview questions with the cohort members to help with their job search here at the NYSDOH.

### A Word of Advice to Fellows:

*We need you. We need your skills, your perspective, your talent, and your enthusiasm to move public health forward. You are all helping to breathe new life into important topic areas such as health equity, climate change, and the rapid translation of research to practice. Thank you for joining the public health workforce.*

If you could choose one place to vacation, where would it be and why?

*Vacationland Maine! It smells amazing (pines everywhere) and the coastline is awe-inspiring. It's nice and cool in the summer but still warm enough to enjoy a day at the beach.*



## National Public Health Week

Centering & Celebrating Cultures in Health

**April 3-9, 2023**

During each day of National Public Health Week, the American Public Health Association (APHA) will focus on a particular public health topic.

### The NPHW 2023 Daily Themes are:

Community (Monday)

Violence Prevention (Tuesday)

Reproductive & Sexual Health (Wednesday)

Mental Health (Thursday)

Rural Health (Friday)

Accessibility (Saturday)

Nutrition (Sunday)



To learn more or find ways to get involved with NPHW, visit <https://www.nphw.org/Themes-and-Facts>

## April Is National Minority Health Month

National Minority Health Month:

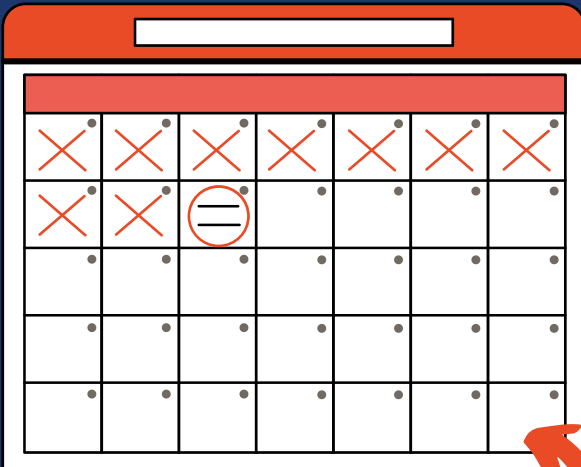
- Builds awareness about the disproportionate burden of premature death and illness in people from racial and ethnic minority groups.
- Encourages action through health education, early detection and control of disease complications.



The origin of National Minority Health Month is in the 1915 establishment of National Negro Health Week by Booker T. Washington. In 2002, National Minority Health Month received support from the U.S. Congress with a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 388) that “a National Minority Health and Health Disparities Month should be established to promote educational efforts on the health problems currently facing minorities and other health disparity populations.” The resolution encouraged “all health organizations and Americans to conduct appropriate programs and activities to promote healthfulness in minority and other health disparity communities.”

Source: [National Minority Health Month \(nih.gov\)](https://www.nih.gov)

# NYSPHC Events Calendar

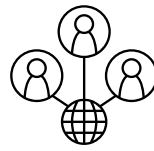


Don't forget to check the NYSPHC Events Calendar for more events!

# Upcoming Events

**NYSPHC Orientation** | Fri, April 7, 2023 | 10:00AM-11:30AM  
[Register Here](#)

**Justice, Equity, Diversion, Inclusion (NYSPHC Educational Series Session)**  
 Wed, April 12, 2023 | 12:00PM-1:00PM  
[Register Here](#)



**NYSDOH Fellow In-Person Networking Event**  
 Tues, April 25, 2023 | 12:00PM-1:00PM  
 ESP, Corning Tower, Rm 915



**NYSDOH Fellow Virtual Networking Event**  
 Tues, May 2, 2023 | 12:00PM-1:00PM  
[Register Here](#)

**Change Management (NYSPHC Educational Series Session)**  
 Wed, May 10, 2023 | 12:00PM-1:00PM  
[Register Here](#)

## FYI

[HRI Careers Page](#)

[HRI Payroll](#)

[HRI Human Resources](#)

[HRI Travel](#)

[SAP Litmos](#)

## At the Table with Ali!

Lemon Shrimp Orzo

Check out this quick & simple recipe, perfect for a Springtime weeknight meal!



## Farewell Grads!

**Lauren Dorvil  
Xue Gong**

"It was a great opportunity for me, as a Data Analyst, to have precious experiences of dealing with the analysis of large datasets on Trauma center registries, Organ Donor registries, and Pre-hospital Care Records (PCR) across the state. With such progress made from these experiences, I gained a promotion as an Evaluation Specialist II at the Data Management, Analysis, and Research (DMAR) group with the Office of Primary Care and Health System Management (OPCHSM). Many Thanks, New York State Public Health Corps Program!"  
 -Xue Gong

Best of luck on your future endeavors!!

## We're on LinkedIn!



**New York State Public Health Corps Fellowship Program**



[Join the NYSPHC LinkedIn Group!](#)

# Stay Connected with Us!

Contact us any time with questions, comments, or Fellow Spotlight & In Your Community stories of your own!



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[NYSPHC Website](#)