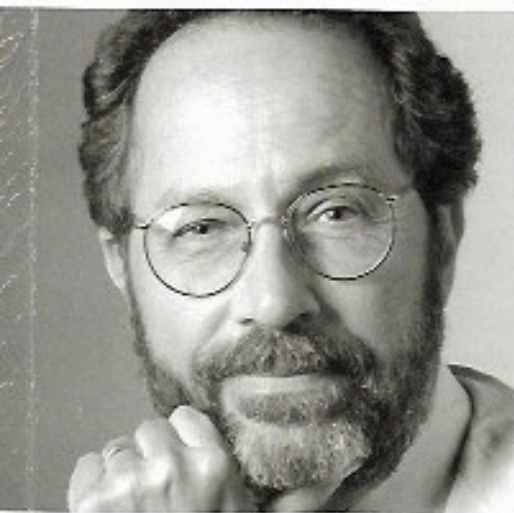
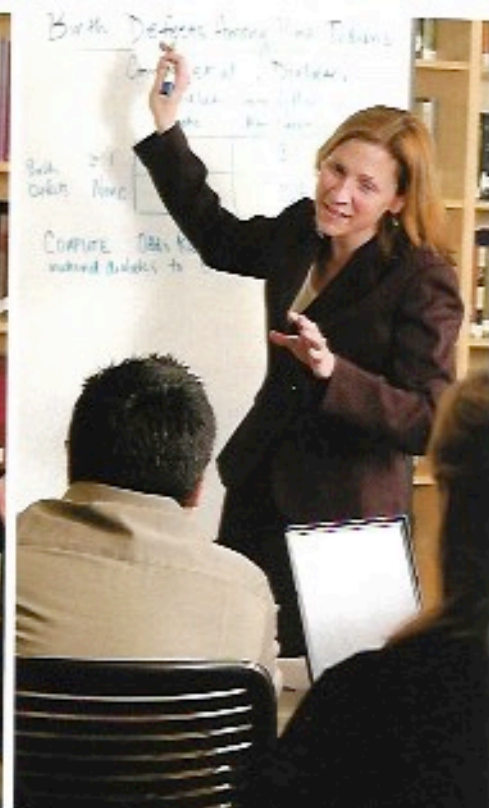


COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



OPPORTUNITY. KNOWLEDGE. IMPACT.



INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING: MELISSA BEGGS, ScD

For each of her 18 years as a faculty member at the Mailman School, Melissa Beggs, ScD, professor of clinical Biostatistics and co-director of the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, has taught one of the most highly rated classes at the School—*Analysis of Categorical Data*. “Not the sexiest topic, I realize,” says Dr. Beggs.

But the praise she receives in course evaluations provides some insight into how she teaches students an often-intimidating subject. Says one student, “Dr. Beggs teaches with the real world in mind, and I finally understand why statistics is important.” Added another: “I learned more than I thought I was ever capable of learning about statistics.”

“Early on in each semester, I search the classroom for that tell-tale stare—the one that lets me know a student is not connecting to the material,” says Dr. Beggs. “For me, that look is inspirational. It continually forces me to come up with new and creative ways to illustrate the connection between statistics and public health, and to help students understand this concept as it relates to their work, now and in the future.”

For her stellar teaching ability, Dr. Beggs has received the Mailman School’s Teaching Excellence Award and Columbia University’s Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching, the highest teaching honor the University bestows upon a professor.



BRINGING FRONTLINE KNOWLEDGE INTO THE CLASSROOM

Following the devastating tsunami that hit several countries in Southeast Asia, Neil Boothby, EdD, professor of clinical Global Health in the Haskins Department of Population and Family Health and director of the Program on Forced Migration and Health, traveled to the region to address the needs of orphans and separated children. "In Banda Aceh, I helped people search for lost family members—I'll never forget the joy and relief we all felt when separated children and parents found one another through our tracing efforts."

"Following this experience, I incorporated the experiences of tsunami survivors into my course on humanitarian response. As a result, several students from my department have undertaken summer internships with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) devoted to child protection and care in Aceh."

LEARNING FROM LEADERS: JACK ROWE, MD

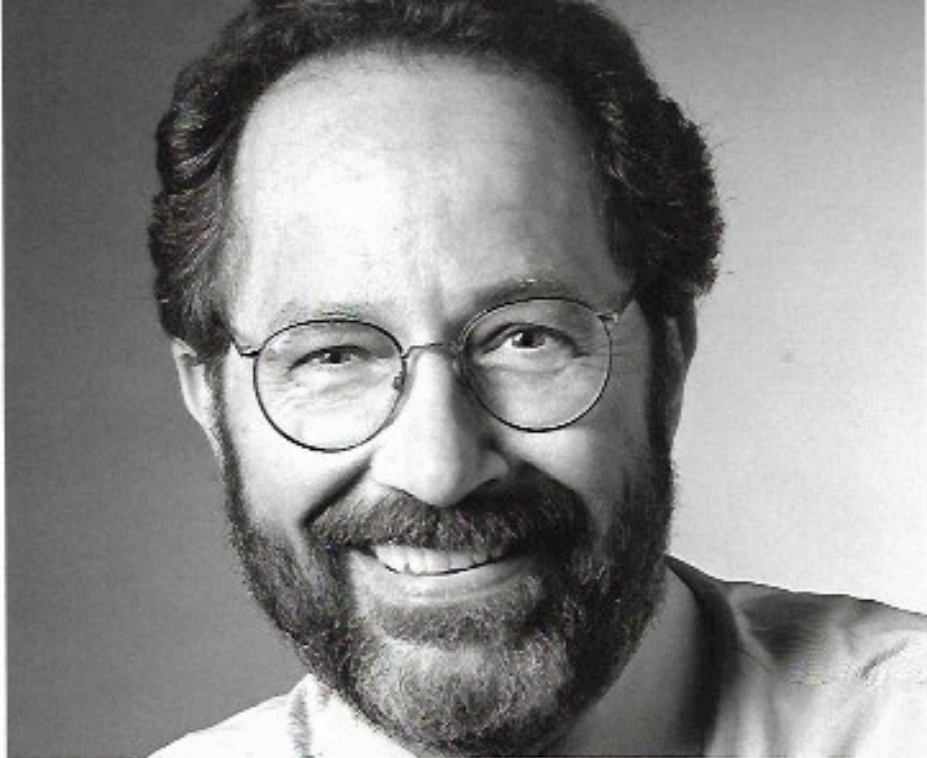
New York City is a global base for leaders in the health industry. From renowned research institutes and think tanks, nonprofit organizations, philanthropic organizations, foundations, and international pharmaceutical companies to state-of-the-art hospitals and one of the world's largest municipal departments of health, the City is a hub for some of the greatest minds in the public health arena. As a means of enriching students' learning experiences, the Mailman School regularly hosts experts from this broad intellectual network to present original research, participate in seminars and conferences, and give lectures in classrooms.

Jack Rowe, MD, a distinguished leader in healthcare administration who for years served as chairman and chief executive officer of Aetna, Inc., and, prior to that, was CEO of Mount Sinai Medical Center and Mount Sinai NYU Health, recently joined the faculty of the School's Department of Health Policy and Management.

In addition to teaching a course on private health insurance, he lectures in courses and seminars throughout the Department and University—including classes at the Business School—bringing his decades of medical and business experience to students. Says Dr. Rowe of his decision to assume an academic role at this stage of his career, “I bring a substantial amount of practical experience into the classroom. I am able to underscore—or, in some cases, contradict—textbook principles by citing very specific, real-world events that have transpired in health business and policy.”

“One of the most rewarding aspects

of a Mailman School education is the invaluable learning that takes place outside the classroom.”



JOSEPH GRAZIANO, PhD

Professor of Environmental Health Sciences and Associate Dean for Research

Soon after *The New York Times* published a story in 1998 about well water in Bangladesh contaminated by naturally occurring arsenic in the soil, Dr. Joseph Graziano's phone started ringing with calls from colleagues across the University. The plea was mutual: each caller wanted Dr. Graziano to focus his attention on this very serious public health crisis. Several weeks later, he and a group of four colleagues were on a plane to Bangladesh.

What began as "The Bangladesh Project" continues to this day as a part of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences' (NIEHS) Superfund Basic Research Program, a project that has expanded to several U.S. sites where arsenic and manganese are present in water.

Says Dr. Graziano, "It was the multidisciplinary approach to addressing the impact of contaminated well water on the health of millions that spurred the program's growth."

Dr. Graziano breathes life into the classroom experience by infusing his teaching with lessons from the field. He also provides students with practical and other research opportunities in Bangladesh collecting biological samples, while others work closely with him in the lab.

Says Dr. Graziano, "Those who come away with life-changing experiences are the ones who not only delve into their coursework, but who also seek out opportunities to study in the field."

WAFAA EL-SADR, MD, MPH '91

Professor of Clinical Epidemiology and Medicine

Director of the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs

Whether teaching, leading the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP), or heading the Division of Infectious Diseases at Harlem Hospital Center, world-renowned researcher Dr. Wafaa El-Sadr takes a holistic approach toward her work.

"When I teach, I enjoy the diversity of my students' backgrounds and future interests," explains Dr. El-Sadr. "Some are physicians or nurses, some come directly from college, and others bring a background in the social sciences or humanities. There's a mix within the classroom that makes for interesting perspectives and fascinating discussions."

Dr. El-Sadr—whose research and teaching focus on the epidemiology, prevention, and treatment of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases—brings her own unique experiences to her students. For decades, Dr. El-Sadr's groundbreaking, family-focused approach has changed the face of HIV/AIDS care and treatment globally.

It's the collaborative spirit at the Mailman School that Dr. El-Sadr finds most fulfilling. "The students and faculty value the marriage between disciplines and its reflection in the teaching, service, and research pursued by the School," she says. "Ultimately, this rich academic environment captures the imaginations of our students and guides them to become public health leaders of the future."

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A MASTERFUL MENTOR: ANA ABRAIDO-LANZA, PHD

As students immerse themselves in a particular area of study, they often develop mentoring relationships with members of the School's faculty. Says Ana Abraido-Lanza, PhD, an associate professor of Sociomedical Sciences who teaches a course on health psychology and a seminar on research and professional development, "As a part of the mentoring process, I involve students in many aspects of my research. Their insights and knowledge enhance my work and, in turn, the experience they gain from collaborating on projects cultivates their skills and enriches their development as researchers."



“By analyzing data, I can help find answers to pressing health challenges, which in turn can lead to policy changes that address racial and social disparities in healthcare.”



EMMA BENN, MPH '07

Emma Benn has discovered a unique formula for giving a voice to underserved populations of the world: Enroll in the Mailman School's biostatistics doctoral program, add a healthy dose of community awareness, and, for good measure, toss in a dash of poetry.

Emma, who earned an MPH in the School's Department of Sociomedical Sciences, realized as an analytical chemist at Johnson & Johnson that tackling complex medical issues "takes far more than simply prescribing a pill." With the assistance of the Mailman School's Community Scholars Program, a bachelor's in chemistry from Swarthmore College, and a wealth of inspiration from her community-minded mother, Emma embarked on her public health path. Through electives in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, she discovered that "by analyzing data, I can help find answers to pressing health challenges, which in turn can lead to policy changes that address racial and social disparities in healthcare."

During her practicum, Emma explored the diverse communities of Northern Manhattan where she recruited Spanish-speaking patients to participate in a study analyzing the role of maternal depression in the severity of asthma among children. She continues to conduct data analysis at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons' Gertrude H. Sergievsky Center.

Emma also regularly returns to the Philadelphia area to present and teach poetry to children participating in the Black Women in Sport Foundation, introducing them to poets such as Maya Angelou, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, and Langston Hughes.

"It's another form of public health," Emma explains. "I expose them to poetry and explain its role in the realm of social justice. I hope to inspire them to use their own voices to create change."

KAREN AUSTRIAN, MPH '07

As an undergraduate Women's and Gender Studies major at Columbia University, Karen Austrian traveled to Kenya and worked in a family planning clinic. Although rewarding, Karen recognized that the clinic's work focused only on the health of married women, leaving adolescent girls at risk for pregnancy and exposure to HIV and other diseases. Not one to walk away from a problem unsolved, at age 22 Karen obtained a small grant to start a project dedicated to addressing the health and rights issues of adolescent girls in the Kibera slum of Nairobi, Kenya. In just three months, demand for Binti Pamoja's (Swahili for "Daughters United") services skyrocketed and it became a full-scale NGO.

"Binti Pamoja was doing great, but the girls needed something more consistent and ongoing," explained Karen. "The program needed to grow if it was to truly meet the needs of these girls. I knew getting an MPH at the Mailman School would give me the skills necessary to take this work to the next level."

Thanks to a Sharp Scholarship, Karen enrolled in the School's Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health to hone her skills in monitoring, evaluation and research, and program design and management. "Everything I learned in the classroom has been applicable to my work in the field," she says. "I became more informed and methodical. I employed my new skills in research and data collection to further develop Binti Pamoja's curriculum, and to learn about the program's reach by setting up systems to document exactly what was going on."

Upon completing her degree, Karen accepted a full-time position at the Population Council to work with a network of individuals and groups in Kenya on strengthening programs and developing opportunities for adolescent girls.

"At the Mailman School, I found a place that approaches reproductive health as every woman's right. I now realize that my work contributes to the health and welfare of women globally, and that, as an alumna, I have joined a vital community of international health professionals."





CROSSING BOUNDARIES: ARIEL PABLOS-MENDEZ, MD, MPH '92

While completing a fellowship in general internal medicine at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, Dr. Ariel Pablos-Mendez recognized that an MPH in epidemiology would help strengthen his research skills. "At the time," says Dr. Pablos-Mendez, "evidence-based medicine was emerging as a strong movement and, for me, clinical epidemiology was a way to help strengthen that approach."

After receiving his degree, Dr. Pablos-Mendez launched his career as an associate professor of clinical Medicine and Public Health at the Mailman School, where he focused on the emergence of multidrug resistant tuberculosis in New York City. He went on to lead the Global Surveillance Project on Anti-Tuberculosis Drug Resistance at the World Health Organization and, later, spearhead the creation of the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development at the Rockefeller Foundation. In all of these positions, his research resulted in significant and successful policy changes.

Currently, Dr. Pablos-Mendez is managing director at the Rockefeller Foundation where he works on various initiatives in global health.

THOMAS CAMPBELL JACKSON, MPH '98

Consultant, Healthcare Policy

For seven years, Thomas Campbell Jackson accumulated a wealth of health policy experience working for the Research and Evaluation Office of the City of New York's Employee Health Benefits Program.

"Within that system, I recognized that certain problems emerged again and again," says Mr. Jackson, who at that time served as assistant director of the program. "Eventually, I decided that to broaden my perspective and sharpen my problem-solving skills, I would benefit from returning to the classroom."

Lured by an encouraging colleague who was also a faculty member at the Mailman School, Mr. Jackson left city government to pursue a degree in health policy and management.

After graduating in 1998, he was offered the position of director of the City's Health Benefits Program, where he employed many of the skills he had acquired at the Mailman School, including those in accounting, budgeting, statistics, and data analysis.

"I value those tools and use them to this day. But just as important for me was the 'big picture' perspective I acquired," he explains.

Mr. Jackson adds: "I now analyze problems by looking for deeper causes and viewing them multidimensionally, which often paves the way to solutions."

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