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## Words from our New President

It is a real privilege and honor for me to take on the role of President of the Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association. As I have studied the history of this unique organization, I have the greatest respect for the caliber of people who have preceded me in this role. They all worked hard to deliver on the mission of the organization - simply put - to improve the wellness of our community. This history also provides me a great sense of purpose, as I will work with our staff, Board and community to carry on with this important work!

As I discussed at our recent annual meeting, my plan is to approach the role in three major "buckets" of work. First will be to complete an assessment of public health in Delaware. This will include looking at the data and seeking input from key stakeholders. We will define our public health strengths and weaknesses, as well as some of the key "opportunities for improvement"!

The second step will be to engage with our Board and staff and community, reflecting on the findings from our assessment process noted above. We will then determine a few key "opportunities" upon which we will focus our energies for improvement.

The third step will be to work with our Academy leadership team to develop an action plan for change. This plan will hi-light some of the "unique contributions" that the Academy can contribute toward achieving an impact in the areas selected. We will have measures of success in place to help us to determine the impact that we are achieving.

I look forward to communicating more with you as we work through this process, and will always encourage your input along the way!

A few final thoughts include my hope that we can collectively "raise our profile" regarding the important work of public health. I also plan to work on assuring that we have a statewide voice to help to guide our work, and will be seeking greater Kent and Sussex County input!

Thanks for reading this note. If you have ideas regarding our work please be in touch with me or members of our staff. I look forward to providing future updates regarding our important work!

Best regards!



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Lynn C. Jones, LFACHE

*President, Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association*

## TIMTalk

### From the Executive Director

*The following was presented at the opening of the 93<sup>d</sup> Annual Meeting*

“As we gather here today, we are faced with some of the most significant challenges of our time, including the COVID-19 pandemic which appears to be in the rearview mirror (for now), healthcare and public health workforce shortages, and the urgent need to address systemic racism as a public health crisis.

Systemic racism has been a longstanding issue in our country, and very evident in health outcomes. The COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on the pervasive health disparities that have long existed in marginalized communities and communities of color, and racism has finally been recognized as a public health crisis, one that we must address head-on.

The pandemic has also highlighted the vital role that public health and healthcare professionals play in our society. It has exposed the vulnerabilities and inadequacies of our public health infrastructure; it has disrupted our healthcare system in unimaginable ways, and left us with a depleted workforce and a strained public health system.

As we work towards rebuilding our public health and healthcare infrastructure, we must also address the shortages themselves, especially those that were apparent before the pandemic. It is essential that we invest in our public health workforce, ensuring that they have the resources and support they need to continue the critical work of protecting the health and well-being of our communities.

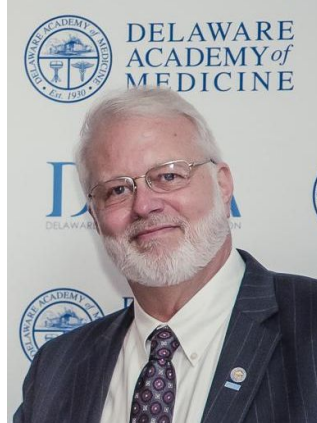
The Academy/DPHA working to strengthen and invest in the public health and healthcare workforce with our Delaware Health Force Initiative. We are a recipient of American Rescue Plan Act funding for this initiative, as well as funding from HRSA with our partner the Public Health Management Corporation for both Community Health Worker infrastructure and a CDC funded initiative for more general public health infrastructure issues. Through all of these efforts, we have held high the banner of Dr. Swanson’s two-year term as President, the needs of the IDD community, and more work needs to be done!

This year’s annual meeting provides us with an opportunity to come together, to learn from one another, and to develop strategies that will enable us to rebuild our public health and healthcare infrastructure, address workforce shortages, and tackle systemic racism as a public health crisis. I am confident that through collaboration and collective action, we can overcome these challenges and emerge stronger and more resilient than ever before. “

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Tim Gibbs, MPH

*Executive Director, Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association*



## Academy/DPHA Events

### Frank M. and Robert R. Hoopes Medical/Dental Lecture 2023

**Tuesday, May 16, 2023 | 7:00 - 9:00 PM**

John H. Ammon Medical Education Center

The Academy/DPHA, ChristianaCare, and the Delaware State Dental Society are pleased to present the 2023 Frank M. and Robert R. Hoopes Medical/Dental Lecture in person this year!

Our speaker is Roopali Kulkarni, DMD, MPH. Dr. Kulkarni is an instructor in the Department of Oral Medicine at Penn Dental Medicine, and she will be speaking on

**Oral Manifestations of Systemic Disease.**



## Other Events

### Advancing Healthy Lifestyles: Improving Health Through Equity



**DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S  
INAUGURAL**

**Advancing Healthy  
Lifestyles Conference:  
IMPROVING HEALTH  
THROUGH EQUITY**

**May 18, 2023 | 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CONFERENCE CENTER**

Join us May 18 for the inaugural Advancing Healthy Lifestyles Conference and hear from keynote speaker Dominique Dawes.

- Informative breakout sessions
- Roundtable discussions
- Networking reception
- Helpful resource materials



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
Division of Public Health  
Physical Activity, Nutrition and Obesity Prevention Program

Please join the Division of Public Health's Physical Activity, Nutrition, and Obesity Prevention (PANO) program's inaugural **Advancing Healthy Lifestyles (AHL) Conference!** The AHL Conference will be held on **May 18, 2023, from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm** at the Martin Luther King Jr. Conference Center at Delaware State University.

This conference provides a platform for cross sectional sharing on national, regional, and local best practices, challenges, opportunities, and success stories, with a focus on improving health equity. It will further serve as an opportunity to strengthen the work of community stakeholders and health equity champions. The Academy/DPHA's Program Manager, Kate Smith, MD, MPH, is a featured panelist.

The conference is free, but registration is required.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)

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### Latin@ Bias in Delaware

The survey below is to obtain information from Latin@ community leaders and employees about bias they may be facing, and their views on Latin@ Leadership in Delaware. The survey is completely anonymous.

**We want to hear from you!**  
Please take a couple of minutes to  
complete our survey.

Latin@ Stigmas and  
Career Advancement



\*Responses are  
anonymous

<https://forms.gle/Jsz6RgpL8AUxtZWu5>

**¡Queremos su opinión!**  
Por favor complete nuestra  
encuesta. Tardará un par de minutos para  
completar.

Estigmas Latin@s y  
Desarrollo Profesional



\*Las  
respuestas  
son anonimas

<https://forms.gle/Jsz6RgpL8AUxtZWu5>

## Soaring to New Heights: MAR-PHTC Public Health Leadership Institute



The Mid-Atlantic Regional Public Health Training Center (MAR-PHTC) is pleased to announce Soaring to New Heights: MAR-PHTC Public Health Leadership Institute. Designed for professionals who want to grow in leadership roles in either the public health or primary care setting, the 6-month project-based Leadership Institute aims to enhance and extend the knowledge base, understanding, tools, and competencies required to excel in leadership today. With a dual focus on developing and applying leadership knowledge and skills, participants will work in multidisciplinary teams on real-world, action-oriented, 'change leader' projects.

The MAR-PHTC Public Health Leadership Institute will accept applicants for the 2023 cohort who work in public health or primary care in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington D.C., or West Virginia.

[Learn More](#) (Application opens **June 5, 2023**)

## Additional Resources

Delaware Division of Public Health - [The DPH Bulletin](#)

Trust for America's Health: Wellness and Prevention Digest - [Subscribe](#)

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