

Yale SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

YEAR IN REVIEW

GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH & INNOVATIVE EDUCATION

2023 »»

As I reflect on 2023, my first year as dean at Yale School of Public Health, I am inspired by both the innovative spirit and commitment to real-world impact at this school. The dedication to creating change here in our New Haven and Connecticut community as well as across the globe shines through. And our ability to combine the highest-quality science with authentic partnerships is exactly the space that academic public health needs to be in.

I hope you will enjoy learning about some of our truly extraordinary achievements in this 2023 Year in Review, too. They range from the ground-breaking work of the [Humanitarian Research Lab](#) – whose report on the alleged abduction of thousands of children from Ukraine contributed to the International Criminal Court’s indictment of Russian President Vladimir Putin for war crimes – to outstanding research that uncovered questionable marketing tactics by large [pharmaceutical](#) and [tobacco](#) companies. Our new Advocate in Residence, [Nelba Márquez-Greene](#), and our leadership role in [a new work training program](#) with the state of Connecticut, further exemplify how we are translating best-in-class research into meaningful practices that make people healthier.

In the spirit of public health, I wish you and yours health, happiness, and the ability to create positive change in the New Year!

Sincerely,

Megan L. Ranney
Dean, Yale School of Public Health
C.-E. A. Winslow Professor of Public Health





MEGAN RANNEY NAMED DEAN »

Dr. Megan L. Ranney, MD, an internationally recognized public health leader, investigator, advocate, and clinician-scientist, became dean on July 1. Ranney brings to Yale a track record of driving innovations in public health teaching, research, and practice. Her career is distinguished by a deep commitment to working with communities to identify and address complex public health challenges, especially those that burden historically underserved or marginalized populations.

[READ MORE](#)



A FIRST FOR YSPH »

The Yale School of Public Health's first chief development officer, Benjamin Zoll, is working closely with Dean Ranney to develop a comprehensive strategy that supports her vision for YSPH as it moves into full independence. Zoll, who is responsible for directing all fundraising and alumni activities at YSPH, has extensive fundraising experience in higher education and academic medicine and brings 20 years of fundraising expertise to Yale.

[READ MORE](#)



GLOBAL HEALTH »

The Humanitarian Research Lab issued a report in February alleging the abduction of thousands of children from Ukraine and their placement in re-education camps in Russia, resulting in the International Criminal Court's indictment of President Vladimir Putin for war crimes.

[READ MORE](#)



INFECTION DEATHS »

YSPH epidemiologists uncovered questionable marketing tactics by Perdue Pharma – tactics that continue to have shocking ramifications 25 years later, including infectious disease rates that have climbed in the U.S. as a direct long-term result of OxyContin marketing.

[READ MORE](#)



AGING INSIGHT »

A Yale School of Public Health study found that older persons with mild cognitive impairment, a common type of memory loss, were 30% more likely to regain normal cognition if they had taken in positive beliefs about aging from their culture, compared to those who had taken in negative beliefs.

[READ MORE](#)



PUBLIC HEALTH PIPELINE »

The Office of Public Health Practice (OPHP) launched a new public health fellowship program with the Connecticut Department of Public Health that addresses a statewide shortage of public health workers and supports students in high-quality public health field placements throughout Connecticut.

[READ MORE](#)

Yale SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



NEW TREATMENT SUPPORTS LGBTQ+ MENTAL HEALTH »»

The Yale LGBTQ+ Mental Health Initiative directed by YSPH Professor John Pachankis received a \$4 million grant to implement an innovative new LGBTQ-affirmative cognitive behavioral therapy in community centers nationwide.

[READ MORE](#)



RESIDENT ADVISOR »»

Nelba Márquez-Greene joined YSPH in October as a resident advisor to advocate and educate around the issue of firearm injury prevention. Márquez-Greene is a licensed marriage and family therapist specializing in grief, loss, trauma, and their impact on individuals and systems.

[READ MORE](#)



HONORING 'BOBBI WONDER' »»

Many students come to Yale with the dream of becoming a scientist, but few achieve that goal as quickly as Bobbi Wilson. The nine-year-old became the subject of a police complaint while removing lanternflies from a tree in her New Jersey neighborhood. She was later praised at YSPH for her work eradicating the invasive species, and for donating her personal lanternfly collection to Yale's Peabody Museum.

[READ MORE](#)

2023 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS »

Big Tobacco

The replacement of menthol with synthetic chemicals threatens to derail proposed federal menthol cigarette bans.

[READ MORE](#)

COVID Science

High exposure levels to the virus that causes COVID-19 may reduce or overcome the protection that vaccination and prior infection provides.

[READ MORE](#)

COVID-19 Risk in Cancer Patients

Research reveals boosting strategies that mitigate risks of COVID-19 in cancer patients.

[READ MORE](#)

Infectious Disease Innovation

Researchers develop an innovative test for malaria using lasers and ultrasound.

[READ MORE](#)

Climate Change

YSPH climate change scientists show how the health burdens of air pollution remain unequal across racial groups.

[READ MORE](#)

The Cost of Fossil Fuels

YSPH research shows that living near an oil and gas well increases adverse pregnancy outcomes, childhood cancers, hospitalizations, asthma exacerbations, mental health issues, and mortality among the elderly.

[READ MORE](#)

Yale SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

YEAR IN REVIEW 2023

60 College Street

P.O. Box 208034

New Haven, CT 06520-8034

ysph.yale.edu

Learn how you can *support our school, here.*

To support the *Alumni Fund, go here.*

Yale School of Public Health's *Year in Review* is published annually by the Office of Communications. Please email us at:
ysphpublications@yale.edu