Dear Graduates,

I am incredibly proud to be here today with you, your families, and your friends, as we celebrate this milestone in your careers. You will always hold a special place in my heart and in my mind because you are the first graduating class for me in my role as Dean of the Rutgers School of Public Health.

I have had the great honor and pleasure of meeting many of you and am confident that you enter the next stage of your careers equipped with the skills, knowledge, and values to enhance public health — locally, nationally, and internationally — in your roles as researchers, practitioners, clinicians, educators, civil leaders, community organizers, and activists.

I ask you to take your next steps with these ideals in mind, representing the ethos of our School. Dedicate yourselves to addressing the most vexing health problems that challenge the people of New Jersey, the United States, and the world. Recognize that we, in the United States, have as much to learn from our international colleagues as they can learn from us. Remember that global public health is as much about public health in other countries as it is about the health of immigrant and ethnic communities within our own cities and states. Stay true to the notion that health disparities are driven by complex synergies of biomedical elements, behaviors, psychosocial conditions, and structural inequities. Direct your efforts to help those whom our society marginalizes and oppresses. And most importantly, never forget that our work is focused on humanity.

All of your scholarly pursuits must be directed at improving the health of people. If you remember that notion, your work will be honest and stellar, and will be respected. It will be the type of work that matters. In the end, stay true to the tenet of keeping the public in public health.

I wish you my most heartfelt congratulations. Visit us often, and keep us abreast of your accomplishments. The School of Public health is now part of your DNA.

Sincerely,

Perry N. Halkitis, PhD, MS, MPH
Dean
The **Rutgers School of Public Health** actively seeks to enhance health and well-being and to prevent disease in diverse populations locally and globally through education, research, and service. The School promotes this mission by educating students through pedagogy that guides them as they develop essential skills for effective public health leadership, research, practice, and advocacy; by conducting state-of-the-art research, including studies that disentangle the biomedical, behavioral, psychosocial, and structural drivers of health disparities within and across populations; and through active collaboration and service with communities that promote collective and individual health. As a School, we use a biopsychosocial lens to guide our work with and for the people of New Jersey, the country, and the world.

The School offers MPH, MS, and Ph.D. degrees, as well as many dual degrees and post-baccalaureate certificate programs across its two locations in New Brunswick and Newark. The School's areas of research excellence include cancer health disparities; environmental and occupational health; HIV, TB, and other infectious diseases; LGBTQA health; nutritional public health; reproductive and sexual health; substance use and mental health; and tobacco control. Through rigorous academic scholarship, numerous global research and practice opportunities, and thoughtful community engagement and empowerment, Rutgers School of Public Health graduates develop skills that prepare them to be 21st century leaders.

More than 1,900 of our alumni advance the field of public health in countless ways. We celebrate this evening as the members of the Class of 2018 take their places among the public health professionals who commit daily to promoting health.

On behalf of all faculty, staff, alumni, and fellow students at the Rutgers School of Public Health, we extend a heartfelt congratulations to the **Rutgers School of Public Health class of 2018**.

### Leadership

**Brian L. Strom, MD, MPH**  
Chancellor, Rutgers Biomedical & Health Sciences

**Perry N. Halkitis, PhD, MS, MPH**  
Dean

**Paris Mourgues, LMSW**  
Chief of Staff

**Cristine D. Delnevo, PhD, MPH**  
Vice Dean

**Laura E. Liang, DrPH, CHES**  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

**Marian R. Passannante, PhD**  
Associate Dean for Educational Program Development

**Mark Carmichael, MIA**  
Associate Dean for Finance & Administration CFO

**Pamela Ohman Strickland, PhD, MS**  
Associate Dean for Student Affairs

**Stephan Schwander, MD, MPH**  
Assistant Dean for Global Public Health Affairs

**Teri Lassiter, PhD, MPH**  
Assistant Dean for Practice, Diversity, & Inclusion

### Dean’s Advisory Council

**Henry Ristuccia (Chair)**  
Managing Partner, Policy & Government Relations  
Deloitte

**Elizabeth Brewer, MS, MPH**  
Global Lead, North Americas Government,  
GSK Consumer Healthcare

**May Chan-Liston, PharmD, MPH ’14**  
Senior Director, REMS Strategy & Policy  
Celgene

**James F. Dougherty, MS, VMD**  
Metropolitan Veterinary Associates  
Vice Chair, Rutgers University Board of Trustees

**Bernard Goldstein, MD**  
Dean Emeritus & Professor Emeritus  
University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health

**Ron Krauskopf**  
Senior Vice President, Business Lending – Healthcare  
Investors Bank

**Janet Ott, MBA**  
Chief Marketing Officer  
HVS

**Bruce Richman, EdM, JD**  
Founder and Executive Director  
Prevention Access Campaign, U=U Campaign
PROGRAM

PROCESIONAL
Please stand

FACULTY MARSHAL
M. Jane Lewis, DrPH
Associate Professor,
Department of Social & Behavioral Health Sciences

GONFALON BEARER
Marin Kurti, MA
Instructor,
Department of Social & Behavioral Health Sciences

OPENING REMARKS
Perry N. Halkitis, PhD, MS, MPH
Dean

CHANCELLOR’S REMARKS
Brian L. Strom, MD, MPH
Chancellor,
Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences

GREETINGS
James F. Dougherty, MS, VDM
Vice Chair,
Rutgers University Board of Trustees
Michael Gusmano, PhD
Associate Professor,
Department of Health Systems & Policy

STUDENT ADDRESS
Chantel Ida Fletcher
Graduating Student,
Urban Health Administration

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., MD,
Medal of Excellence Award
Stuart D. Cook Student Public Health Research
Awards (MPH/PhD)
Student Community Service Award
Anna Skiff Award
Bernard D. Goldstein, MD Awards
Student Government Association
Excellence in Teaching Award
Distinguished Alumni Award

SENATOR FRANK R. LAUTENBERG ANNUAL AWARD
AND LECTURE IN PUBLIC HEALTH
Abdulrahman Mohamed El-Sayed, MD, DPhil

RECOGNITION OF DELTA OMEGA INDUCTEES

RECOGNITION OF CANDIDATES
Post-Baccalaureate Certificates
Master of Public Health Degree
Master of Science Degrees

HOODING CEREMONY
Doctor of Philosophy Degree

CLOSING REMARKS
Perry N. Halkitis, PhD, MS, MPH
Dean

RECESSIONAL
Please stand
Award Description and Recipients

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg Annual Award and Lecture in Public Health
The Senator Frank R. Lautenberg Annual Award and Lecture in Public Health, established in 2001, celebrates Senator Lautenberg’s outstanding public health achievements. This award is bestowed annually at the Convocation of the School of Public Health in the name of Senator Frank R. Lautenberg to an outstanding leader in public health. Following the presentation of the award, the award recipient delivers the Lecture in Public Health.
Presented to: Abdulrahman Mohamed El-Sayed, MD, DPhil

Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., MD, Medal of Excellence Award
The Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., MD, Medal of Excellence Award is presented by Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences to one student in each of the RBHS schools who has performed at a high level in his or her academic studies; attained notable achievements in basic science and research; demonstrated those high ideals which are traditional to the profession; and engaged in meaningful service to the Rutgers School of Public Health.
Presented to: Mark Anthony Lee

Stuart D. Cook Student Public Health Research Awards (MPH/PhD)
The Stuart D. Cook, MD Student Public Health Research Award was established in 2004 in honor of Stuart D. Cook, MD, Past President, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). During Dr. Cook’s tenure as President, UMDNJ doubled research funding and became the leading research university in New Jersey.
Presented to: Kathrine M. Kovacs (MPH) Sylvia Elana Twersky (PhD)

Student Community Service Award
The Student Community Service Award is presented annually to a student or students whose fieldwork research has benefited an at-risk community; produced information that has the potential for improving health indicators in the community; and produced a direct positive outcome within the community.
Presented to: Danielle Evelyn De Windt King

Anna Skiff Award
The Anna Skiff Award is an endowment set up in honor of Anna Skiff—the first fieldwork coordinator for Graduate Program in Public Health/UMDNJ (now the Rutgers School of Public Health) to be given to a student for excellence in fieldwork in Health Education.
Presented to: Colleen Harkin Blake
**Award Description and Recipients**

**Bernard D. Goldstein, MD, Award**
The Bernard D. Goldstein, MD Award, established in 1995 through an endowment from Dr. Goldstein, is awarded annually to recognize academic excellence. Dr. Goldstein was the former Chair of the Department of Environmental and Community Medicine at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, the founding Director of the Rutgers Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute and the former Acting Dean of the UMDNJ-School of Public Health (now the Rutgers School of Public Health).

*Presented to: Anna Josephine Cotroneo  Mary Kathleen Riley  Jessica Leigh Staller  Sabrina Jung  Kavita Sharma  Peng Zhang*

**Student Government Association Excellence in Teaching Award**
The Student Government Association Excellence in Teaching Award was established by the Student Government Association in 2001. This award is given by the Student Government Association to faculty member for “excellence in teaching and service to public health students.”

*Presented to: Michael Gusmano, PhD*

**Distinguished Alumni Award**
The Distinguished Alumni Award was established by the Rutgers School of Public Health to recognize the excellence of highly exceptional graduates from the Rutgers School of Public Health who have made significant publicly-recognized contributions to the profession, the state of NJ or the nation.

*Presented to: May Chan-Liston, PharmD, MPH'14*

**Delta Omega Inductee Recognition**
Delta Omega, founded in 1924, is the honorary society for graduate studies in public health. It celebrates academic achievement, devotion to public health principles and outstanding service in public health. Students are selected from the top ten percent of their graduating class. The 2018 Delta Omega Inductees include:

**MPH Graduates:**
- Allison Sara Gutworth
- Ashwin Blake Karanam
- Elizabeth Anne Krupka
- Mark Anthony Lee
- Rachel Elizabeth NeMoyer
- Andrew Robert Rava
- Mary Kathleen Riley
- Samir Sabharwal
- Jessica Leigh Staller

**MS Graduates:**
- Lisa Kurian Thanjan
- Emily Wang

**PhD Graduates:**
- Bozena Katic
RUTGERS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH CLASS OF 2018

POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE
Eric Gregorio Ascencio¹
Shashell Marcia Barrett¹
Michael Briganti¹
Islam Salah Elkherpitawy
Lynly Jeanlouis
Kelly Lynn Lenahan¹
Kristin Nicole Minish¹
Divya B. Patel¹
Kimberly Ashley Pierre¹
Kimberly Pierre
Jeremy M. Szeluga¹
Pamela Shamari Taylor¹
Emily Rebecca Tutino
Alexandra Zivkovic

Yunes Yousef Doleh¹
Nonye Maria Edoh
Iqra Naz Farooqi¹
Chantel Ida Fletcher
Amerasinghage Anne Damithri Fonseka
Deena Michelle Foster¹
Kayla Alexis Fowler
Vanessa Lourenco Freire
Sara Ghauri¹
Arjun Gupta
Allison Sara Gutworth
Enas Hamid El-Tag¹
Veronia S. Hanna
Iris Del Carmen Herrera
Lisa M. Jenkins¹
Iman Adero Aretta Johnson¹
Sabrina Jung¹
Amy Anna Margaret Kalista¹
Ashwin Blake Karanam
Harveen Kaur
Jennifer Marie Keefer¹
Mahaghami A. Key¹
Anam Khan¹
Danielle Evelyn De Windt King
Agatha Christene Kocherla¹
Katherine M. Kovacs
Elizabeth Anne Krupka
Heather Kimberly Lalite¹
Mark Anthony Lee
Prerna Malik
Maheswari Mariappan
Michael Tyler Mascari
Nicolette Marie Mateescu
Njambi Wanjur Mathenge
Mikaela Milan Matthews
Kaitlyn Marie Mazzzilli

¹ Degree was awarded prior to commencement
Rutgers School of Public Health Class of 2018

Camille Chaustre McNally¹
Amber Leigh Minnick
Samantha Elizabeth Musumeci
Rachel Elizabeth NeMoyer
Gifty A. Niimoi¹
Nkolika Jean Odenigbo
Antonio Dalante Palmer¹
Prashanth Palvannan
Mayur Patel
Parth Prakash Patel¹
Sajana Patel
Leonora Ann Persico
Patricia Pinto¹
Jacqueline Suzanne Polk
Ayishasha K. Pratt¹
Ana L. Quintero
Parita Kunwarji Ratnani
Andrew Robert Rava
Mary Kathleen Riley
Jennifer Janette Rodriguez¹
Samir Sabharwal
Priya Sahgal
Joke Mujidat Salako¹
Diego Mauricio Salazar¹
Sabera Saleh
Christina Roshini Samuel
Kunj Bhupeshchandra Sanghvi
Megan Rita Sena¹
Kavita Sharma¹
Fatima Ghazanfar Sheikh¹
Darshee Kiritkumar Sheth
Bharati Shrestha
Chintan Divyesh Shukla¹
Kyle Shupp¹
Jaskirat Kaur Sidhu
Sarah Michelle Araba Simpson
Prianka Singh
Jessica Leigh Staller

Janelle Staniewicz¹
Eugene M. Talbot
Nicole Michelle Taliaferro¹
Lisa Kurian Thanjan¹
Sunni Thompson
Emily Ann Valentino¹
Aliya Wadood
Shane Patrick Walsh
Emily Wang

Master of Science in Biostatistics
Pei-Ting Chang
Yingfeng Chen
Donggyu Lee
Hsin-Hung Liu
Patrick Henry Ney
Clara Tan
Yifei Tan
Bei Wang
Han Wang
Jian Wang
Qianxi Wang
Shinobu Yamamoto¹
Yuqing Ye¹
Peng Zhang
Wei Zhao¹
Faisal Farrukh Zia¹

Master of Science in Health Outcomes, Policy, and Economics
Katherine Marie Gorczyca
Joseph Edward Guilfoyle
Rina K. Mehta¹
Ankitaben Vijaykumar Shah¹
Mary Smart¹
Brian Lao Ung¹

¹ Degree was awarded prior to commencement
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
Susan Gabriel\textsuperscript{1}, MS
Chair: Elisa Bandera, MD, PhD
Dissertation: \textit{The Impact of Dairy Food, Vitamin D and Calcium Consumption on Women’s Health Through the Life Course}

Hui Gu\textsuperscript{1}, MS
Chair: Yong Lin, PhD
Dissertation: \textit{Two-Stage Design for Phase II Cancer Clinical Trials with Multiple Endpoints}

Neetu Jain\textsuperscript{1}, MPH ’02
Chair: George Rhoads, MD, MPH
Dissertation: \textit{Intergenerational Change in Maternal Education and Risk of Preterm and Small-for-Gestational-Age Births in New Jersey}

Nisha Jani\textsuperscript{1}, MPH ’03
Chair: William Halperin, MD, DrPH
Dissertation: \textit{Rotavirus Immunization Among Children: Examination of Coverage in the United States}

Bozena Katic, MPA, MPH
Chair: George Rhoads, MD, MPH
Dissertation: \textit{Socioeconomic Position and the Transmission of Psychological Distress: A Life Course and Intergenerational Analysis of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics}

Eric Lauer\textsuperscript{1}, MPH ’08
Chair: Dona Schneider, PhD, MPH
Dissertation: \textit{Teasing Apart the Complex Relationships Between Psychological Distress, Mental Health Conditions, Social Factors, and Disability in the United States}

Peter Lenahan\textsuperscript{1} DC, MPH’99
Chair: Michael Gochfeld, MD, PhD
Dissertation: \textit{30-Year Study of Cancer Incidence in Firefighters and Police Officer in New Jersey’s Four Largest Municipalities}

Yeongkwon Son\textsuperscript{1v}
Chair: Stephan Schwander, MD, PhD
Dissertation: \textit{Estimating the Human Health Risks Associated with Exposure to Harmful Constituents Emitted from Electronic Cigarettes}

Zhulang Tao\textsuperscript{1}, MSPH
Chair: George Rhoads, MD, MPH
Dissertation: \textit{An Inquiry Into the Association of Pancreatic Cancer with other Diseases of Westernization}

Sylvia Elana Twersky, MPH
Chair: Alan Monheit, PhD
Dissertation: \textit{U.S. Citizen Children in Immigrant Families: Effects of State Laws on Social Safety Net Enrollment}

EXPLANATORY NOTES
The listings of graduates in this program are based upon information provided to the University Office of Academic Affairs at the time of submission of the program for publication. These listings are unofficial. The official conferral of degrees/certificates occurs upon satisfactory completion of all academic requirements and the fulfillment of all financial and other obligations to the University.

\textsuperscript{1} Degree was awarded prior to commencement
“Keeping the public in public health”