



MPHA

# VOICES OF PUBLIC HEALTH NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of the Michigan Public Health Association  
Affiliate of the American Public Health Association



## A Message from the President

Dear MPHA Members, Partners, and Friends,

As summer winds down and we step into a new season, I'm thrilled to welcome you to fall and to the inaugural edition of *Voices of Public Health*, our newly reimagined MPHA newsletter! It's a true honor to serve as President of the Michigan Public Health Association. I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Suzanne Keep, who led the MPHA with remarkable dedication and vision from 2023 to 2025. Under her leadership, our association grew stronger, broadened its reach, and deepened its commitment to health equity. I'm excited to build on that strong foundation and carry our mission forward...together.

In this time of both challenge and possibility, I remain inspired by the incredible passion, knowledge, and resilience of our MPHA community. MPHA thrives because of you, our members, who show up every day to protect, promote, and advance the health and well-being of communities across Michigan. Our mission remains clear: **to support and empower our members, while engaging partners and decision-makers to create a healthier, more equitable state.** Your work makes a difference, and it fuels everything we do.

As we look to the year ahead, one of my key goals is to grow our network and elevate even more voices in our work. There are public health professionals, students, and advocates throughout the state who may not yet be connected to MPHA but should be. Let's reach them. Let's invite them in. Let's continue building a vibrant, inclusive association that reflects the full diversity and depth of Michigan's public health landscape. I encourage you to share what MPHA means to you and why it matters, because your stories are powerful and they help bring others along.

I'm especially excited to launch *Voices of Public Health* as a space to celebrate our collective efforts, spotlight member achievements, and keep you informed about essential initiatives, opportunities, and events. This newsletter will highlight our core priorities: advancing sound public health policy, strengthening the public health workforce, and supporting the next generation of leaders. And we want *your* voice to be part of it! Whether you're leading a new project, planning a community event, publishing research, mentoring students, or shaping policy, this is your platform to share and shine. *Voices of Public Health* will only grow richer and more meaningful with your contributions and perspectives.

If you have content to share—an article, announcement, event, or member spotlight—please use the link or QR code at the end of the newsletter to submit. We can't wait to hear from you! Thank you for your ongoing commitment to public health. I'm energized by the road ahead and grateful to be walking it with all of you. Let's make this a year of connection, collaboration, and powerful impact, together.

Warmly,

*Marcia Mastracci Dittmyer, PhD, MS, MBA, MCHES*

## Meet the Leadership Team

Below is the AY25-26 Leadership Team.

President	Dr. Marcia Mastracci Ditmyer
President-Elect	Fatema Mamou
Immediate-Past President	Dr. Suzanne Keep
Secretary	Ashton R. Stewart
Treasurer	Brian Hartl
Directors-at-Large	Dr. Raymond Rawson
	Christine White
	Kenetra Young
	Katherine Balint
	Raegan Holey
	Ella Greene-Moton
APHA Affiliate Representative to Governing Council	Hope Rollins
Chair, Epidemiology Section	Brian Hartl
Chair, Nursing Section	Belinda Aberle
Chair, Student Section	Dillon L. Glenn
Chair, Health Education and Promotion Section	Katherine Balint
Chair, Bylaws Committee	Dr. Naomi Ervin
Chair Finance Committee	Brian Hartl
Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee	Dr. Sarah Nechuta
Editor, Michigan Journal of Public Health	Dr. Sarah Nechuta
Chair, Awards Committee	Unfilled
Interim Chair, Public Policy and Legislation Committee	Marcia M. Ditmyer
Interim Chair, Marketing & Communication Committee	Hope Rollins
Archivist	Unfilled
Chair, Membership Committee	Crystal Hepburn
Chair, Programs Committee	Fatema Mamou

I'm excited to connect with those who are interested in stepping into leadership roles with MPHA. Whether you're new to the organization or a long-standing member, we welcome your energy, ideas, and commitment. If you've ever considered serving on a committee, leading an initiative, or helping shape our future direction, I encourage you to reach out—we'd love to have you involved.

## Refresh of the MPHA Website

We're excited to share our refreshed MPHA website! We are proud to unveil the newly redesigned Michigan Public Health Association (MPHA) website, featuring a fresh look, a more user-friendly experience, and expanded content areas that reflect our evolving mission and vision. This refreshed site was designed with you, our members and partners, in mind, with improved navigation, updated resources, and new areas of concentration such as Health Education & Promotion, Environmental Health, and the new Voices of Public Health Newsletter. We have refreshed many of the long-standing sections, such as MJPH, Epidemiology, Public Health Nursing, Public Policy & Legislation, and the Student Section. The site will serve as a dynamic hub for connection, collaboration, and information sharing. We invite you to explore the site, discover what's new, and stay engaged with the important work we're doing across Michigan to promote and protect public health.

[\[MPHA Website\]](#)

Together, let's continue building a healthier, more equitable Michigan!

## Feature Story

When it came time to select the feature story for the first installment of *Voices of Public Health*, I felt torn. So much has been happening in public health lately that narrowing the focus seemed almost impossible. Which issue should take center stage? What mattered most for this inaugural issue? The decision felt overwhelming—until I realized that the very weight of these questions reflected what many of us are experiencing. The challenges of this year have left me, and likely others, feeling less in control, less empowered, and less able to make the difference we aspire to as public health professionals. In that moment, I returned to the anchor that has always grounded me: health and wellness promotion. And so, I chose to focus this first feature on well-being.

My personal and professional journey has been nothing short of a roller coaster—moments of exhilaration when things were going well, followed by steep drops when challenges threatened to derail me. I didn't begin my career in public health, yet I've always been drawn to the principles of health and wellness, whether in business, industry, or academia. No matter the setting, I've returned time and again to the pursuit of balance and well-being.

Today, I see more clearly than ever that I would not be who I am without riding that roller coaster. Both the uplifting and difficult experiences have shaped me in ways I never anticipated. They've shown me that it's not the events themselves that define us, but how we respond to them. Healing from past traumas can ignite growth, guiding us toward the person we were meant to become. In the end, our identity is not a fixed point but a tapestry—woven from our journeys, our relationships, and the choices we make along the way.

So, you might be wondering...what does all of this have to do with well-being? At its core, well-being is deeply tied to our sense of identity. Every aspect of well-being shapes who we are and how we see ourselves. A grounded identity helps us navigate life's challenges with confidence, strengthens our coping skills, fuels joy in our achievements, fosters healthier relationships, and supports emotional stability. Well-being is the sum of our characteristics, beliefs, affiliations, and roles. It shapes not only how we view ourselves, but also how others perceive us. It influences our place in the world, our connections with one another, and our overall mental health. When our identity feels solid, it gives us stability and direction. When it feels uncertain, we can be left adrift—our well-being inevitably suffers.

Let me shift the focus for a moment and bring character into the conversation. It takes a special person, with specific attributes and a certain character, to excel as a public health professional. Not everyone can do it. Character and identity are deeply interconnected. A person's character can shape aspects of their identity, influencing the roles they choose or the groups they align with. Likewise, the elements of a person's identity can inform their values and, in turn, their character.

Aristotle, the ancient Greek philosopher and scientist, encouraged us to ask, "*What kind of person should I be?*" He saw character as a set of attributes, traits, and tendencies that guide how we act and behave, qualities we develop through deliberate practice. You become courageous by practicing courage. You become humble by practicing humility. You become optimistic by practicing hope. To me, character is much like mastering a sport or learning an instrument, a culmination of skills and mindsets honed over time. I work to practice them daily until they become second nature. Of the many attributes worth cultivating, I believe four are especially vital for public health professionals: humility, hope, courage, and gratitude.

**Humility** is essential for good leadership and healthy teamwork. It's rooted in perspective and self-reflection—qualities that make personal growth possible. Without humility, change is difficult. Humility means putting others' needs before your own, being quick to acknowledge their contributions, and slow to seek recognition for yourself. Humble people share credit generously, emphasize the team over the individual, and define success collectively rather than personally.

**Hope** keeps us moving forward when discouragement threatens to take hold. It is the blend of a deep desire for something better and the expectation that it can be achieved. Hope reduces feelings of helplessness, boosts happiness, lowers stress, and improves quality of life. It helps make a difficult present more bearable and inspires us to take the steps needed to create a better future. Envisioning a brighter tomorrow motivates action today.

## Feature Story, Cont.

**Courage** is foundational. It is the resolve to act with honesty and integrity—especially when it is most difficult. Courage means choosing the hard right over the easy wrong, even when no one is watching. It's moral strength in the face of fear or adversity, and it's essential for standing up for what is good and just.

**Gratitude** is the practice of celebrating what *is* rather than resenting what is not. Many Greek philosophers believed gratitude to be the most important virtue, for when we are grateful, it is difficult to be hateful, angry, or fearful. Gratitude is not something that can be demanded—it is a gift we give ourselves and others. It arises from recognizing that a positive outcome has occurred and acknowledging the person or external source behind it. By practicing gratitude daily, we nurture a mindset that fosters kindness, resilience, and joy.

These four attributes are closely tied to well-being. They shape our moral emotions, fuel our motivation, and guide our conduct. They not only strengthen individual resilience but also contribute to community well-being. Research shows that cultivating character strengths can improve relationships, enhance overall health, and help us navigate life's obstacles. Strong moral character is even linked to a lower risk of depression and potential cardiovascular benefits.

One of the most important lessons I've learned in life is this: we are the product of all our experiences—good and bad, uplifting and painful—and trust me, you will have both. Every experience, no matter how difficult, carries the potential to make you stronger, even if it doesn't feel that way in the moment. And the experiences you've yet to have will continue to shape and reshape who you are becoming. Lived experiences matter because only the person who has lived them can truly understand their nuances and complexities. They don't just shape your story; they shape your identity and your well-being, influencing how you see yourself, how you relate to others, and how you navigate the world. I can't pretend to know everything you've been through, nor can I predict what lies ahead for you. All I can do is share a few lessons from my own journey:

1. **Live in the moment.** Looking back, I can recall countless times I told myself, "I'll do that later." But "later" often never came. When we delay, we risk missing the very best moments and opportunities. The time is now—embrace it fully. Let your experiences propel you forward, shaping both your identity and your well-being.
2. **Remember that good things rarely come easy.** If you want a fulfilling life, a meaningful career, and genuine satisfaction, you will have to work for them. Luck may give you a boost, but it won't carry you the whole way. The rest is entirely up to you. My father used to tell me, *"Nobody will fight your battles with the same devotion you would."*
3. **Keep dreaming—your only limit is your imagination.** Imagination opens doors to worlds you have yet to explore. Albert Einstein once said, *"Imagination is more important than knowledge, because knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress."*
4. **Accept that you can't know everything or solve every problem—and that's okay.** The world is fast paced, constantly evolving, and always replacing the old with the new. It's not realistic to have every skill or all the knowledge you'll need at once. That's the beauty of lifelong learning: we grow, adapt, and discover every single day.

I'll leave you with one final thought from Abraham Lincoln: *"The best way to predict your future is to create it."* The path ahead belongs to you. The destination of your world is yours to shape.

~Marcia Mastracci Ditmyer

Want your voice to be heard, submit  
your story to [mditmyer@svsu.edu](mailto:mditmyer@svsu.edu).  
It may be selected for a future  
feature story.



## Member Spotlight (Public Health Nursing Section)

This edition of Voices of Public Health aims its spotlight on two members of MPHA from the Public Health Nursing Section.



Andrea Mellissa Agboka

Andrea currently serves as Chief of Public Health for Special Programs – Public Health Nurse Services at the Oakland County Health Division. Her path to public health began during her nursing degree, when a community health clinical at the Berrien County Health Department sparked her interest in prevention and population health. She went on to earn a Master of Public Health in Health Promotion and Education from Loma Linda University in 2003. Early in her career, she worked in neuro-rehab, med-surg, and community mental health before joining Oakland County in 2006 as a public health nurse. Since then, she has served in maternal-child health home visiting, clinic nursing, and communicable disease, eventually moving into leadership and her current role as Chief.

Andrea is especially passionate about maternal and child health, advancing health equity, and promoting access to care for all. Trauma-informed care has become central to her work—both in supporting clients and equipping staff to manage secondary trauma and sustain meaningful careers. Among her accomplishments, she is particularly proud of leading the Survivor Mom’s Companion Program, which provides home visits to women who have experienced trauma, including traumatic births, to support healing and healthy parenting. She has also collaborated on initiatives such as Bridging the Breastfeeding Gap, Baby Café, and Reflective Supervision. Her most valuable piece of advice is to seek opportunities to collaborate across units and disciplines. Public health touches everything from housing to education, and the more you can work with professionals from other fields, the more holistic and impactful your work will be. She recently completed the Oakland County Leadership Academy, a partnership between Rochester Christian University, where her cohort submitted a white paper outlining a countywide strategic goal. She is also an active member of the Michigan Public Health Association’s Public Health Nursing Section and participates in the section’s book club. Beyond her professional work, Andrea is actively involved in her church community, serving as a member of the praise team and supporting youth ministry programs, including tutoring and mentoring children at Arbor View Apartments in Pontiac. Born in Bermuda, she enjoys running and has completed several 10Ks as well as the Detroit Free Press Half Marathon. She lives by one of her favorite affirmations: *“I can do all things through Christ who gives me*



Keri Urquhart

Keri Urquhart is proud to serve as a public health nurse at Covenant Community Care, a faith-based Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides medical, dental, obstetric, and behavioral health services to Metro Detroit residents—regardless of their ability to pay. Her nursing career began in high-intensity settings, including the Emergency Department and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, where she developed a strong foundation in nursing and acute care. Even in those early years, she felt a calling toward public health, which led her to roles in both local and state health departments. There, she not only worked to improve community wellness but also passionately advocated for and helped implement statewide newborn screening for Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD), ensuring that life-saving pulse oximetry testing became a standard for all infants in Michigan.

Along the way, Keri discovered a deep passion for teaching. She has had the privilege of precepting nursing students and helping to shape the next generation of caregivers. Through dedication and leadership, her path led from clinic nurse to the executive team. She currently serves as Chief of Clinical Performance, where she focuses on advancing clinical quality and excellence across all service lines within the organization.

## Member Spotlight (Public Health Nursing Section), Cont.

### Keri Urquhart, Cont.

Keri's leadership was tested during the COVID-19 pandemic, a period she describes as her own "movie moment." While it felt at times like a scene from *Outbreak*, her role was not about theatrics but about real-world leadership under pressure: coordinating response plans, managing scarce PPE, overseeing vaccine distribution, and rallying teams through shifting mandates. She has enjoyed her service on the executive board of the Michigan Public Health Nursing section (MPHN) and is honored to serve as the Public Health Nurse representative to COMON, where she looks forward to collaborating with colleagues and contributing to statewide nursing and public health initiatives. Outside of work, Keri is a dedicated mother to two teenage daughters—one who brings creativity and flair as a theater enthusiast and another who shows energy and teamwork on the volleyball court. She is also an avid reader who regularly hosts local book-swap gatherings with her best friend, finding both connection and creative recharge in the process. In the fall, she proudly cheers for her Michigan State Spartans—Go Green, Go White!

## Member Spotlight

If you know a member whom you would like to spotlight, please send to [mditmyer@svsu.edu](mailto:mditmyer@svsu.edu). You might see them highlighted in the next issue of *Voices of Public Health*!

## Policy & Advocacy Updates

### POLICY

- ✓ [Policy Briefs](#)
- ✓ [Policy Brief Database](#)
- ✓ [Policy Brief Development Process](#)
- ✓ [Policy Brief Archiving Process](#)
- ✓ [Proposed Policy Briefs](#)

### ADVOCACY

- ✓ [Advocacy for Public Health](#)
- ✓ [Advocacy Priorities](#)
- ✓ [Action Alerts](#)
- ✓ [Letters to Congress](#)
- ✓ [Testimony, Comments and Briefs](#)
- ✓ [Be a Public Health Advocate](#)
- ✓ [Speak for Health](#)



### MPHA Health Policy Submission

Do you have recent local or national policy/legislative topics, issues, or stories that members should be aware of? Use the QR code to submit topics you would like to see on our website.



## Student & Early Career Section

Fall semester is approaching! As of July 2025, we've welcomed a new Chair and Chair-Elect of the MPHA Student Section: Dillon L. Glenn and Muhammadi Sayid Kabiito, respectively.

We hope summer has been a blast for our student readers! Many of us have surely made the most of it, whether by rediscovering once-estranged hobbies, soaking up the sun with a mocktail in hand, celebrating milestones such as engagements, graduations and weddings (it is the season!), or even stepping into exciting new roles in our respective fields—and that's only the beginning.

We anticipate this section becoming a go-to resource for updates on upcoming student-related events, news, and opportunities—in addition to notices via email. While there's nothing to share at the moment, stay tuned for future inclusions! Being a student in public health can be demanding yet rewarding, and part of that reward is knowing that none of us are expected to meet these demands alone. Here's a toast to making the most of the months ahead!

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~ Dillon L. Glenn, PhD Student, RN, Section Chair  
Corresponding Email: [hc7588@wayne.edu](mailto:hc7588@wayne.edu)

More information for those just getting started! It is sometimes hard to figure out where to go and what to do. Below are a few resources to help you in your journey.

[Public Health Jobs](#)

[Home | Public Health Careers.org](#)

[Resume Guide - PublicHealth.org](#)

[Resume Writing for Public Health - MPH Online](#)

[Public Health Resume - Sample & 20 Skills to List](#)



NOTE: If you are a member of APHA, you can also access resources for students/early career professionals through their Public Health Career Journey Center. [Join here.](#)

## Attention MPHA Members



Are you attending the Michigan Premier Public Health Conference? Let us know so you can join us as we connect with one another at the event. More details to follow – email [mditmyer@svsu.edu](mailto:mditmyer@svsu.edu) if you want to be on the email list.

Are you interested in restarting the Oral Health Section – Contact Marcia Ditmyer at [mditmyer@svsu.edu](mailto:mditmyer@svsu.edu).







# Resources & Tools

There are so many valuable resources available for those working in public and community health. I've gathered some of them here in one place in the hope that they will be helpful to you. These are tools, ideas, and connections that have supported me throughout my career, and I'm excited to share them with you.



- ✓ [Click here](#) to access the Community Toolbox



- ✓ Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
- ✓ [Results](#) of the 2024 Epidemiology Capacity Assessment
- ✓ [Resource Section](#)
- ✓ [The CSTE Foundation](#)

## WELLNESS RESOURCES



- ✓ [Wellness Resources](#)
- ✓ [Wellness Toolkit](#)
- ✓ [Stay Well Program Resources](#)



- ✓ [Workplace Well-being Resources](#)
- ✓ [Prevention and Wellness](#)



- ✓ [Health and Wellness](#)



- ✓ [Professional Wellbeing](#)



- ✓ [Employee Whole Health](#)



- ✓ [Prioritizing Well-being in the PH Workforce](#)



- ✓ [National Plan for Health Workforce Well-Being](#)



- ✓ [Wellness Alliance](#)



## TOOLS & RESOURCES

- ✓ [Policy Briefs](#)
- ✓ [Books](#)
- ✓ [Fact Sheets](#)
- ✓ [Research & Data](#)
- ✓ [That's Public Health Videos](#)
- ✓ [Public Health Buyers Guide](#)
- ✓ [Public Health and Equity Resource Navigator](#)
- ✓ [FAQs](#)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ [Public Health Jobs](#)
- ✓ [Professional Development](#)
- ✓ [APHA Now Courses](#)
- ✓ [Public Health Careers](#)
- ✓ [Internships & Fellowships](#)
- ✓ [Networking Opportunities](#)
- ✓ [Awards & Honors](#)



# How to Get Involved?

Getting involved in the Michigan Public Health Association (MPHA) is a great way to make meaningful contributions to public health across the state while also expanding your professional network. Here are some of the best ways to get involved:

1. **Become a Member.** Start by becoming an official member if you aren't already. Membership provides access to:
  - ✓ Networking opportunities.
  - ✓ Events and conferences.
  - ✓ MPHA updates and newsletter.
  - ✓ Opportunities to serve on committees and workgroups.
  - ✓ Join MPHA by clicking [here!](#)
2. **Join a Section or Committee.** MPHA has several sections/committees aligned with different public health focus areas, such as:
  - ✓ Epidemiology, Public Health Nursing, Public Policy and Legislation, Membership engagement, Health Education and Promotion, and Environmental health.
  - ✓ This is where much of the meaningful work happens—and they are always looking for passionate members!
3. **Attend Annual Events & Conferences.** Participate in MPHA's conference or any of the educational seminars, webinars, or learning opportunities. These are excellent ways to:
  - ✓ Learn from experts.
  - ✓ Present your own work.
  - ✓ Connect with other public health professionals.
4. **Michigan Journal of Public Health.** The mission of the MJPH is to promote public health practice, research, and policy with a specific focus on Michigan. This is an excellent avenue to:
  - ✓ Contribute to the field of practice grounded in public health science.
  - ✓ Contribute to the growing body of public health literature.
  - ✓ Enhance your career advancement by expanding your professional visibility.
  - ✓ Connect with other researchers and practitioners.
5. **Run for a Leadership Position**

MPHA is always looking for emerging leaders. You can:

  - ✓ Serve on the Board of Directors.
  - ✓ Chair or co-chair a committee.
  - ✓ Volunteer as a regional representative.
  - ✓ Leadership positions often open each year and are announced to the membership.
6. **Contribute to the Newsletter.** The *Voices of Public Health* newsletter welcomes member contributions. You can:
  - ✓ Share articles or stories.
  - ✓ Highlight public health efforts in your community.
  - ✓ Promote events or initiatives.
7. **Spread the Word.** Help grow MPHA's impact by:
  - ✓ Inviting colleagues to join.
  - ✓ Sharing MPHA posts and events on social media.
  - ✓ Representing MPHA at your workplace or school/institution.
8. **Student Involvement.** If you're a student:
  - ✓ Join as a student member at a discounted rate.
  - ✓ Participate in student-focused events.
  - ✓ Apply for internships or mentorship opportunities through MPHA.

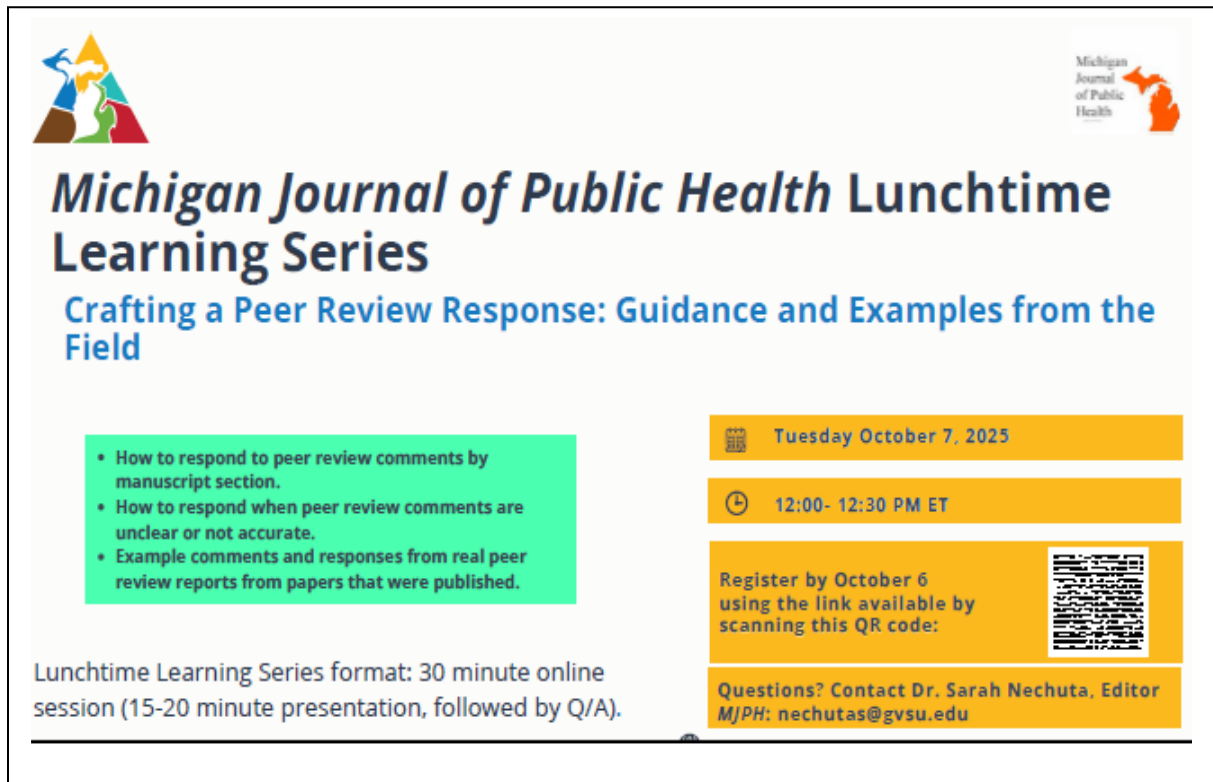
# Michigan Journal of Public Health

Promoting Public Health Practice, Research and Policy with a Focus on the Great Lakes Region



Join us for the next *Michigan Journal of Public Health* Lunchtime Learning Virtual Series on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 12:00pm, "Crafting a Peer Review Response: Guidance and Examples from the Field".

All sessions are recorded and available here: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/mjph/news.html>



The flyer features the Michigan Journal of Public Health logo at the top left and right. The main title is "Michigan Journal of Public Health Lunchtime Learning Series" in a large, bold, blue font. Below it, the subtitle "Crafting a Peer Review Response: Guidance and Examples from the Field" is in a smaller blue font. A green box on the left contains three bullet points: "How to respond to peer review comments by manuscript section.", "How to respond when peer review comments are unclear or not accurate.", and "Example comments and responses from real peer review reports from papers that were published." To the right, there are three yellow boxes: the first says "Tuesday October 7, 2025", the second says "12:00- 12:30 PM ET", and the third says "Register by October 6 using the link available by scanning this QR code:" followed by a QR code. At the bottom right, it says "Questions? Contact Dr. Sarah Nechuta, Editor MJPB: nechutas@gvsu.edu". At the bottom left, it says "Lunchtime Learning Series format: 30 minute online session (15-20 minute presentation, followed by Q/A)." The entire flyer is enclosed in a black border.

To register, please see this link [Michigan Journal of Public Health Lunchtime Learning Series](#), or the QR code below.



## Call for Submissions: Voices of Public Health – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2026

We are now accepting **newsworthy items and content** for the upcoming issue of *Voices of Public Health*, MPHA's quarterly newsletter. The next edition will be published **January 2026**.

We welcome contributions that highlight the work and achievements of our members and partners since the last issue, including:

- Public health events, learning opportunities, or community outreach.
- Noteworthy accomplishments or awards
- Creative projects or initiatives
- Member spotlights or profiles
- Innovative ideas or stories that reflect the mission of MPHA.

Whether you're sharing a success story, promoting an upcoming program, or shining a light on someone making a difference, we want to hear from you!

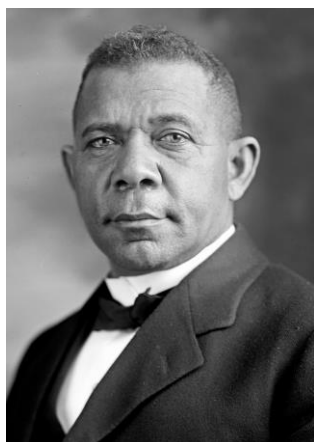
- **Submission Deadline:** December 15, 2025
- **Submit your content here:** [\[Click here\]](#)

Let's work together to amplify the incredible public health efforts happening across Michigan!



Click here to submit content, event, or  
announcements in January 2026  
newsletter

## Closing Message & Quote



Booker T. Washington

In a recent meeting with Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, Executive Director of the American Public Health Association, he reminded us of a powerful quote by Booker T. Washington:

*“A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right, and evil doesn't become good, just because it's accepted by a majority.”*

These words resonate deeply in today's world. As public health professionals, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to evidence, integrity, and equity. We must stand firm in what we know to be true and continue moving forward in our shared mission to protect and improve the health of all communities across Michigan.