

Center for Communication, Health, and the Public Good

Newsletter

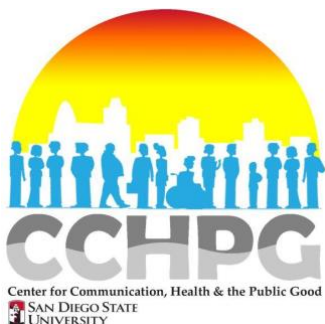
Director's Message

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Center for Communication, Health, and the Public Good! As new Director I am thrilled to be in the role of connecting and supporting faculty and students who are committed to advancing the public good. In my eight months at SDSU, I've talked to so many enthusiastic scholars who are excited about the future of the Center. It's my hope as Director that through creative collaborations and conversations we'll move the needle toward greater physical, mental, social, and environmental health.

After our kick-off meeting in January and mini-retreat in March, the core faculty came up with two focus areas to concentrate our efforts over the coming years (more about them below). We've also added six new Affiliated Faculty and a new member of the Core Faculty, the School of Communication's Dr. Godfried Asante. Check out our revamped website to learn more about everyone.

Many of the resources and much of the enthusiasm for the Center come from the diligent work of our founding Director, Dr. Wayne Beach, whose successful advocacy made the Center a reality, and Brianna Pham, our phenomenal graduate research assistant. All the Center's endeavors depend on the support of so many folks, and so to all of you, I say thank you!

Dr. Katrina Pariera



SDSU

College of
Professional
Studies and
Fine Arts

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TAKE A LOOK:
[CCHPG's website](#) has
been updated!

EVENTS

Film Screening of Target
Zero, hosted by CCHPG
+ Undergraduate Health
Communication Student
Organization

Date: Thursday, April 27th
Time: 7:00pm
Location: Little Theater
(Bernstein Theater)

See flyer on last page!

NEW INITIATIVES AT THE CENTER

The core faculty met to determine the areas we'd like to prioritize. These focus areas will serve as organizing frameworks for Center endeavors, allowing us to bring more attention to and center our efforts around these issues.

Stigma

Stigma worsens nearly every health issue people face. It silences open communication, generates fear and misunderstandings, perpetuates discrimination, and isolates us from each other. The Center aims to address and reduce stigma in all its forms, with a special focus on stigma around hunger, LGBTQ+ communities, incarceration, and migrant communities.

Community Empowerment and Resilience

Community empowerment and resilience are essential to addressing the social, cultural, and economic determinants of health. The Center aims to advance community empowerment and resilience by bringing together a network of people committed to serving and strengthening our communities. We will also focus on efforts around community infrastructure, including technology, social support, and policy.

NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

This month, we recognize April as National Minority Health Month ([NMHM](https://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/nmhm/)), an opportunity to raise awareness about the disparities faced by racial and ethnic minority populations, and how these health disparities can be reduced.

NMHM emphasizes the importance of health literacy, culturally competent care, and equitable access to health resources for diverse populations, including patients with limited English proficiency. Learn more at

<https://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/nmhm/>



Selected Work Aligning with National Minority Health Month - By Our Faculty!

de Souza, R. (2014). A qualitative study of roles performed by peer workers in the context of HIV in India. *Journal of the Association of Nursing in AIDS Care*. [Full text](#).

Cheng, Y., Ahn, J., Lewis, N., & **Martinez, L.** (2017). A cross-comparative survey of information seeking and scanning about drug-related sources and topics among US and Israeli college students. *Journal of Health Communication*. [Full text](#).

Kumar, R. (2021). Refugee articulations of health: A culture-centered exploration of Burmese refugees' resettlement in the United States. *Health Communication*. [Full text](#).



Meet the New Director, Dr. Katrina Pariera

In the Fall of 2022, SDSU welcomed Dr. Katrina Pariera as an Associate Professor in the School of Communication. Her work focuses on difficult conversations in interpersonal and health contexts. Dr. Pariera took on the role of Director of the Center for Communication, Health, and the Public Good this Spring.

Read about the new Director [in this article](#) from the faculty/staff newsletter.

Faculty Spotlight



Mary Posatko

School of Theatre, Television, and Film

Mary Posatko is a director and producer with a focus in documentary storytelling. Her feature films have screened theatrically and at domestic and international film festivals including SXSW and Los Angeles Film Festival, among others. Recently, Mary produced and directed an animated film about teenage mental health and created a series of films about HIV in partnership with LAC/USC hospital and the Rutgers Protein Data Bank.

Contact Mary Posatko at mposatko@sdsu.edu



Laura Coco

Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences

Dr. Coco's research interests include Hispanic/Latino hearing health; community-engaged research; and health services. She focuses on identifying disparities in the delivery of hearing healthcare services and developing strategies to improve access to, and equity of, audiology care for marginalized populations. Her specialty is using a Community Based Participatory Research approach to engage community members in developing culturally relevant interventions.

Contact Laura Coco at lcoco@sdsu.edu

THE HEALTH COMMUNICATION STUDENT ORGANIZATION (HCSO)
&
CENTER FOR COMMUNICATION, HEALTH, & PUBLIC GOOD (CCHPG)
PRESENTS...

HEALTH COMMUNICATION IN FILM: A SCREENING OF TARGET ZERO

Join us for a film screening of Target Zero, directed by new SDSU faculty member, Mary Posatko. Mary directed this documentary series, highlighting the complex challenges of experiencing and treating HIV. Through exploring the true stories of 3 HIV patients, we'll learn about the value of compassionate, patient-centered care.

This event will bring together faculty and students from both Communication and Theater, Television and Film, for an opportunity to engage in an open discussion of the roles of stigma and compassion in treating patients with HIV.

Thursday, April 27 at 7-8:30pm
Little Theatre (Bernstein Theatre)

6:45-7pm: Cupcakes, cookies, & refreshments served

7-8pm: Film Screening

8-8:30pm: Q&A Session

For additional questions, contact Katrina Pariera at
kpara@sdsu.edu

Thank you for reading our newsletter!

To learn more about the Center for Communication, Health, and the Public Good (CCHPG), visit our [website](https://communication.sdsu.edu/research/cchpg-2023) at <https://communication.sdsu.edu/research/cchpg-2023>

If you have an announcement or event you would like featured in this newsletter, please email our graduate research assistant, Brie Pham at bpham2@sdsu.edu.