

**School Assembly**

January 15, 2025

1. Welcome
2. Dean's updates
3. School of Public Health priorities, updates
4. Faculty and staff hiring, update
5. Open conversation
6. Other



1. Welcome

Dean Sandro Galea ([sgalea@wustl.edu](mailto:sgalea@wustl.edu)) welcomed attendees to the first School of Public Health assembly.

## School Assembly

January 15, 2025



### Agenda

1. Welcome
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## 2. Dean's Update

Dean Sandro Galea shared school-wide updates.

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**FIGURE 1.** The power of the prevailing paradigm: drawing of an Australian kangaroo by a sixteenth-century Dutch artist (Cornelis de Jode), based on descriptions by early explorers.

McMichael AJ. Prisoners of the proximate: loosening the constraints on epidemiology in an age of change. *American journal of epidemiology* 1999;149(10):887-897.



What are we trying to do?

How do we do this?

Why are we doing this? Why now?

What is my role?

What is everyone's role?

What are we trying to do?

How do we do this?

Why are we doing this? Why now?

What is my role?

What is everyone's role?



To build a school that leads with excellence in interdisciplinary population health science and scholarship, distinction in educational programs, and a deep commitment to local and global impact

To build a school that leads with excellence in **interdisciplinary population health science and scholarship**, distinction in educational programs, and a deep commitment to local and global impact



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What are we trying to do?

How do we do this?

Why are we doing this? Why now?

What is my role?

What is everyone's role?

4 new directions in public health x 4 strategies



Galea S, Abba-Aji M. New directions for population health science and scholarship. Jama Health Forum. In press.



- 1 New ways of thinking
- 2 New ways of doing the work
- 3 Better pathways to impact
- 4 Novel partnerships



## Building an exceptional School of Public Health



### Engage world-class faculty

Recruit innovative, intellectually curious, and heterodox thinkers who are animated by the call of science and scholarship.



### Nurture outstanding teachers and students

Build a curriculum that is rooted in public health fundamentals with the flexibility to evolve as the field progresses, and offer both in-person and digital learning options.



### Public Health plus

Forge partnerships across WashU's nine schools and with the public and private sectors to create a big-tent movement for public health.



### Prioritize local and global impact

Pursue research, education, and practice that help build a better world, starting in St. Louis and extending our reach globally.





What are we trying to do?

How do we do this?

Why are we doing this? Why now?

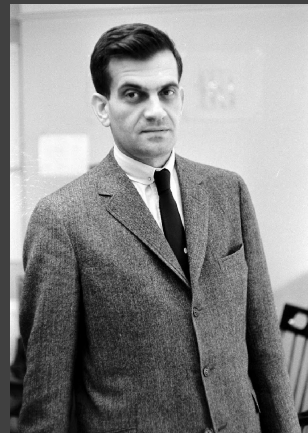
What is my role?

What is everyone's role?

A long history of excellence in public health at WashU



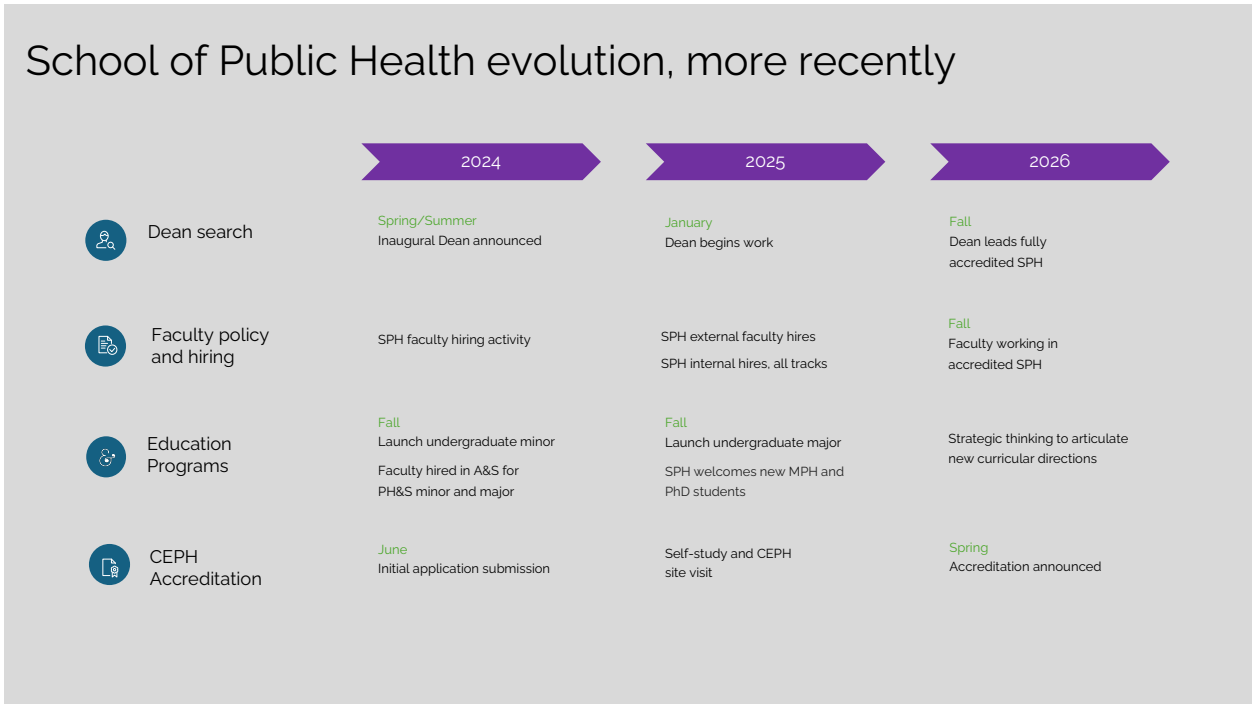
Everts Graham

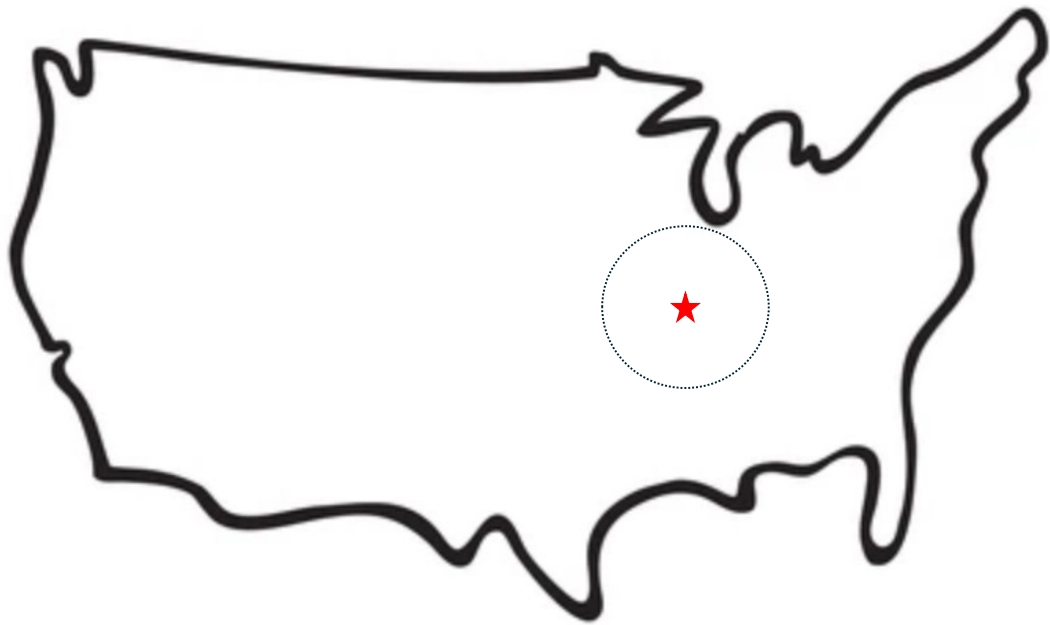


Ernst Wynder



## School of Public Health evolution, more recently





What are we trying to do?

How do we do this?

Why are we doing this? Why now?

**What is my role?**

What is everyone's role?

1. To work with staff, faculty, students to set vision and direction
2. To build structures that support and advance that vision
3. To externally represent the school, including at WashU
4. To ensure we have resources to sustain and advance our mission



What are we trying to do?

How do we do this?

Why are we doing this? Why now?

What is my role?

What is everyone's role?

1. Do good, excellent work, in all our areas
2. Engage with the emerging school
3. Represent us well to the world
4. Be patient with the long-run



### 3. School of Public Health priorities, updates

Dean Sandro Galea shared School of Public Health priorities and updates.

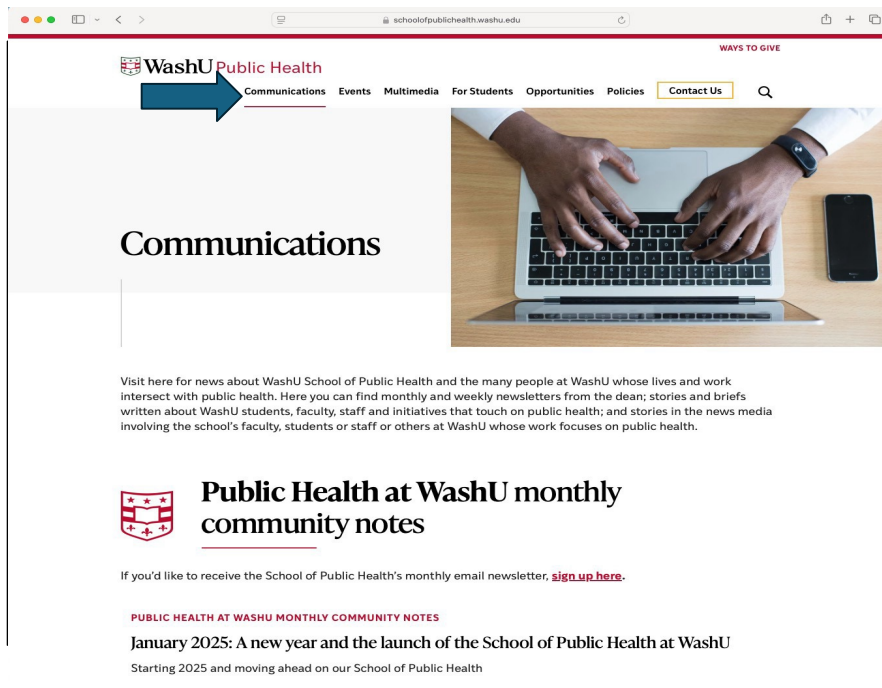
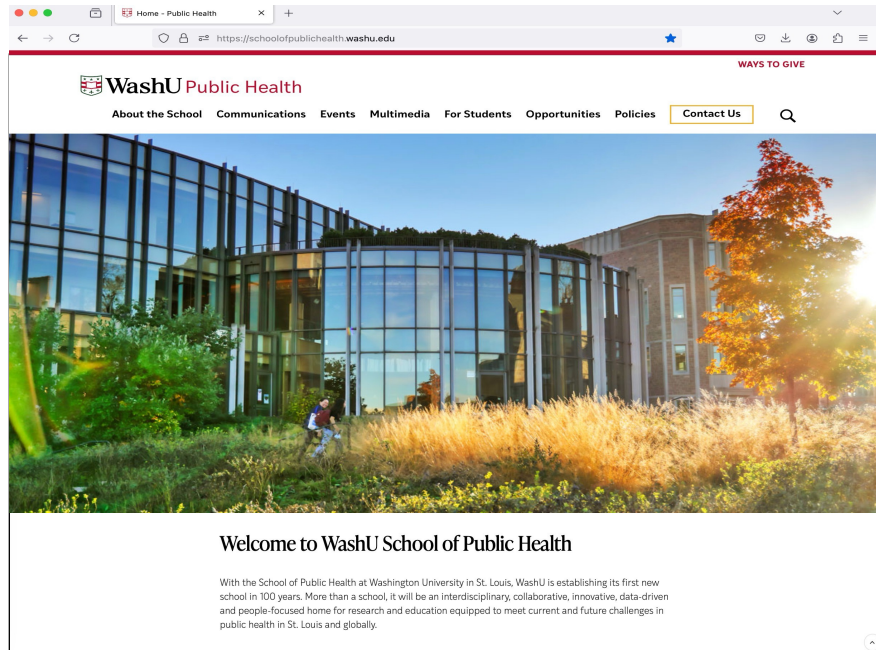
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2025, accreditation

2026, strategic visioning






**Monday, December 2, 2025 at 07:00:00 Eastern Standard Time**

**Subject:** December community notes - Progress towards building a School of Public Health at WashU  
**From:** Dana Lakin  
**To:** Dana Lakin

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**A new year and the launch of the School of Public Health at WashU**  
 Starting 2025 and moving ahead on our School of Public Health

Colleagues,

I hope everyone has had a wonderful holiday break, with an opportunity for reflection and connecting with loved ones. I start the new year energized and buoyed by hope and optimism. Over the holiday break, my family and I moved to St. Louis and are already getting to know the city. There is a lot to love about St. Louis, and I am looking forward to further engaging with all members of the WashU community as we move ahead with building our School of Public Health. In line with the vision laid out in the [WashU Strategic Plan](#).

In the first week of 2025, and my first role formally as part of the WashU community, I wanted to build on my [December Update](#) and continue with progress updates about the school, including several elements we are launching in the coming weeks and months. As noted in my last note, all of this work I report on in the work of many, and to all who are pushing these various aspects forward. Thank you!


Work continues along the framework of the first plan [outlined](#) in the community and commensurate in the [December Update](#). We expect to receive applications for college faculty appointments, and series of guest lectures appointments also are welcome. As we build out the school, staff positions are emerging and will be posted as they open. [Sign](#). In addition, we are focusing on steps toward

1 of 4

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**Progress towards building a School of Public Health at WashU**  
 A process update as key elements of building a school come into sharper focus.

Colleagues,

I wanted to begin, in the first week of the community of 2025, to summarize a few key steps we have taken towards building a School of Public Health at WashU. I look at the vision that this work is the work of the entire WashU college. I don't just have names individuals who have led on so many pieces of what I discuss below, but I look with a sense of awe at the coordinated expression of deep dedication to the work of so many throughout WashU who are moving this project forward.

I have now had a few opportunities to present a vision for the School of Public Health, building on the work that has come before me, both in recent years and through decades of excellence at WashU. Engaged on the School and from it emerged for the first time the idea to [create](#) for college enrollment in the articulation of vision, my presentation in the [Fall Public Health conference at WashU in July](#). I'm grateful that we had the School on a few other four attempts to build a school that have this in our direction in population health and social determinants of health. I hope that the work ahead of us will be able to help realize the vision. For college enrollment in health care about the four dimensions, I have now had an opportunity to publish those thoughts [here](#).


**Engage with diverse faculty and staff.** We are now well underway with our engagement of thought leaders for the School. We opened a [public search](#) in October, and a [Faculty Recruitment Committee](#) is working to review all applications. Faculty nominations continue to come in, and we will be presenting an interim search report in January. We have, as of this writing, received 200 applications, with about one-third being from outside WashU. The search process

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**Monday, November 4, 2024 at 07:00:00 Eastern Standard Time**

**Subject:** December community notes - New directions for public health  
**From:** Dana Lakin  
**To:** Dana Lakin

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**New directions for public health**  
 A framework to guide our work towards an exceptional School of Public Health.

Dear colleagues,

I have mentioned this has been a very good fall. For this leadership role, I wanted to share an update on our leading plan towards building a School of Public Health and discuss new directions in the field that are gaining us going forward.

First, thank you to all who have responded to our recently launched search for inaugural faculty for the School. I have been excited to see the range of talented candidates and interest from all over the world who have reached out and expressed interest in being part of public health at WashU. Applications remain open and we encourage all who are interested in joining our faculty at all levels to apply. More information regarding the application process for faculty interested in joint appointments across schools can be found [here](#).

Second, I would like to thank the many members of the WashU community I have spoken with in recent weeks. I had the privilege of speaking generally about the School to a group of faculty, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to share our vision and listen to your thoughts. I look forward to our next community meeting, and I hope to hear from you about our shared hopes and ideas for the new School of Public Health. I'm glad, and we're excited by, our conversations.


All get closer to meeting to St. Louis, I have been enjoying meeting on and learning some history of the city and the region. [St. Louis](#) is a beautiful city with a rich history and a vibrant future. I look forward to meeting with you and the Louisiana Purchase Commission, an event which has become informally known as the St. Louis World's Fair. What the fair reflects some of what we're celebrating about the country at this moment in time—namely, in the colonial representation of European culture in a display meant to "showcase America's exceptionalism."

1 of 4

**Monday, September 30, 2024 at 07:00:00 Eastern Standard Time**

**Subject:** December community notes - The foundations of excellence in public health  
**From:** Dana Lakin  
**To:** Dana Lakin

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**The foundations of excellence in public health**  
 The core principles on which we shall build a great School of Public Health at WashU.

Dear colleagues,

I hope everyone has had a great month. We have been moving ahead with our plan to advance our public health agenda at WashU, and in the months ahead I wanted both to update on those plans, and also talk about some of the underlying principles behind the School of Public Health we are building at the University.

Our history starts in a short story in the story of [Epidemiology, Disease Prevention, and Public Health](#) at WashU School of Medicine with the memoir, [Epidemiology, Disease Prevention, and Public Health](#). The book discusses the history of the school and the role of public health in the US and worldwide. Myler and Chaturvedi research efforts to change the conversation about creating our health and ultimately, change law and culture. The world is significantly healthier for their efforts.

I start with this story because I think it is a terrific testament to WashU's long history in advancing the health of the public, a history which began well before the current work towards creating a School of Public Health here. I also choose this story because it is a beautiful example of how a group of people can work together to make a difference in the world. I look forward to meeting with you and the Louisiana Purchase Commission, an event which has become informally known as the St. Louis World's Fair. What the fair reflects some of what we're celebrating about the country at this moment in time—namely, in the colonial representation of European culture in a display meant to "showcase America's exceptionalism."

This year's principles on our commitment to bringing together excellent faculty, faculty who are interdisciplinary, and who are driven by the call of a purpose and

1 of 4



The screenshot shows the website for WashU Public Health. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'About the School', 'Communications', 'Events', 'Multimedia', 'For Students', 'Opportunities', 'Policies', and 'Contact Us'. Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled 'PUBLIC HEALTH AT WASHU MONTHLY COMMUNITY NOTES'. This section lists three articles:

- January 2025: A new year and the launch of the School of Public Health at WashU**  
Starting 2025 and moving ahead on our School of Public Health
- December 2024: Progress towards building a School of Public Health at WashU**  
A process update as key elements of building a school come into sharper focus.
- November 2024: New directions for public health**  
A framework to guide our work towards an exceptional School of Public Health.

At the bottom of the list, it says 'Viewing 1 - 3 of 5' and 'VIEW MORE'. Below the list, there is a section for 'Public Health in Progress weekly newsletters'. It includes the WashU logo and the text: 'If you'd like to receive the School of Public Health's weekly email newsletter, [sign up here](#).' At the bottom, there is a date: 'Public Health in Progress, Jan. 13, 2025'.





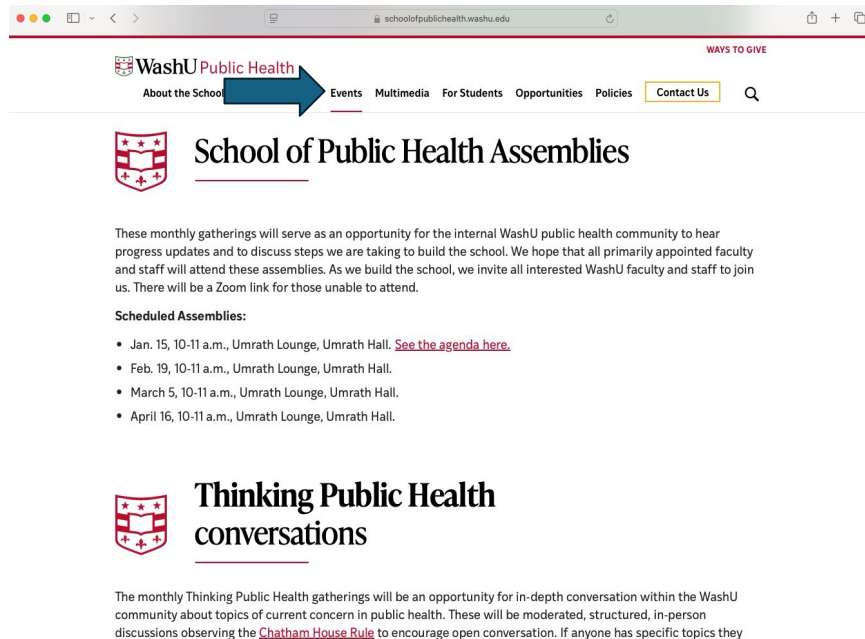
## Public Health in Progress

Weekly news from the School of Public Health at Washington University in St. Louis

January 13, 2025

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to Public Health in Progress. This weekly note is intended to be an informal update on progress in the [School of Public Health](#) (SPH), and also an opportunity for me to share thoughts and ideas relevant to the moment. I am conscious that such forms of communication are one-sided, so I do encourage everyone to reach out to me directly with reflections on these ideas or with anything



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [schoolofpublichealth.washu.edu](http://schoolofpublichealth.washu.edu). The page header includes the WashU Public Health logo and a navigation menu with links for About the School, Events, Multimedia, For Students, Opportunities, Policies, and Contact Us. The main content area features the title "School of Public Health Assemblies" with a sub-header. Below the title, there is a paragraph explaining the purpose of these monthly gatherings. A section titled "Scheduled Assemblies:" lists four dates and locations: Jan. 15, 10-11 a.m., Umrath Lounge, Umrath Hall; Feb. 19, 10-11 a.m., Umrath Lounge, Umrath Hall; March 5, 10-11 a.m., Umrath Lounge, Umrath Hall; and April 16, 10-11 a.m., Umrath Lounge, Umrath Hall. Below this, there is another section titled "Thinking Public Health conversations" with a sub-header. The text below explains that these gatherings are for in-depth conversation within the WashU community about current concerns in public health, moderated and structured, observing the Chatham House Rule.

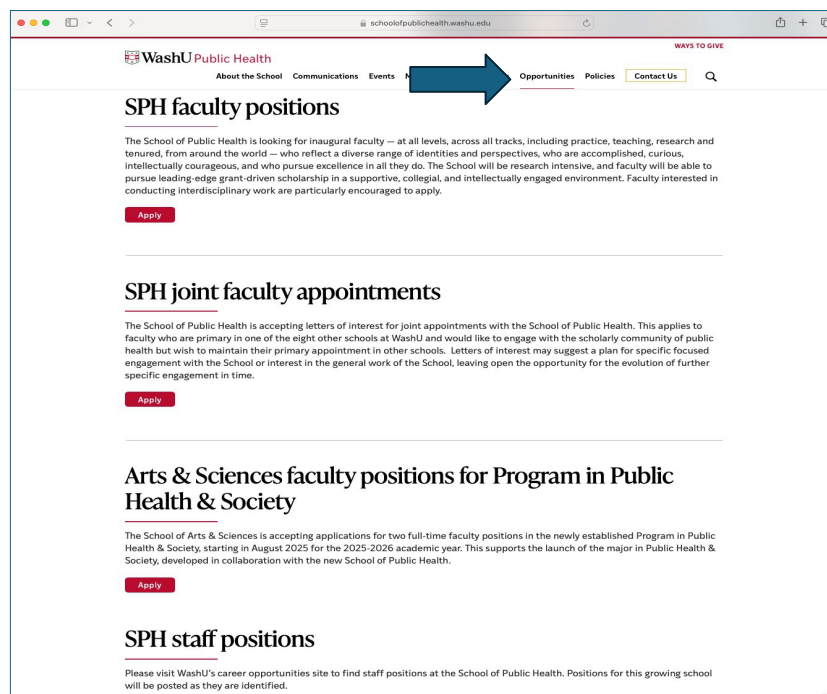


#### 4. Faculty and staff hiring, update

Dean Sandro Galea provided an update on faculty and staff hiring.

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The screenshot shows the WashU Public Health website with the following content:

- SPH faculty positions**  
The School of Public Health is looking for inaugural faculty — at all levels, across all tracks, including practice, teaching, research and tenured, from around the world — who reflect a diverse range of identities and perspectives, who are accomplished, curious, intellectually courageous, and who pursue excellence in all they do. The School will be research intensive, and faculty will be able to pursue leading-edge grant-driven scholarship in a supportive, collegial, and intellectually engaged environment. Faculty interested in conducting interdisciplinary work are particularly encouraged to apply.  
[Apply](#)
- SPH joint faculty appointments**  
The School of Public Health is accepting letters of interest for joint appointments with the School of Public Health. This applies to faculty who are primary in one of the eight other schools at WashU and would like to engage with the scholarly community of public health but wish to maintain their primary appointment in other schools. Letters of interest may suggest a plan for specific focused engagement with the School or interest in the general work of the School, leaving open the opportunity for the evolution of further specific engagement in time.  
[Apply](#)
- Arts & Sciences faculty positions for Program in Public Health & Society**  
The School of Arts & Sciences is accepting applications for two full-time faculty positions in the newly established Program in Public Health & Society, starting in August 2025 for the 2025-2026 academic year. This supports the launch of the major in Public Health & Society, developed in collaboration with the new School of Public Health.  
[Apply](#)
- SPH staff positions**  
Please visit WashU's career opportunities site to find staff positions at the School of Public Health. Positions for this growing school will be posted as they are identified.



On faculty hiring

334 applications

63 internal (18%), 271 external (82%)

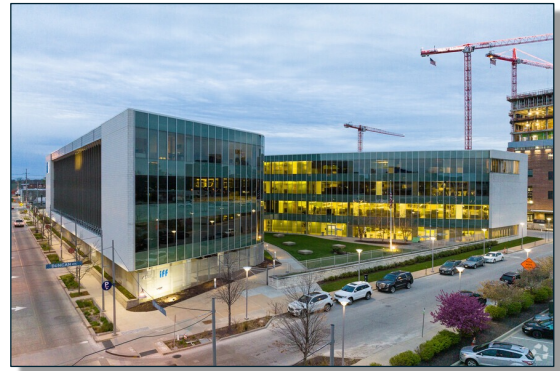
201 female (60%)

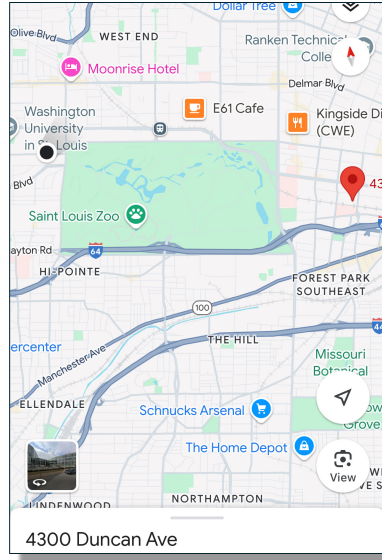
81 URM (24%)

On staff hiring



Oh, where is everyone going to sit?



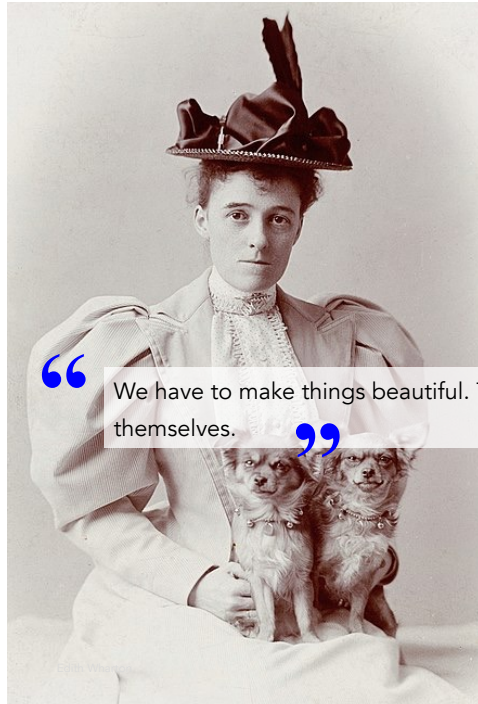


5. Open conversation  
Dean Sandro Galea opened the floor for conversation.

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“ We have to make things beautiful. They do not grow so of themselves. ”

Thank you

