

Leanna Fong

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EDUCATION

Master of Public Health, MPH, CPH

Sociocultural Diversity and Health Emphasis
University of California, Irvine

September 2021-June 2023

Bachelor of Science in Clinical Nutrition

Minor in Asian American Studies

University of California, Davis

September 2017-June 2021

RESEARCH & CAREER INTERESTS

Program planning and evaluation for education research programs.

Population health and community engagement with participatory research among underrepresented populations in California.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Grant Evaluator

July 2023-Current

The Postsecondary Education Research & Implementation (PERI) Institute, UCI Division of Teaching Excellence & Innovation Irvine, CA

- Evaluated over 15 externally grant-funded education-focused grants by designing over 50 surveys and conducting over 75 interview/focus groups and produced evaluation reports for principal investigators and program coordinators to improve pedagogical practices and student learning outcomes in postsecondary education.
- Appointed as a program manager and research mentor for the PERI Institute STEM Education Research Program by facilitating application and recruitment processes, monitoring communications between coordinators and student scholars, and training scholars on research methods and techniques.
- Appointed as an external evaluator representative for institutional and national conferences to promote data-driven student success in higher education with grant stakeholders.
- Performed administrative duties for website and event management to facilitate institute operations.

Program Evaluator

March 2023-June 2023

UCI Public Health Accreditation, Susan & Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences

Irvine, CA

- Conducted survey development & evaluation for the first-year MPH student experience in the UCI Program in Public Health to collect 30+ Qualtrics survey responses about their curriculum, program communications, mental health and wellness.
- Facilitated Zoom interviews with first-year MPH students about their individual experiences in the program.

Project Lead

July 2022-May 2023

UCI Program in Public Health, Susan & Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences

Irvine, CA

- Awarded H&H Lee Charitable Foundation Fellowship funding for a community engagement and health project.
- Administered the project team with cross-functional expertise: graphic designer, data analyst, and designated speaker.
- Supervised project management with outreach, presentation demos, survey development, and data analysis to collect 80+ student feedback to evaluate the Orange County Equity Map and Social Progress Index.

Research Assistant

June 2022-May 2023

Advance OC, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

San Juan Capistrano, CA

- Assembled data collections to conduct population overviews for diverse stakeholders & health partners in Orange County.
- Provided administrative support for the Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian: Community Health Needs Assessment 2022 to gather community feedback and prioritize local health needs in the county.
- Researched, analyzed, and prepared reports for the Orange County Master Plan for Aging with the strategic team to promote the integrative health and well-being of older adults in the county towards healthy aging.
- Managed 50+ data indicators with detail-oriented approaches for the Orange County Data Exchange platform to update the Orange County Equity Map and Social Progress Index database in promoting health data accessibility in the community.

Qualitative Research Team Captain

July 2020-September 2021

Bulosan Center for Filipino Studies, UC Davis Asian American Studies Department

Davis, CA

- Managed the qualitative research team to facilitate community building and intergenerational learning about Filipino experiences through proposed community-based research initiatives with field notes, transcripts, and interviews.
- Facilitated qualitative data analysis to assess Filipino college students' experiences with precariousness and insecurity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Coordinated with the Public Health & Social Work Team for an academic publication that addresses the social influence of e-cigarette use among Asian Americans in California.

ACADEMIC & COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

Lab Manager

October 2026-Current

The Higher Education Research Analysis (HERA) Lab, School of Education

Irvine, CA

- Manage lab website for lab member profiles, lab news, conference materials, and research resources.
- Organize bi-weekly lab meetings with meeting polls, calendar invitations, and presenter information.
- Provide administrative support for reimbursement submissions, purchase orders, and lab member inquiries.

Research Mentor

June 2026-Current

STEM Education Research Summer Program, The PERI Institute

Irvine, CA

- Serve as a research mentor for high school students to engage in the research process while learning about cutting edge work aimed at improving teaching and learning in STEM education.

Alumni Mentor

November 2023 - June 2026

Alumni Mentorship Program, Susan & Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences

Irvine, CA

- Network with current UCI students and alumni to promote professional development in the health professions.

Graduate Student Reader

September 2021- June 2022

UCI Program in Public Health, Susan & Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences

Irvine, CA

- Coordinated weekly grading schedules for upper-division public health coursework.
- Tracked coursework progress for enrolled students by preparing student assessment reports for the course instructor.

Officer of Orientation

May 2019-March 2020

Capital Division, Circle K International

Davis, CA

- Focused on membership development and education to assist club members.
- Promote collegiate interactions within the organization to build healthy relationships through community involvement.

Divisional Secretary

April 2018-March 2019

Capital Division, Circle K International

Davis, CA

- Recorded documentation and meeting minutes from Northern California and Nevada club organizations in adherence with their service, leadership, and fellowship tenets.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES

Aggie Public Health Ambassador

September 2020-July 2021

Department of Public Health Sciences, UC Davis School of Medicine

Davis, CA

- Disseminated health education to university students regarding COVID-19 protocols.
- Implemented on-campus strategies to facilitate community health practices and health policy compliance.

Health Education Volunteer

February 2020 - June 2021

Health Education Committee, Knights Landing One Health Center Medical Clinic

Knights Landing, CA

- Established healthy lifestyle changes with one-on-one health education services and clinical recommendations for patients.
- Disseminated knowledge to patients about disease prevention and health resources in the community.

Health-Related Internship Volunteer

January 2020-March 2020

Falls Prevention Program, UC Davis Medical Center

Sacramento, CA

- Rounded inpatients with high fall-risk scores at the Adult Acute Care and Rehabilitation Units to educate patients about safety procedures for falls prevention/interventions and promote health professional & patient interaction.
- Facilitated interaction with nurses on patients' health conditions to evaluate appropriate health protocols.

Health-Related Internship Intern

April 2019-August 2019

All of Us Clinical Research Program, UC Davis Medical Center

Sacramento, CA

- Tabled at the Ambulatory Care Clinic to recruit research participants through brochures and online sign-ups to spread more information about the All of Us Research Program.
- Gathered health data to accelerate health research and promote advancement in precision medicine funded by the National Institute of Health.

PUBLICATIONS

Maglalang, D. D., **Fong, L.**, Gapuz, V. J., Navarro, K., Yoo, G. J., & Le, M. N. (2023). Social Influence of E-cigarette Use among Asian Americans in California. *American journal of health behavior*, 47(1), 173–181. <https://doi.org/10.5993/AJHB.47.1.18>

Hoag Department of Community Health: Community Health Needs Assessment (2022).
<https://upload.cdn-hoag.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/08205838/2022-CHNA-Final120822posted.pdf>

HONORS & AWARDS

H&H Lee Charitable Foundation Fellowship in Public Health (\$5000) July 2022
UCI Program in Public Health
University of California, Irvine

Master of Public Health Scholarship (\$2000) July 2022
UCI Program in Public Health
University of California, Irvine

Research Award July 2021
Bulosan Center for Filipino Studies
University of California, Davis

Certificate of Appreciation: Aggie Public Health Ambassador June 2021
Department of Public Health Sciences
University of California, Davis

2019-2020 UC Davis Community Service Award: Bronze Recipient May 2020
Internship and Career Center
University of California, Davis

PRESENTATIONS

Bohlson, S., Jacinto, E., **Fong, L.**, (2026, October) *A New MILESTONE for UCI Master's Students*. Poster Abstract, 2026 S-STEM Scholars & PI Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Fong, L., Vasil, N., Ritchie, K., (2026, September) *Broadening the STEM Pipeline Through Cognitive Apprenticeships and Cascading Mentorship: External Evaluation Findings*. Poster Presentation, 2026 Teach Day, Irvine, CA.

Pratana, A., Sun, A., Campos, D., Bose, I., **Fong, L.**, (2026, July) *Faculty Perspectives on AI Implementation and Its IMPACT on Teaching and Learning*. Poster Presentation, 2026 Research Poster Symposium, The PERI Institute, Irvine, CA.

Rozhenkova, V., Solanki, S., **Fong, L.**, Asher, S., Hayward, C., (2024, November) *Clarifying Transfer Pathways for Community College Students: A Case of the Program Pathway Mapper Tool*. Oral Presentation, 2024 Association for the Study of Higher Education Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Tagguez, R.Jr., B., Velasquez, J.G., Garcia, J.W.T., Calaguas, A.C., **Fong, L.**, Talla, T. (2021, May) *Filipin[x]s Count! Survey of Health and Well-Being and Kwentuhan Series: Oral History Collection, Qualitative Results, and Student Reflections on Community-Engaged Research*. Online Presentation, 2021 Research Conference: "Healing, Care and Resistance," Bulosan Center for Filipinx Studies, virtual.

Maglalang, D.D., Nuestro, E., Gapuz, V., **Fong, L.**, Navarro, K., (2021, May) *The Health and Well-Being of Filipinx Americans During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Findings from the Filipinx Americans in Massachusetts Health Survey*. Online Presentation, 2021 Research Conference: "Healing, Care and Resistance," Bulosan Center for Filipinx Studies, virtual.

Fong, L. (2020, September) *Precision Medicine: Platform for Underrepresented Communities*. Research Proposal, Bulosan Center for Filipino Studies, virtual.

Que, J., **Fong, L.**, (2018, March) *Public Speaking*. Workshop Presentation, District Convention, California-Nevada-Hawaii, Circle K International, Los Angeles, CA.

SKILLS

Microsoft Office 365 & Zoom for report writing, presentations, and team meetings.
Qualitative & Quantitative Research: QuestionPro and ATLAS.ti for survey development, interviews, and focus groups.
Analytical, interpersonal, organizational & problem-solving skills.

CERTIFICATIONS

Project Management Professional (PMP), Project Management Institute
Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR), CITI Program
Initiating and Planning Projects, University of California, Irvine Division of Continuing Education
Social/Behavioral Investigators, CITI Program
National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE): Certification in Public Health.
UCI Public Health Informatics & Technology Program: Graduate Certificate in Health and Public Health Informatics.
Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics: Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) Certification.

PRIMARY COURSEWORK

PUBHLTH 200: Foundations of Public Health	Fall 2021
PUBHLTH 206A: Principles of Epidemiology	Fall 2021
PUBHLTH 204/204B: Biostatistics I and II	Winter 2022
PUBHLTH 244: Health Behavior Theory	Fall 2021
PUBHLTH 245: Health Promotion Planning	Winter 2023
PUBHLTH 246: Social Research Methods	Winter 2022
PUBHLTH 247: Program Evaluation	Spring 2022
PUBHLTH 297: Research Design	Spring 2022

REFERENCES

Sabrina Solanki, Ph.D.

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