**PHHP Connect  
Jan. 2025**

**Subject line:** Connect with the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions

**Preheader text:** Advancing rehabilitation science, a message from PT Chair Krista Vandenborne, Ji-Hyun Lee begins the presidency of the American Statistical Association

**Rehabilitation collaboration accelerates translation of new science to patient care**

Established a decade ago, the Brooks-UF PHHP Research Collaboration promotes synergy and communication among scientists and clinicians with real-world outcomes for patients with stroke, spinal cord injury, chronic pain and cancer. [Read more](https://phhp-news.sites.medinfo.ufl.edu/2024/10/24/advancing-rehabilitation-science/)

**Leadership message: Department of Physical Therapy**

Krista Vandenborne, Ph.D., chair of physical therapy, reflects on department achievements and a commitment to health promotion and preventive care. You can catch up with department faculty, students and alumni at the UF PT Alumni and Friends reception next month in Houston. Read more (link to come)

**Ji-Hyun Lee, DrPH, an ‘everyday statistician,’ takes the helm of international statistical organization**

Lee, a PHHP professor of biostatistics, seeks to promote visibility of the profession and diversify and expand membership of the American Statistical Association. She is also passionate about helping lay people see examples of statistics in everyday life. [Read more](https://phhp.ufl.edu/2025/01/06/ji-hyun-lee-new-american-statistical-association-president-says-everyday-statisticians-can-change-the-world/)

**Study finds people who stutter have lower pay, work satisfaction**

Molly Jacobs, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Department of Health Services Research, Management and Policy, discovered significant employment disparities among people who stutter. [Read more](https://phhp.ufl.edu/2024/12/10/study-work-satisfaction-pay-are-worse-for-those-who-stutter/)

**2024 PHHP Employees of the Year**

PHHP celebrated Brittany Crown of Health Services Research, Management and Policy, and April O’Neal of the Dean’s Office, for their outstanding service and willingness to go above and beyond. [Read more](https://phhp.ufl.edu/2024/12/04/brittany-crown-and-april-oneal-named-2024-phhp-employees-of-the-year/)

**PHHP students rack up wins and skills at case competitions**

M.H.A. students are on a winning streak at coveted national competitions, the Department of Biostatistics held its second DataFest and UF’s One Health Center hosted its inaugural case competition. [Read more](https://phhp.ufl.edu/2024/12/20/phhp-students-gain-problem-solving-communication-skills-at-case-competitions/)

**AI gets researchers closer to predicting COPD contributing factors**

Department of Epidemiology professor Takis Benos, Ph.D., and his team used machine learning algorithms to predict the initial tipping point of lung function decline. [Read more](https://phhp.ufl.edu/2025/01/08/uf-researchers-leverage-ai-to-predict-factors-influencing-lung-disease/)

**A Chance to Ride for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities**

Jessica Kramer, Ph.D., an associate professor of occupational therapy, and colleagues will examine the effectiveness of two different travel training approaches for young people with IDD to become comfortable using public transportation. [Read more](https://phhp.ufl.edu/2025/01/09/uf-to-study-travel-training-approaches-for-young-adults-with-intellectual-and-developmental-disabilities/)

**Alumni updates**

**Teresa Leibforth Dufeny**, bachelor’s in occupational therapy ’97, was recently promoted to director of evidence-based practice at the American Occupational Therapy Association. She has worked at AOTA since 2017, previously managing the advanced certification program.

**Stephen Mounts**, master’s in health administration and master’s in business administration in 1999, has been named the U.S. Air Force deputy surgeon general. He is the first civilian to assume the role in the organization’s 75-year history. [Read more](https://www.airforcemedicine.af.mil/News/Display/Article/4029715/sg-appoints-first-civilian-to-the-role-of-air-force-deputy-surgeon-general/)

**William Walders,** master’s in health administration ’07, was named vice president and chief digital and information officer for The Joint Commission enterprise. [Read more](https://www.jointcommission.org/resources/news-and-multimedia/news/2024/11/new-vice-president-and-chief-digital-and-information-officer/)