**February 2025 newsletter issue text**

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

Preheader text: Answering questions about bird flu, improvements in diabetes care, OTD alumna brings awareness to women’s health

**“Are eggs safe to eat? Can my cat get sick?” UF expert answers questions about the local impact of bird flu**

The risk to humans is low but growing as the virus continues to mutate and spread to mammals. Benjamin Anderson, lead for UF’s Emerging Pathogens Institute bird flu response team, discusses the local risk of infection and how to protect yourself. [Read more](https://phhp.ufl.edu/2025/01/23/uf-expert-answers-questions-about-local-risk-of-bird-flu-2/)

**Project ECHO improves outcomes for diabetes patients, UF study finds**

Patients of health care providers who participated in the training program experienced significant improvement in health outcomes, including better blood sugar levels. UF’s study was the first to demonstrate patient benefits rather than provider-only benefits. [Read more](https://phhp.ufl.edu/2024/12/17/clinician-training-program-leads-to-better-outcomes-for-patients-with-diabetes/)

**Biostatistics professor plays crucial role in groundbreaking childhood cancer drug trial**

Results of the trial, [published in the New England Journal of Medicine](https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2411680), show the most robust progress in preventing relapse of acute lymphoblastic leukemia in decades. Biostatistics are the “building blocks” of designing meaningful trials, said Associate Program Director of the Children’s Oncology Group, John Kairalla. [Read more](https://phhp.ufl.edu/2025/02/17/uf-biostatistician-at-the-forefront-of-groundbreaking-childhood-leukemia-drug-trial/)

**PHHP alumni and friends social in Tampa**

Join us Wednesday, March 12 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Oak & Ola in Tampa for networking with alumni, faculty and friends, as well as an opportunity to meet with PHHP Dean Beth Virnig. Hors d’oeuvres and drinks will be served. [RSVP here](https://phhp.ufl.edu/alumni-and-giving/phhp-alumni-and-friends-social-register-today/).

**Recent UF grad transforms women’s pelvic care in Jacksonville, raises awareness statewide**

Paige Gibson, a 2024 Doctor of Occupational Therapy graduate, is educating therapists and patients about the importance of occupational therapy for recovery and empowerment around women’s health at UF Health Jacksonville and beyond. [Read more](https://phhp.ufl.edu/2025/02/02/recent-uf-grad-transforms-womens-pelvic-care-in-jacksonville-raises-awareness-statewide/)

**Stephanie Hanson, executive associate dean, retires after 29 years with PHHP**

Colleagues celebrated Hanson’s career and deep dedication to the college, where she served as interim chair of four different departments and was instrumental in the development of the Bachelor of Health Science, Master of Public Health and Ph.D. in rehabilitation science programs. [Read more](https://phhp.ufl.edu/2025/02/10/stephanie-hanson-executive-associate-dean-retires-after-29-years-with-phhp/)

**Giving Day 2025**

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of the College of Public Health and Health Professions, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to Gator Nation Giving Day 2025. Giving Day gifts directly support education, research and other important facets of our college’s mission, and your support means so much. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!

**Language problems after stroke create significant impact on income and wealth**

A study by PHHP researchers showed that people who experience language impairments after stroke see their income reduced by 21% to 29% on average. The resulting “financial toxicity,” compounded with recovering from the effects of stroke, can negatively impact patients’ physical and mental health. [Read more](https://phhp.ufl.edu/2025/02/04/people-who-experience-language-problems-after-stroke-have-larger-financial-burden-study-finds/)

**Psychiatric epidemiology certificate program is the only one in the world**

The 12-credit certificate program allows career professionals to deepen their skills at the intersection of mental and public health. [Read more](https://phhp.ufl.edu/2025/01/06/phhp-houses-one-of-a-kind-certificate-in-psychiatric-epidemiology/)

**Alumni updates**

**Don Avery,** M.H.A./M.B.A. ’86, passed away January 23. A former U.S. Air Force pilot, Avery served in hospital leadership positions in Jacksonville, Florida, and in Valdosta and Columbus, Georgia, before joining Fairview Park Hospital in Dublin, Georgia, as president and CEO 17 years ago. He is remembered by family, friends and community members as a “larger than life” leader who was devoted to serving others. [Read more](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcourierheraldtoday.com%2Flarger-than-life-fairview-park-ceo-avery-remembered-for-service-leadership-and-compassion%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cemjester08%40phhp.ufl.edu%7C5e0fbf5c79ab4acb4c8208dd4aa9de7d%7C0d4da0f84a314d76ace60a62331e1b84%7C0%7C0%7C638748815623419208%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=oP1gDGith%2B7Gyp9g%2BSrNt6a4QE1%2FhCCoKDzo%2FQQ1ris%3D&reserved=0)