

# From Past to Present to Future: Transformative Lessons in Public Health History

## Guiding Questions for Reflection

Use these questions to spark discussion or personal reflection before, during, or after the lecture.

### Public Health History

- What have been some of the biggest accomplishments in the development of public health? How can we learn from these accomplishments today?

### Clinical Interventions

- How do the history of public health and contemporary public health initiatives inform clinical care?
- How can public health methodologies be incorporated into clinical care?

### Curricular Integrations

- How are public health narratives currently implemented into medical education? How do students in academic medicine and allied health professions benefit from public health integrations in curriculum?
- How can medical education better prepare future physicians to advocate for public health to improve and protect the health of their patients?

This guide accompanies the lecture “From Past to Present to Future: Transformative Lessons in Public Health History, presented by Dr. Jan Carney in recognition of National Public Health Week, recognizing the accomplishments that have been made in the field of public health to improve our health and communities. We invite you to reflect on how the vibrant history of public health has shaped today’s health landscape, and how learning from the past can inform our future.

## Recommended Resources

Explore these articles, podcasts, and tools to deepen your understanding:

### PHSpot: Why study public health?, with Dr. Jan Carney, MD, MPH, MACP

In this episode, Sujani Sivanantharajah sits down with Dr. Jan Carney, the Associate Dean for Public Health and Health Policy and Professor of Medicine at the University of Vermont. They discuss Jan’s reflections of the relationship between public health and healthcare, her work in pulling together UVM’s graduate public health program, and ways we can work to expand and integrate public health into new fields.

[Listen to more on PHSpot](#)

### Public Health Is Essential: COVID-19’s Learnable Moment for Medical Education

The COVID-19 pandemic, an unprecedented challenge for this generation of physicians and for the health care system, has reawakened calls to strengthen the United States’ public health systems. This global event is also a “learnable moment” for medical education—an opportunity to decisively incorporate public health, including public health systems, through the continuum of medical education. Public health content has a distinct and essential place across the continuum of medical education to prepare physicians to participate in, collaborate with, and advocate for public health systems.

[Read more in Academic Medicine](#)

### Politics & Public Health- Engaging the Third Rail

Among professionals in public health, the political system is commonly viewed as a subway’s third rail: avoid touching it, lest you get burned. Yet it is this third rail that provides power to the train, and achieving public health goals depends on a sustained, constructive engagement between public health and political systems. This commentary outlines the importance of such engagement, and suggests ground rules that can help bridge the current divide.

[Read more in Journal of Public Health Management & Practice](#)

