



**Report to the Governing Council, 2021:  
*The Nation's Health* Editorial Advisory Committee**

**Submitted by:** Stephanie Woodcox, MPH, chair  
**Submitted to:** APHA Governing Council

**Committee members:** Stephanie Woodcox, MPH, chair; Brandon Brown, PhD, MPH; Kimberly Levitt, MPH, DHS; Julia Chiu Chen Liou, MPH; Ashley Love, DrPH, MPH, MS; Sreelekha Prakash, MBBS, MD, MPH; Juviza Rodriguez, MS

**2020-2021** In the past year, *The Nation's Health* Advisory Committee has worked with the newspaper's editorial staff on several aspects of the publication. The main focus has been on the newspaper's 50th anniversary, which is being observed this year. The committee brainstormed ways to mark the anniversary and reviewed ideas from the editorial team. The newspaper has shared archived content with readers throughout the year, putting it into context with current events.

Committee members shared feedback via a business meeting at the Annual Meeting and several calls with editorial staff.

In conjunction with the newspaper's anniversary, *The Nation's Health* is hosting a [scientific session](#) during an APHA Annual Meeting for the first time. Committee members helped to develop the session and identify speakers. The Wednesday, Oct. 27, virtual session will be moderated by committee Chair Stephanie Woodcox.

**Session 5103: "Public health and the media: Friends or foes?"**

The media plays an essential role in conveying vital health information to the public and has long been an important partner for public health. But that relationship is sometimes fraught, as evidenced by the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Public health has been stymied in its work to share critical information by some news outlets that have their own agenda. And even as public health strives to protect privacy and release vetted science, some media outlets say that officials are not open or quick enough to share what they know. This session, organized in concert with the 50th anniversary of *The Nation's Health*, APHA's newspaper, will walk through challenges and successes in the relationship between media and public health and share tips for working together.

**2021-2022** In the coming year, the committee will continue its regular editorial feedback and advise on the newspaper's other features, such as its social media, website, app, podcasts, Healthy You, special sections and quiz. Members will be meeting during APHA 2021 to discuss other work for the year.

**Challenges:** None. The committee has adapted well to a virtual format.

**Fiscal implications:** N/A — The committee does not have a budget.

**Recommendation for issues needing follow-up:** None