

Report of the President to the Governing Council

I took office at the end of our first virtual annual meeting just as the Covid-19 pandemic was heading to its first peak. Because of this, I was unable to visit any affiliates in person but was invited to and participated remotely in the annual meetings of 17 of affiliates. I was slated to speak with most of them, but other opportunities emerged as well. I am grateful to Past President Lisa Carlson and to President Elect Kaye Bender for covering some meetings I was not able to attend. Even through my computer screen, I could sense the passion and the commitment public health professionals bring to their jobs every single day.

In addition to these presentations, I was invited to represent the Association at other meetings across the country on matters of equity and health workforce diversity. Some examples include the Symposium of Health and Medical Misinformation, Northwestern University's Institute for Global Health, Academy Health's Health Policy Orientation event, National Public Health Week, and the Policy Action Institute. I also was appointed to the leadership committee of the Alliance for Disease Prevention and Response and co-chair one of its working committees.

I wrote ten columns for The Nation's Health, in English and in Spanish, and an invited piece for the American Journal of Public Health. I was pleased to be able to speak for the Association in several interviews with, English, Spanish, and Portuguese speaking media.

The opportunity to serve as president of APHA has been one of the greatest honors of my career. I have relied heavily on the wisdom of my predecessors and on the support of the staff at APHA. My only regret is not being able to interact in-person with our affiliates and their constituents.

My health status prevents me from being in Denver in-person, but I look forward to seeing you again in Boston next year.

Respectfully submitted,

José Ramón Fernández-Peña, MD, MPA

APHA President 2020-2021