Public Health

Yesenia Cano

Behavior Analyst/Regional Clinical Training Coordinator
Positive Behavior Supports Corp.

Education Background:
M.A. in Clinical Psychology, specialization in Applied Behavior Analysis

Current Job Tasks:
I am the Regional Clinical Training Coordinator and a Behavior Analyst. I train all incoming Behavior Assistants and Program Managers, develop systems to increase training efficiency and efficacy, and oversee two online trainings. As a Behavior Analyst, I supervise 12 cases which includes evaluating the clients, developing the programs and targets to address skill deficits, and training the parents and contractors to implement the programs.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
My favorite part is being able to make a positive impact in the clients' and families' lives! Improving their quality of life is very rewarding.

Piece of Advice:
To be successful in this field, you have to have a caring heart and passionate about helping others.
Public Health

Amy Buch

Health Promotion Division Manager
Orange County Health Care Agency

Education Background:
Kalamazoo College—Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology
United States International University (Now Alliant University)—Master’s in Education
California State University, Fullerton—Public Health Certificate

Current Job Tasks:
I oversee the Health Promotion Division which educates individuals on health behaviors and also aims to create community environments that support healthy behaviors. We focus on topics such as drug and alcohol prevention, tobacco prevention and cessation, chronic disease and injury prevention, cancer screening and prevention, and sexually transmitted disease prevention. Additionally, we aim to reduce health disparities.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
I love health education overall, so what I love most about my work is supporting my team to provide the best health education services possible. That might mean helping them to problem solve or it may mean leading them to a helpful resource. It also means managing my budget in a way that allows as much money as possible to go directly to health education services.

Piece of Advice:
If you are looking for a job in health education, follow which grants are being awarded. New grant money often allows organizations to hire, even during tough budget times. Also, take advantage of the variety of experiences that UCI has to offer. These experiences will help you to know what kinds of work related activities you might enjoy (such as working with people) or might also teach you what you might want to avoid!
Public Health

Minoo Ghajar

Supervising Public Health Microbiologist
Orange County Public Health Laboratory (OCPHL)

Education Background:
I started as an international student with a Bachelor’s Degree in Laboratory Science. I took classes at Cal State University, Long Beach and received my Bachelor of Science in Microbiology. I have a Public Health Microbiologist and Clinical Laboratory Scientist licenses. Currently, I am pursuing my Masters in Public Health from Cal State University, Fullerton.

Current Job Tasks:
I supervise the Tuberculosis, Mycology, and Parasitology sections of the P.H. Laboratory. I also supervise a staff of 8 microbiologists within three areas. We perform a variety of tests such as Nucleic Acid Amplification tests to detect Mycobacterium tuberculosis (TB). Isolation and identification of Mycobacteria from different clinical sources. In Parasitology, we identify intestinal, blood, and tissue parasites. In the Mycology department, we isolate and identify fungus from different clinical sources. I oversee the quality assurance and daily operation of these three areas.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
I love that my job involves science because that had always been my favorite subject in school. We are the backbone to the physicians because we identify the pathogenic microorganisms that affect the public. I love having a job that helps the greater good and can save lives.

Piece of Advice:
There are different areas within the world of public health. They are all very challenging and interesting, so I would recommend learning about them as much as possible and applying for internships. It’s a great way to gain hands-on experience in the field.