

► PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Larry A. Ramdin, MPH, MA,
REHS/RS, CP-FS, HHS, CHO

The Future Is Bright!

Many people who join the environmental health profession are full of energy and want to do as much as they can to protect the public and contribute to the upliftment of the profession. As we have embarked on our careers, we have all been there and have had many mentors, friends, and heroes who we aspire to be like.

Attaining credentials, attending conferences, and building networks are all part of our personal development. We could not achieve professional development, however, without the generosity of knowledge sharing, friendship, and good mentoring. As I reflect on my career, I recognize that we all have something to share. Some early career professionals might doubt their knowledge and believe they have limited information to share—I do not agree with that premise. I have learned a lot from the younger generation. I have seen my career go from carbon paper, typewritten reports, and liquid paper to erase mistakes to today where our phones have more memory and functionality than my first computer.

I have learned to engage with people from all stages in their careers as they each taught me and improved my knowledge. For example, experienced professionals have shared their experience with me on resolving complex issues by looking at outcomes instead of regulatory approaches to problem solving. On the other hand, early career professionals have helped me think outside of the box, embrace technology, and acknowledge I do not have to know it all. I have learned to accept that artificial intelligence (AI) is there to help me.

*After listening
and learning from
our early career
professionals, I know
our practice is
in good hands.*

One of my colleagues mentioned to me that he wants to achieve the same level of credentials as I did and asked what drove me to get so many letters after my name. I was happy to engage with him and recognized immediately that I had a duty to mold the upcoming generation. They are hungry for knowledge. After listening and learning from our early career professionals, I know our practice is in good hands—the environmental health practice will continue to advance and be recognized for its contributions to improved health. We have inquisitive, enterprising young people who are leading the way and are not settling for enough. I am so pleased with where they will take our practice into the future as they strive to protect the health of our communities.

So, as we approach Veterans Day, I want to recognize the contributions of all our members who have served or are serving in the uniformed services, protecting our country and the world by making contributions to a safe and healthy environment for all.

I will single out the contributions of the commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS), which was established in 1889 along military lines and was expanded in 1930 and 1944 to include engineers, dentists, research scientists, nurses, and other healthcare professionals. The corps has been instrumental in shifting focus to environmental problems such as toxic waste disposal and its health impacts.

The contributions of the uniformed services to environmental public health extend from ensuring safe water supplies and proper sanitation in field operations to addressing modern concerns such as toxic exposures and environmental hazards. Uniformed environmental health officers continue to work on disease prevention, water quality, air quality monitoring, and protecting service members from environmental threats both in combat zones and at installations worldwide.

I remember the stories of my friend Robin Williams about her work as a member of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps inspecting food manufacturing plants in Germany to keep our troops safe. Her experience in the uniformed services led to a fruitful career in the public sector as an environmental health professional. Williams is now the assistant director of public health in the City of Framingham, Massachusetts, where she is responsible for environmental health activities in her city. Thank you for your service and contributions to environmental health.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving, I am thankful for the excellent team we have at the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), who provide support for the

environmental health practice. It would be remiss of me if I did not mention the new guidance document from NEHA: Pillars of Governmental Environmental Public Health: A Guide to Scalable Environmental Public Health Programs (www.neha.org/Pillars-of-Governmental-Environmental-Public-Health). This body of work brings

perspective to our profession and highlights what most of us do daily in the public sector. Thank you to our staff and partners who worked on this guide: Gina Bare, Dr. Thuy Kim, Dr. Craig Hedberg, Nicole Dutra, Christopher Walker, and Dr. David Dyjack.

Thank you to our members and all environmental health professionals—at home

and abroad—who strive daily to protect the health of our communities. You are the people who make the difference. ✨


 iramdin@neha.org

Did You Know?

Membership with us provides environmental public health professionals with connection, education, and advancement in their careers. Our nationally recognized credentials, extensive learning opportunities, and community of dedicated leaders position our members for greater professional success. We believe that the success of our members elevates the entire environmental health profession. We offer several different membership options, spanning the life cycle of your career: Professional, Emerging Professional, Retired Professional, International, and Life.

We are the leading organization in the world supporting the environmental public health workforce. Being a member is being part of a family of fellow professionals from around the country and world who work like you to protect the health of their communities. Anyone can benefit from joining the NEHA family at any stage of their career. Learn more about membership and its benefits at www.neha.org/membership.




 www.cdpehs.com

Customize
 Reduce Costs
 Improve Accuracy

Environmental Health Solutions since 1983



Inspections, permits, reports, bill pay, and scheduling.



Take the power of CDPims wherever you go.



Make use of data to make informed business decisions.