

## Thought in a Perplexing World



FEATURE ARTICLE

## How we see it.

Public health leaders share perspectives on today's challenges and opportunities.

Public health is about creating the social, economic, political, and cultural conditions that make people healthy. Academic public health does this in three ways: We generate the knowledge that informs the political, cultural, and economic conversation; we train the next generation of students to know how to use that knowledge; and we engage.

We engage in translating our knowledge, making sure our knowledge doesn't just sit on the shelf, and we engage in the broader political, economic, and cultural conversation.

And in more troubling times—like the ones we're in right now—academic public health plays a more assertive role. We should continue to generate knowledge and educate the next generation of students, but we should also take the steps necessary to make sure that our work is clearly and widely accessible—make sure that the broader conversation is about awareness of what it takes to generate health, and what we are doing that might be harming health today and 10 years from now. I think that is why academic public health plays a role now more than ever.

We reached out to some of the leading deans and directors, past and present, from schools and programs of public health around the country to ask them how they believe we should advance public health in an unsettled climate. Here are their answers.

Sandro Gaba

## Select a perspective.

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