

# HUMANS OF HOT ISSUES

We asked Hot Issues in Health attendees to share the biggest lessons they learned in 2020:

- COVID-19 has made us all “huggers!”
- Science: People want definitive answers from science. Science has always had ambiguity in its data. The goal is how to communicate and let us all live with this uncertainty.

**Karen Verdier**

*Lutheran Family Services  
Rocky Mountains*



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The biggest lesson that 2020 has taught me is that equity matters (it always has) and resiliency is incredibly important for all.

**Juan Roberto Madrid**

*Milken Institute School of Public Health,  
The George Washington University*



**HOT  
ISSUES**  
IN HEALTH  
2020

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Social Determinants of Health, something we've been talking about in public health circles for a long time, became starkly clear in the midst of both the pandemic and the discussions around Black Lives Matter. Even if the broader public is not using the terminology, there are some beginnings of awareness of the important issues.

**Amy Pulver**

*Independent Consultant*



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the biggest lessons they learned in 2020:

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My biggest lesson from  
2020 is to slow down,  
pause, and take time  
to connect genuinely  
and authentically with  
those you love (often!)

**Gillian Grant**

*Trailhead Institute*



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2020 has taught me about perseverance! As we manage our work from home, we've faced kids and dogs interrupting, muted conversations, and unstable Internet connections. Through it all we found and gave grace and patience while looking into peoples living rooms, bedrooms, and sometimes backyards. We are trying to make it work, together. We will persevere!

**Shannon P. Secrest**

*Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition*



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My most important lesson of 2020? When talking across party lines, and especially when talking within: “Those who are excluded from the village will burn it down to feel its warmth.”

Progress is hard to imagine when we can’t discuss our differences with mutual respect.

**Detrick Snyder**

*Registered Dietitian Nutritionist*

