

**California Department of Public Health
Director and State Health Officer
Karen Smith, MD, MPH**

On March 23, 2015, Karen Smith, MD, MPH, was sworn in as director of the California Department of Public Health and state health officer. Smith is a physician specializing in infectious disease and public health. Prior to her appointment, Smith served as public health officer and deputy director at the Napa County Health and Human Services Agency since 2004. She has also been on medical staff for infectious disease at Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa since 2012 and has been a faculty consultant for the Francis J. Curry International Tuberculosis Center at the University of California, San Francisco since 1997.

She served as clinical faculty at the Santa Clara County Valley Medical Center Division of Infectious Diseases from 2001 to 2004 and from 1997 to 2000. Smith served as assistant section chief at the California Department of Health Services Tuberculosis Control Branch from 2000 to 2001 and held several positions at the Stanford University School of Medicine from 1992 to 2004, including resident, fellow and course director. Smith also served as TB Controller for Santa Clara County and has had a long history with the California TB Controllers Association, including serving a term as the organization's president.

She has served as a subject matter expert on Public Health Emergency Preparedness and has served as a liaison Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. She served on the Board of Scientific Counselors of the CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response.

Smith is a member of the American Public Health Association and Infectious Diseases Society of America.

Smith completed her medical training and infectious diseases fellowship at Stanford University after having obtained a Master of Public Health degree in International Health at Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. Prior to her medical training, Smith worked in communicable disease control for the Peace Corp in Morocco and Thailand, and for a UCSF research project in Nepal.

Genoveva Islas, MPH, directs Cultiva La Salud, which works to address poor nutrition and physical inactivity in the San Joaquin Valley by creating healthier environments. Genoveva has extensive experience in obesity and chronic disease prevention. She has also managed health education and cultural and linguistic services in the medical managed care arena. She has instructed at the junior college level and lectured in the California State University system. Genoveva is the board chair of the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California and a board member of the California Food Policy Advocates, Community Water Center and California Institute for Rural Studies. She sits on the steering committee for California Convergence and advisory boards for various non-profit organizations. Genoveva was appointed, by Governor Brown, to the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and to the California Health Benefit Exchange board. She received her master's degree in public health from Loma Linda University.