

Medicine (DO)

Alexandra Wolfe

Midwestern University (AZ)
Medicine (DO)
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BIO: I graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology in 2016. Throughout my undergraduate degree I discovered a passion of helping the underserved, while working at a group home for adults with disabilities. I want to pursue opportunities to advocate for minority populations throughout medical school and during her career. As an OMS-II, I am looking forward to learning how to do this through public health and community outreach with the Paul Ambrose Scholar Program. When I am not studying, I enjoys reading, spending time with friends, and exercising.



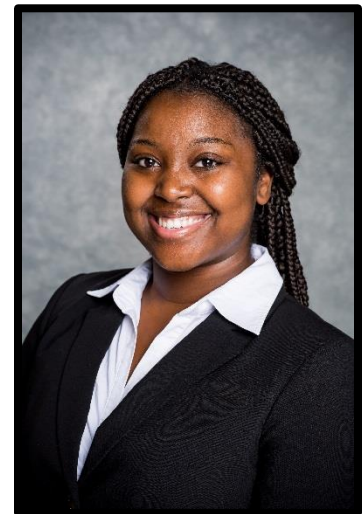
PROJECT: In my community, I aim to provide education and knowledge of the importance of sexually transmitted disease, specifically syphilis, to help reduce the number of primary, secondary, and congenital syphilis cases in the homeless population of Phoenix, AZ. Lack of treatment is due to a variety of factors including lack of engagement in healthcare, social vulnerability (such as homelessness or drugs), and male partner risk. In order to address these disparities, I will work with already established shelter-based clinics to more directly reach the homeless, and attempt to improve testing rates through educational presentations at the shelter.

Denisia Thomas

Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine
Medicine (DO)
dthomas01@auburn.vcom.edu

BIO: I am from Jonesboro, Georgia. I received my bachelor's degree from Xavier University of Louisiana in Biology with a minor in chemistry. I received my master's degree from The University of Alabama at Birmingham in Biomedical and Health Sciences. Currently I am in medical school at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Birmingham. I aspire to be an obstetrician gynecologist specializing in infertility.

PROJECT: I plan to address the lack of sexual health education in primary school. I will interview middle/high school students, with their parents' permission and the school counselor or nurse in efforts to assess the disconnect. The goal of this project will be to change the sexual health curriculum in schools.



Anna Tran

Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine – Middletown
Medicine (DO)
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BIO: I am a third-year medical student at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in Middletown, NY. I received my B.S. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Crop Sciences and an M.S.Ed from CUNY Lehman College in Middle and High School Science Education. I am currently a National Health Service Corps scholar with interests in family medicine and women's health.



PROJECT: Sullivan County, NY is a rural community with a population of approximately 77,567 residents. According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Sullivan County has consistently been ranked 61 out of 62 counties in New York state for health outcomes. Chronic disease has been an issue in the county with cardiovascular, cerebrovascular, and diabetic mortality rates all significantly higher than state averages. According to the Sullivan County Health Assessment, county residents have named obesity as one of the top issues. According to the Centers for Disease Control, rural adult residents have higher rates of obesity than their urban counterparts, with the rural population reportedly having less access to nutritious foods, exercise facilities, and weight management experts. Rural residents also do not access surgical interventions such as bariatric surgery to the degree that those in urban areas do. Utilizing an interdisciplinary team, we plan to identify the specific challenges that rural residents have with accessing not only lifestyle modifications, but also weight-loss pharmacotherapy and bariatric surgery. Furthermore, for those where availability is not a limitation, we would plan on better characterizing the reduced usage of resources.

Ashley Rizzieri

Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine
Medicine (DO)
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BIO: I am Doctoral student of osteopathic medicine interested in alleviating the disparities amongst the women's health sector.

PROJECT: This project aims to identify adolescents living in Alabama, who are deaf and diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder and to identify potential barriers in the delivery of mental health care services within the state of Alabama.



Kallean Kennedy

Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine
Medicine (DO)
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BIO: I am currently a student at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Spartanburg, SC. Since attending college at the University of Arkansas I have been very interested in public health and health policy. I am very honored to be in the Paul Ambrose Program and look forward to learning more about public health and how to incorporate it into my education and career.

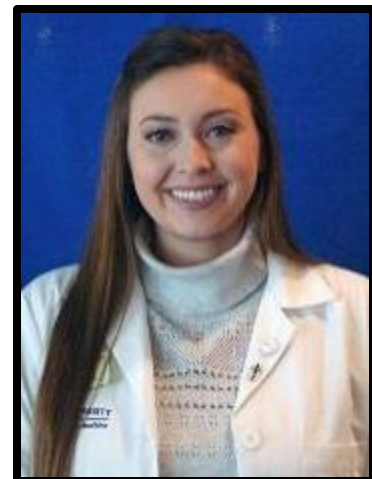


PROJECT: Myself and a team of students at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine at South Carolina (VCOM) are implementing a community project to better educate health professional students about rape and sexual assault through a series of presentations. The intent is that students will be better prepared to handle these situations in the future and able to provide better care and resources for the patient. We intend to hold four-five events next fall where we will bring in different speakers to educate students regarding sexual assault and rape. We plan to have representatives from local organizations such as Safe Home (an organization that helps victims in numerous ways), legal services of South Carolina and include an interactive element of what it would be like to be a patient. We plan to have students take a pre and post survey to evaluate how effective the education was to students so that further education and research can be done.

Lydia Duvall

Marian University
Medicine (DO)
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BIO: I graduated from Thomas More College, where I studied Biology and Spanish. Following commencement, I attended the University of Kentucky and completed my Masters degree. After graduate school, I ran a genetics lab at a not-for-profit cancer research center, and later took a teaching position at the University of Cincinnati. In 2017, I started medical school and my current interest lies within the field of pediatrics. Additionally, my interest includes volunteer work on a global scale, ranging from downtown Indianapolis to Uganda! On free weekends, I enjoy spending time with friends, exploring new places, and visiting with family.



PROJECT: I hope to implement a project based on expanding a functioning rehabilitation center to include a children's program. There are many rehabilitation centers throughout the metropolitan area for adults who suffer from addiction, but programs often do not utilize family-based programs. For example, if a mother is being treated for addiction, programs currently do not offer sessions dedicated to the children coming from these homes. However, if a children's program was implemented, it would allow a safe place for children to gain a better understanding of addiction happening in their home and possibly repair relationships hurt in the process.

Medicine (MD)

Anna Cherian

Northeast Ohio Medical University
Medicine (MD)
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BIO: I am a second-year medical student at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) who is part of the NEOMED-Cleveland State University Urban Health Partnership which was designed for students interested in meeting the changing and unique healthcare needs within urban communities. I originally grew up in Columbus, Ohio and went to The Ohio State University where I pursued my passion for fitness and nutrition by becoming a registered dietitian. My aspirations are to practice preventative medicine and help children early on with healthy eating patterns and prevent the development of many nutrition-related chronic diseases such as obesity, hypertension, and diabetes.

PROJECT: I will be working with the Northeast Ohio Medical University-Cleveland State University Partnership for Urban Health's established Mobile Middle Medical School program by helping improve their current practices and developing an additional component of nutrition and fitness to create awareness and improve the health and wellness of the urban youth community. The premise of the program is to increase interest in healthcare careers and their own wellness among middle-school students from the underserved areas of Cleveland, Ohio. The program aims to encourage self-efficacy, create self-confidence, develop STEM knowledge, and stimulate curiosity to build a foundation for a brighter future.



Chinweoke Osigwe

University of Pittsburgh
Medicine (MD)
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BIO: I am interested in pursuing a profession in Emergency Medicine or Critical Care. Wants to conduct clinical, translation and or applied public health research in an academic or government setting and translate research to improve critical illness treatments, prevention, and develop and improve health policies.

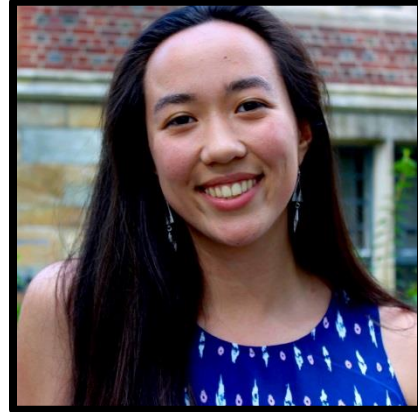
PROJECT: Research has continuously shown the performing CPR is vital for survival from OHCA. Currently, CPR classes are costly and create significant structural barriers in healthcare knowledge and dissemination in underserved neighborhoods. This unfortunately increases the disparities in bystander CPR and OHCA survival. The overall goal of my community project is to improve bystander CPR response in the underserved communities of Pittsburgh. Through my community health project, we are not only responding to healthcare needs, but we are also empowering communities to advocate for the resources they deserve.



Filia Van Dessel

University of Massachusetts Medical School
Medicine (MD)
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BIO: I earned her B.A. from Wellesley College in 2017 and I am currently a second-year medical student at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. I am passionate about serving vulnerable populations and thinking about how to improve her local community. In medical school, I serve as co-president of the Worcester Free Clinic Coalition, a group of six free clinics that provide care for the un- and underinsured population in the greater Worcester area. I hope one day to incorporate community advocacy and public health work into my future career. In my spare time, I enjoy painting and playing the piano.



PROJECT: Over 500 youth on the island of Martha's Vineyard, MA live with a documented disability. My project is to improve access to recreational and physical activity opportunities for youth with disabilities in this community. Current national guidelines for youth recommend at least 60 minutes of physical activity. Literature shows that individuals with disabilities have disproportionately lower activity and fitness levels compared to non-disabled peers. Thus, they have an increased risk of obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. I plan to create a resource guide for parents and design an annual symposium promoting discussion, education, and advocacy for this population.

Marvin So

University of Minnesota
Medicine (MD)
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BIO: I am a medical student and aspiring community physician at the University of Minnesota. I hope to help shape community health systems that address social determinants and nurture well-being for communities historically underserved by mainstream healthcare systems. My current fascination is in the role that storytelling could play in forging meaningful connections between patients, providers, and communities. I hold a bachelors and masters degrees in public health, and pursued additional graduate training in community-based participatory research, neurodevelopmental disabilities, and program evaluation. I find joy in exploring public lands, uncovering landscapes by bicycle, and spending time with my gifted and chosen family.



PROJECT: It is sometimes said that the care of the sick unfolds in stories. This project involves formalizing a narrative medicine program embedded into a free student-run clinic. We will (1) gather oral history interviews from patients to elicit their experiences with health, healthcare, and illness; (2) transcribe, synthesize, and share-back interviews with patients; and (3) leverage interviews for student training, better understanding the patient population's needs, and community dissemination. The ultimate goal is to create space for patients, students, and the broader community to share, and be moved by, the stories all people carry with them into the exam room.

Nursing

Daryl Traylor

University of Missouri
Nursing
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BIO: I am a 2nd year Ph.D. student and HIV researcher. My education includes earned bachelor's degrees in Microbiology and Community Health Promotion from Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University respectively and an M.S. in Pharmacology & Toxicology and an MPH, both from Michigan State University. My research interests include HIV/AIDS in underserved communities, African American male health promotion, and best practices in STEM education. Upon completion of my doctorate, I hope to start medical school in the fall of 2021. I enjoy spending free time with my wife, Eboni, and our 12-year-old cat, Sudan.



PROJECT: I plan to work with African American beauty salons in Phoenix, AZ to pilot an HIV prevention intervention for African American women ages 18 and up. The aims of pilot project are to equip women with the skills and confidence to participate in HIV testing before sexual encounters and consistently use condoms. This will be accomplished by training hair stylists to educate women on HIV testing, condom usage, communicating with intimate partners, and peer relationships.

Dawn Augusta

Arizona State University
Nursing
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BIO: I am an Innovation Leadership Doctor of Nursing Practice scholar at Arizona State University. My project aim is to improve the mental health navigation system in the community I was raised and loves-Phoenix, Arizona. This blog aims to shine a light on the navigation of our mental health system in Maricopa County. In the light shining hope, I want to explore and respond to gaps identified in the process of discovery. The aim is for a greater social dividend, a truly cohesive system to emerge by way of leveraging multi-sector collaborations.

PROJECT: Pilot a relationship-based paraprofessional network interface to serve as extensions of Phoenix first responders. Collaborating with Arizona State University's HOPE Network (consisting of more than one-thousand Arizona Community Health Workers) collaborating with the Phoenix Fire Crisis Response Team to develop a stabilizing, relationship based intervention that aims to bridge the behavioral health community-to-clinical outcomes gap for people who are considered 911 high system utilizers in Maricopa County. Developing a paraprofessional workforce of trauma informed, specially equipped community health workers (CHW) to be the bridge in our mental health system. These CHW would serve as extensions of both first responders and clinical treatment facilities in the role of health coach. Establishing and maintaining meaningful relationship-based connections that are non-episodic and stable with the target population.



Jennefer Jordan

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
Nursing
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BIO: I am a Doctorate of Nursing Practice, Family Nurse Practitioner student at Texas Tech University Health Science Center School of Nursing. I graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Texas State University in 2013, serving as RN student representative at the Capitol of Texas advancing nursing legislation. Passionate about addressing refugee and indigent health disparities, policy and program development, my project addresses health literacy and the leading health indicator for diabetes. I served as Shared Governance Co-Chairman and on Nurse Practice Council and am a Texas Nurse Practitioner Association student member.



PROJECT: A new, formal, culturally congruent and sustainable diabetes management education program at HOPE Clinic-Get Up Project, in Austin, Texas will empower sustainable healthy lifestyle modifications, improve chronic disease self-management skills, and reduce the proportion of patients with A1c values 9% or greater. Volunteers working within the community health worker model will counsel patients with an A1c of 9% or greater on effective strategies of and barriers to diabetes self-management. Pre-and post-intervention surveys will assess diabetes management knowledge. Program efficacy will be evaluated by a 2% decrease in A1c levels in refugees with diabetes by six months post-intervention.

Pharmacy

Amelia Godfrey

University of Missouri Kansas City School of Pharmacy
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BIO: I earned my Bachelor of Science in Biology in Hannibal, Missouri and continued my education at UMKC School of Pharmacy. I began work in the field of prevention by serving as a member, and later an officer, for my local coalition focusing on preventing substance misuse. Through the coalition, I have been able to work on numerous projects including teaching various classes using the Generation Rx curriculum. In my spare time, I enjoy reading mystery novels and hiking with my husband. My future goals include practicing in the rural Midwest and expanding available services for patients with substance use disorder.



PROJECT: Family Dinner Project is designed to bring families together to share a meal and have meaningful conversations about hard topics such as drug and alcohol use. A short presentation during dinner will include information on community statistics and resources. During dinner, families will use discussion questions to open a dialogue between family members. Each family unit will also be provided a trained moderator to answer questions and provide additional information. Surveys will measure change in knowledge and perception after the program and will quantify use of the provided techniques and resources, including use of difficult conversation starter decks, at home.

Chandler Parris

East Tennessee State University- Gatton College of Pharmacy
Pharmacy
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BIO: I am currently a third-year pharmacy student at Gatton College of Pharmacy. I grew up in a small town in Western North Carolina and went on to attend East Tennessee State University where I earned my Bachelor's in Health Sciences with a concentration in Microbiology. My career interests include pediatrics, rural and underserved areas, and interprofessional approaches to care. Outside of school, I enjoy hiking, camping, yoga and playing with my dogs.

PROJECT: My project will focus on engaging community pharmacies in pediatric public health promotion and prevention by equipping them with a toolkit of resources on topics considered valuable to pediatric health and disease prevention by the overall interprofessional team. While there are many topics that are relevant to the pediatric population, I will focus on antibiotics, common over-the-counter products, vaccinations, and addressing childhood obesity.



Hee Seung Lim

University of Texas Austin
Pharmacy
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BIO: I am originally from Suwon, South Korea, and I moved to the United States when I was 13 years old. I got my bachelor degree in Biomedical Sciences from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, and I am currently a third-year pharmacy student at the University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. As an immigrant, I am passionate about raising cultural awareness in health care and serving the underserved. I love trying new things and learning about different cultures through traveling and food!

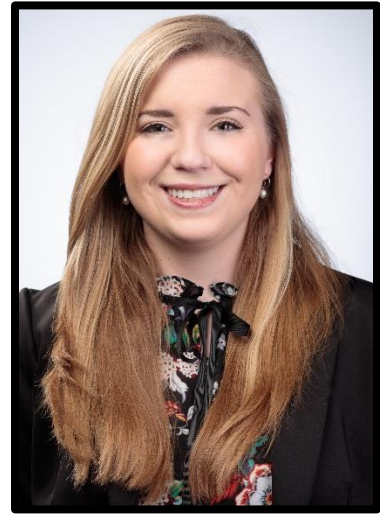
PROJECT: Maternal mortality needs to be addressed by health care providers nationwide, and there are opportunities for pharmacists' involvement, especially with management of chronic illnesses and prevention of medication related deaths. This project aims to significantly improve the confidence, comfortability, and knowledge of pharmacy students when interacting with patients who are at risk of maternal mortality through a series of interactive workshops. This project is also expected to significantly improve students' understanding of pharmacists' role in prevention of maternal mortality related to preeclampsia, postpartum depression and opioid overdose.



Kathryn Pearce

Ohio Northern University
Pharmacy
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BIO: I am a fifth-year PharmD student at Ohio Northern University where I am minoring in Medical Humanities. I have worked as a teaching assistant, including as the Raabe College's Outreach TA. I work in the lab of Dr. Amy Stockert examining gene expression concerning metabolism in diabetes. Kathryn is also a pharmacy intern at Walgreens in her hometown of Lancaster, Ohio. She is a member of the pharmacy honors society, Rho Chi; an executive member of the National Community Pharmacists Association; and a member of the Student Personalized Medicine Coalition and the American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology.



PROJECT: For my project, I will initiate a program addressing the Leading Health Indicator "Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity," while also pertaining to Healthy People 2020 as a whole by enabling patients to promote a healthy quality of life and engage in patterns of healthy behavior. My project will focus on the education aspects of healthy living, including through proper nutrition, identifying proper portion sizes, and outlining exercise regimens that would enable patients to engage in healthier living. I would like to offer classes in my preceptor's practice site, and potentially in conjunction with Ohio Northern's Healthwise Pharmacy. **Kathryn Pearce**

Kelly Kern

Ohio Northern University
Pharmacy
k-kern.2@onu.edu

BIO: I am a student pharmacist at Ohio Northern University. I am interested in becoming a hospital or ambulatory care pharmacist. On campus, I am a student leader in several organizations and hopes to continue so as I finish my PharmD in 2023.

PROJECT: My project will center around the use of OTC medication use in infants. I will address the need of OTC use in infants through a three-pronged approach: raising awareness through pamphlets and social media, directly educating the community, and pharmacist education. Information given will include which OTC medications can and cannot be given to infants, how to give the medication to the infant if it can be, possible non-pharmacological alternatives, and when to see a physician.



Maria Latta

University of Connecticut
Pharmacy
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BIO: Maria Latta is a second-year pharmacy student at the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy. She is a LEADERS Scholar and is earning a graduate certificate in Healthcare Innovation through the UConn School of Nursing. To pursue her interest in healthcare for underserved populations, Maria works with Khmer Health Advocates in West Hartford, CT to provide pharmacy services to the Southeast Asian community. Her passion for integrating social research into pharmacy practice to foster health equity has led her to conduct a study regarding cultural influences on decision-making surrounding Traditional Chinese Medicine.



PROJECT: Public health programs are an integral part of improving the health of underserved populations. Long-term programs have the largest impact on health at the community level. However, achieving longevity is often a major barrier to the success of these programs. My project aims to identify the role of a university-based project management team in creating sustainability. I will study the Connecticut WISEWOMAN program which provides medication therapy management (MTM) to underinsured and low-income women targeting cardiovascular health. We hope to provide management strategies identified in this case study as support for other public health programs across the country.

Nancy Aldape Garcia

University of Houston, College of Pharmacy
Pharmacy
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BIO: I graduated with a Bachelor's in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in 2017. I continued my education at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy, where I am currently a third-year student. Through my involvement in the Mexican-American Pharmacy Student Association (MAPSA) and the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA), I discovered my passion for serving my community. Upon graduation, I hope to practice in underserved areas as I want to address health disparities in the Hispanic community.



PROJECT: The Latina Health Project seeks to increase family planning education among teenage girls, ages 13-19, from the Rio Grande Valley. In efforts to increase education, we will use a tri-phasic approach. The first intervention involves educating middle school and high school students about contraceptives. The second intervention focuses on providing teenagers with accessible information in regard to healthcare centers who offer gynecological services. Lastly, we will establish a mentorship program that will serve two purposes: provide individualized sexual education and academic guidance to students. This program will build a support system for teenagers that can positively impact their development.

Nicholas Shields

East Tennessee State University
Pharmacy
shieldsnc@etsu.edu

BIO: My name is Nicholas Shields and I am a third-year pharmacy student at East Tennessee State University where I am also enrolled in the MBA program. Prior to pharmacy school, I completed my BS in chemistry from Appalachian State University. My ultimate goal is to obtain a residency and specialize in emergency medicine to practice as a clinical pharmacist, while working to implement hospital protocols for patients with substance use disorder. In my free time, I enjoy running, hiking with my dog, and fly-fishing in the Appalachian Mountains.



PROJECT: Alcohol use disorder causes significant morbidity and mortality when left untreated and is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Associated conditions include hypertension, cirrhosis, hepatitis, diabetes, trauma through falls and vehicle accidents, and behavioral disorders such as depression. This is a treatable diagnosis that the CDC stated cost Tennessee \$4.7 billion in 2010 through costs involving healthcare, law enforcement, and motor vehicle accidents. My project will consist of screening and brief interventions for patients with documented alcohol use, which could decrease this cost, while more importantly creating a life of better health for our residents.

Rebecca Maloney

East Tennessee State University
Pharmacy
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BIO: I am currently a third-year student pharmacist at Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy. I graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in Health Science. While in pharmacy school, I have had the opportunity to work with multiple organizations to raise awareness for mental illness and provide services to patients and their families who have been impacted by mental illness. After my graduation from pharmacy school, I hope to pursue post-graduate training in psychiatry. My dream job would be providing psychiatric care to a medically underserved community.



PROJECT: My proposal is to develop an anti-stigma campaign for mental illness, particularly addiction, in the Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia region. The project will provide education to this region through communication outlets, primarily social media and public radio. The stigma patients with mental illness face has a significant effect on the time to seek treatment, decision to continue a treatment program, and overall outcomes. Addiction has disproportionately impacted these communities, and stigma is currently a significant barrier to patients receiving care. The goal of this outreach project is to improve accessibility of mental healthcare by providing education to reduce stigma.

Serena Van

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Pharmacy
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BIO: I am a California native and completed my undergraduate degree at UC Berkeley. Aside from my pharmacy curriculum, I am also conducting research on lymphatic mechanics and its possible role in breast cancer. I enjoy hiking, kayaking and traveling.

PROJECT: I have a strong background in public health and am also the first student ambassador for the USPHS Rx for Change Tobacco Cessation program at UAMS. I am developing a program with nurses on the Tobacco Treatment Team and the College of Pharmacy that will allow pharmacy interns to provide smoking cessation counseling services to patients. Pharmacy interns will be trained in Motivational Interviewing and the 5A's of smoking cessation before they can counsel patients. My project stresses the importance of helping patients adopt a healthier lifestyle by stop smoking and the contributions that pharmacy have in this process.



Zach Krauss

Cedarville University
Pharmacy
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BIO: I am a P1 student involved in multiple pharmacy service organizations who has also been involved in many public health service projects. I have experience in music therapy, substance use disorder, and mental health, with an interest in pursuing pediatric mental health pharmacy.

PROJECT: Our Cedarville University School of Pharmacy will be partnering with local FQHC Rocking Horse Community Health Center to offer psychoeducation and educational materials to the community. We'll be hopefully partnering with Green County Health Department to increase the capacity and extent of their 1-to-1 needle exchange program in order to continue addressing the opioid crisis in our community. Further, we'll be working with professors at a local independent pharmacy to equip pharmacists with skills to counsel on SUD and to equip the pharmacy with naloxone dispensing utility.

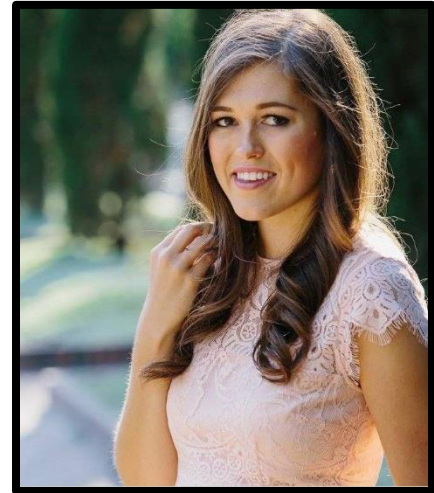


Physical Therapy

Alyssa Swartz

Texas Woman's University
Physical Therapy
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BIO: I am currently a Doctorate of Physical Therapy student at Texas Woman's University in Houston, TX. I grew up outside Seattle, WA but moved to Texas to attend Baylor University where I received both my BS majoring in public health and my MPH with a concentration in community health education. I am passionate about improving the quality and access of health care for all individuals and would like to use my skills in physical therapy to address my patients' pain and physical limitations to improve their quality of life. When I am not studying, I enjoy spending time outside, hiking, skiing, playing sports, traveling and most of all spending time with my husband and my dog.



PROJECT: For my project I am creating a physical therapy wellness day where physical therapists in the city of Houston would come together and offer free physical therapy screening to the underserved population and provide home exercise programs or necessary referrals in order to decrease disability and increase the number of individuals that meet the aerobic physical activity and muscle strengthening objectives.

James Pope

Mercer University
Physical Therapy
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BIO: Originally from LaGrange, GA, I am currently in his fourth and final year of a dual Doctor of Physical Therapy and Master of Public Health program at Mercer University. After obtaining my undergraduate degree from Georgia State University, where I majored in cardiopulmonary care science, I worked as a Respiratory Therapist. I am passionate about improving population health outcomes and addressing social determinants to narrow the gap on health inequity among compromised, underrepresented, and at-risk populations.



PROJECT: Every 11 seconds an older adult is treated in the emergency room for a fall. Every 19 minutes, an older adult dies from a fall. Falls are the leading cause of injury-related deaths among individuals aged 65 years or older. Despite these numbers, falls are largely preventable by addressing modifiable risk factors such as muscle weakness, impaired balance, and improper use of assistive devices. My project aims to identify at-risk individuals by performing community fall screening events throughout the state of GA. These programs will provide education and resources to reduce the risks of injury and falling.

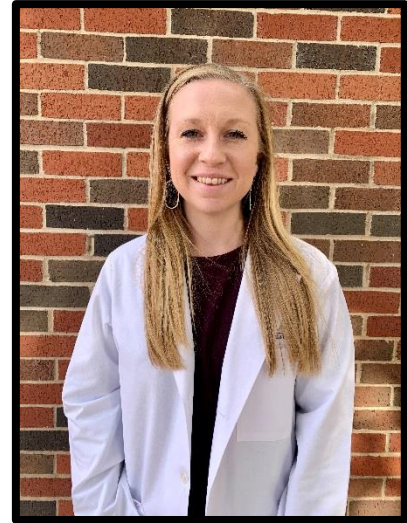
Physician Assistant

Andrea Hudson

Hardin-Simons University
Physician Assistant
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BIO: My name is Andi Hudson and I am currently studying to be a PA at Hardin-Simons in Abilene, Texas. I am married and have 3 dogs, which I treat like my children at times. I enjoy hiking, reading, or photographing things in my spare time.

PROJECT: My project focuses on hypertension education within the community of Abilene, Texas. This condition is one of the leading health issues in our community, and research supports the idea that education will be key in combating uncontrolled hypertension. My goal is to recruit healthcare professionals within Abilene from many different specialties and fields to help educate people who are experiencing this condition but may not have the resources or information to improve this aspect of their health. By working together as healthcare professionals, we can better our community and also learn more about what our community needs in order to achieve healthy living.



Avantika Mundkur

Case Western Reserve University
Physician Assistant
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BIO: I am a first year PA student at Case Western Reserve University. I was raised in San Francisco, California. I studied Neuroscience and Gender Studies at UCLA and completed my Masters of Global Medicine at the University of Southern California. I worked as a medical assistant at an Allergy/Immunology practice in Los Angeles prior to starting PA school. I am interested in the intersections of social justice and healthcare and adopting a public health approach in my future career as a clinician. I am invested in healthcare equity and tackling barriers to care in marginalized communities, particularly in the field of reproductive health. I enjoy traveling, cooking, and spending time with my puppy.



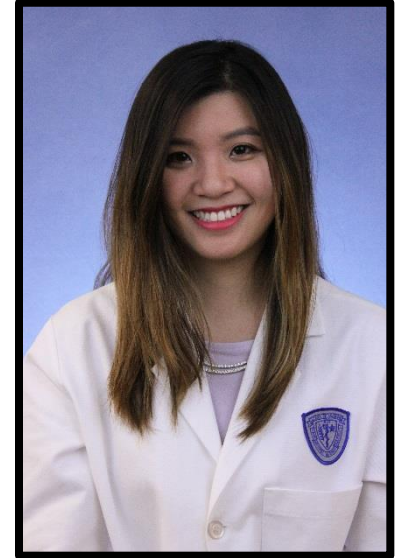
PROJECT: The knowledge regarding cervical cancer and the HPV vaccine is lacking in Northeast Ohio, particularly among resettled refugee women due to barriers to care, cultural beliefs, and financial burdens. For my project, I will work with a local clinic that serves refugee women to determine their concerns regarding cervical cancer screenings. My goal is to organize monthly educational workshops within the community to educate women about the benefits of pap smears and the HPV vaccine. I hope to help increase the rate of pap smears within the community by shedding the stigma around reproductive health exams.

Connie Cheng

Case Western Reserve University
Physician Assistant
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BIO: I am a 1st year PA student at Case Western Reserve University. I was born and raised in New Jersey and am currently experiencing the cold winter of Cleveland. I studied Nutrition and Biology at Rutgers University and then got my clinical experience working as a scribe and ophthalmology technician for 3 years before starting my program. I realized that there are barriers to healthcare that cannot be tackled by a clinician alone, which is why I became passionate about public health. My hobbies are yoga, eating, cooking, reading, traveling, hiking, and hanging out with my puppy.

PROJECT: My project will address one of the mental health objectives of the Leading Health Indicators topics: increasing the proportion of PCP office visits where adults 19 years and older are screened for depression. I have planned events for a pilot program in hopes of officially establishing a support group at the medical school for healthcare professional students. I plan on combining wellness events with support group meetings, making the experience more fun and less intimidating. The ultimate outcome is improving student health while also helping future providers develop communication skills to approach the topic of mental health in the community.



Hailey Orgass

Hofstra University
Physician Assistant
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BIO: My name is Hailey Orgass, and I am a first-year physician assistant student at Hofstra University. I completed my undergraduate education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where I studied biology and medical anthropology. In my gap years after college, I used the tools I learned to research the epidemiology of stroke at Yale University. I have presented this work at the American Academy of Neurology conference, with a manuscript in the process. I am constantly looking for opportunities to further my research and become a competent clinician in the field of preventative and public health.

PROJECT: Losing weight is difficult—and keeping the weight off is even more of a challenge. There are many diets, weight loss programs, exercise options that have proved beneficial for those trying to lose weight but have come and gone as fads always do. Why does this occur? The secret resides in our motivation (or lack, thereof) to lose weight and continue with a maintenance plan which takes time, effort, social support, and self-restraint. My project aims to empowering at-risk populations with behavioral tools to achieve effective weight loss through an interactive workshop targeting obesity.



Kailey Barfield

Mercer University
Physician Assistant
kailey.jane.barfield@live.mercer.edu

BIO: I am a second-year dual degree MPH/Physician Assistant student within Mercer University's College of Health Professions Program in Atlanta, Georgia. I received a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies from Brigham Young University in 2011. Since then, I have worked as an AmeriCorps service member in Oregon, volunteered with an animal rescue organization in Georgia, and worked and volunteered at a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center (FQHC). These experiences have shaped my interest in public health, medicine, and natural connection between two. I am interested in public health promotion in healthcare, in education, and the power of community gardens.



PROJECT: As the rate of obesity continues to rise among children in the United States, schools can play an important role in providing direct hands-on experience about food and nutrition to students. This project aims to utilize the school environment and physical landscape to expose students to fruits and vegetables to increase the intake of those foods at home. The objectives of the project include building and maintaining a school garden, utilizing parent volunteers to present curriculum to classrooms, and hosting a parent outreach event to incorporate parental support for increasing the intake of fruits and vegetables in the family diet.

Krista Stocke

Mercer University
Physician Assistant
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BIO: I am a second-year Physician Assistant student at Mercer University in Atlanta, Georgia. Originally from Carson City, Nevada, I received her Bachelor of Science degree in psychology with a minor in criminal justice from Utah State University. I graduated summa cum laude and was the valedictorian of the psychology department. I am a National Health Service Corps Scholar and have a deep desire to work with underserved populations across the United States and abroad. I love exploring the world and everything Disney.



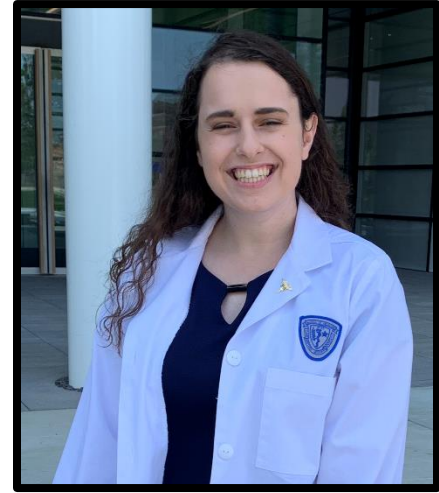
PROJECT: Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. Living in Atlanta, Georgia, has brought this problem forward as it is one of the US cities with the highest rates of human trafficking. Research reveals that over 50% of human trafficking victims visited a healthcare provider at some point during their captivity. This project aims to implement a structured training and education program which can be adopted into PA Program training curricula across Georgia and nationwide to help future providers recognize the signs of human trafficking and equip them with the skills needed to help victims once they are identified.

Lauren Campbell

Case Western Reserve University
Physician Assistant
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BIO: I am a first-year PA student at Case Western Reserve University. I went to Baylor University where I majored in Marketing and Supply Chain Management. Before PA school, I helped run mobile medical clinics in Haiti and scribed for and ENT and PM&R practices. In the future, I want to help use education, public health, and business to help people access healthcare. I love watching college sports, cooking, and traveling.

PROJECT: My project aims to address health maintenance and social determinants of health with patients at the Lake County Free Clinic in Cleveland. PA students will conduct monthly evening clinics with diabetic patients. During these clinics, first year students will talk with the patients about their long-term health concerns and help connect them with resources in the community to reach their health goals.

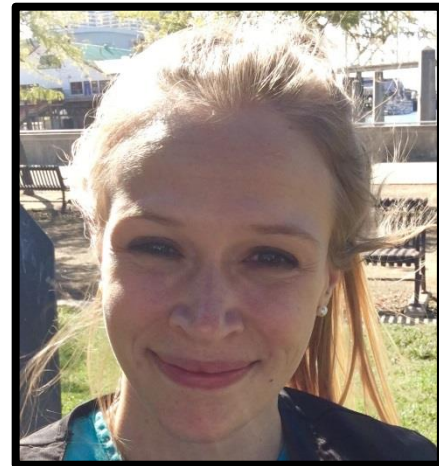


Melissa Grimes

Sullivan University
Physician Assistant
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BIO: I am from Kentucky where I live with my husband and 3 pups. I have worked extensively with various groups of people from mentally handicapped individuals, to youth from dysfunctional homes to a clinic for patients without health insurance. I have learned so much about how to interact with people and connect on a human level. I plan to focus on public health when I graduate from PA school. Traveling and cooking are my hobbies and so I hope to be able to find a way to do it all and maybe even have my own restaurant.

PROJECT: I plan to address the Healthy People 2020 leading health indicator of Access to Medical Services. I will be partnering with the clinic I interned with in college to understand the factors that limit who obtains health insurance. I will conduct a survey and gather data as it pertains to my community. The second tier of my project will be to advocate for the clinic and recruit providers to maintain operation of the clinic. It has truly changed so many lives!



Rachelle Fair

Case Western Reserve University
Physician Assistant
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BIO: I am a first year PA student at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. I am originally from Youngstown, OH where I was an MA at a family practice prior to PA school. I am on the Student Run Health Clinic Outreach committee and a member of the Aging in Place inter-professional program at Case. I am a 4H advisor back home, and in my spare time I enjoy triathlons, horseback riding, and dog training with my German Shepherd.

PROJECT: My project addresses the social determinants category of the Leading Health Indicator. Illiteracy rates for Cleveland are at 66%, with some neighborhood rates as high as 90%. This leads to many disparities regarding the healthcare and treatment of these individuals. The focus of my project is to improve the health literacy of individuals in the Cleveland area by developing a workshop-based program where students from CWRU can volunteer to help promote and teach health literacy at these sessions.



Rosa Gonzalez

Case Western Reserve University
Physician Assistant
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BIO: I am a first-year physician assistant (PA) student at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. Prior to PA school, I obtained my Masters in Medical Physiology from Case Western Reserve University and was a research coordinator at the Cleveland Clinic for Alzheimer's disease research studies. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with friends and family, my two dogs, and traveling.

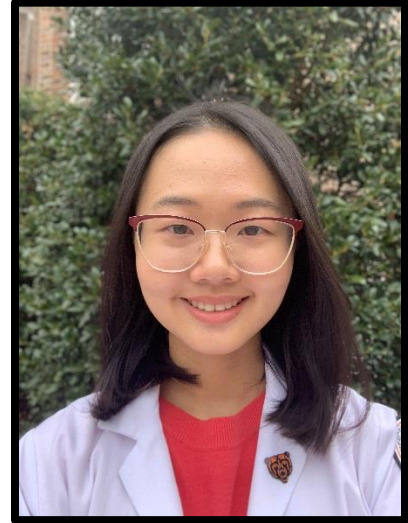
PROJECT: My project will address the high premature birth rate in Cuyahoga county by collaboration with First Year Cleveland. First Year Cleveland is an organization that works to lower the rates of infant mortality by offering group and home prenatal visits, learning circles with local birth hospitals, and much more. I plan on implementing a dental education session to the group prenatal visits to discuss the importance of dental hygiene in expectant mothers. The goal of this will be to prevent vertical transmission of infections that could cause premature birth.



Seo Ho Kim

Mercer University
Physician Assistant
seoho.kim2@gmail.com

BIO: Seo Ho Kim is a second year Physician Assistant (PA) student at the Mercer College of Health Professions and also obtained her undergraduate degree from Mercer majoring in the Health Sciences. Her interest in Public Health took hold while she participated in the Mercer Service Scholars Program where she worked to assess and overcome health disparities in Cape Town, South Africa, and closer to home in rural Macon, Georgia. During her free time, she enjoys spending time with her friends and family, cooking, and trying new foods and restaurants.



PROJECT: Grace Village is a non-profit, free clinic primarily for refugees in Clarkston, GA, where over 60 different languages are spoken within 1 square mile. Thus, language barriers are one of the biggest challenges in providing good patient care at the clinic. My project aims to help educate patients about the most prevalent condition we treat there—Diabetes Mellitus. I will work with translators to create culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate patient education materials in different languages. Through this project, I hope to help inspire patients to make lifestyle choices that will allow them to better manage their diabetes.

Public Health

Adebanjo (BJ) Solaru

Case Western Reserve University
Public Health
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BIO: I am a first year MBA and MPH student at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. I am interested in improving access to health on the community level by engaging all stakeholders and looking for mutually beneficial areas of improvement, especially in the interest of children in underserved areas of Cleveland. I became interested in this work after volunteering with 8th grade children and learning the challenges they faced just to get to school on a daily basis. In my free time, I enjoy playing with his young son, watching sports and having a good meal.



PROJECT: Neighborhoods in Cleveland's predominantly Black east side are disproportionately affected by issues such as poverty, cancer, obesity, access to quality education and other social determinant factors. The disparities have grown so large that city officials are considering declaring racism as a public health crisis. I will be working with 8th grade children in the community to increase their awareness of the obstacles that the students face on a daily basis, and the importance of completing their next step: finishing high school within 4 years. Students will learn about what is positively and negatively impacting them so that they can make healthy decisions.

Kiran Kurian

Temple University
Public Health
kkurian15@gmail.com

BIO: I'm currently pursuing a Master's in Public Health from Temple University. Prior to graduate school, I completed a BS in Health Sciences and Human Nutrition from Arizona State University. My background in nutrition led me to explore health disparities among low-income populations in Phoenix and to complete an MPH to create a meaningful impact in the population I serve. My hobbies include reading, dancing, travelling, and hiking with my dog.

PROJECT: The goal of my project is to decrease cigarette and e-cigarette use among adults and adolescents residing in Maricopa County. I will be partnering with 9 HUD facilities, 4 schools, 4 FQHCs and a community partner, Creciendo Unidos, to implement the project. The project will be implemented in different phases and formats. The education component consists of Tobacco 101 and vaping presentations, and Community Health Workers will be trained as cessation navigators by the American Lung Association to provide referrals to Freedom from Smoking, ASHline and a behavioral specialist for counseling or Nicotine Replacement Therapy.



Kristen Carlisle

Baylor University
Public Health
kristen_carlisle1@baylor.edu

BIO: Public Health professional committed to improving health outcomes in low-income communities through community-based agriculture and nutrition interventions. Strong focus on determinants of food choice, food purchasing behaviors, sustainability of food systems, and use of micronutrient powders to mitigate disease and toxicity of environmental exposures.

PROJECT: Urban REAP Eat Well program was developed to increase healthy eating habits among adolescents in the Jubilee Market Service area. This educational after-school program offers adolescents firsthand experience in urban gardening and food preparation. By the end of the program, participants will have increased knowledge in nutrition, increased eating well habits, and improved eating well self-efficacy.

