

Dentistry

Eberechukwu Njoku

University of Maryland School of Dentistry
Dentistry
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BIO: Eberechukwu is a third year dental student that is committed to advancing public health within all aspects of dentistry and improving the health literacy of her patients so that they may receive the best treatment available to them.



PROJECT: The project will focus on elucidating methodologies used by third party payment systems in dentistry to quantify and qualify treatment while objectively understanding patients' health literacy in understanding their level of coverage and valuation for orthodontic treatment

Mindy Truong

Harvard School of Dental Medicine
Dentistry
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BIO: Mindy grew up in San Diego, California and completed her bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology with a minor in Public Health at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She is currently in her second year of study at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM). In May 2019, she will graduate with a Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree. Following her graduation, she hopes to pursue a residency in pediatric dentistry before beginning her four-year commitment with the National Health Service Corps. Mindy's main interests within oral health include community health, education, and prevention; particularly in disadvantaged pediatric populations.

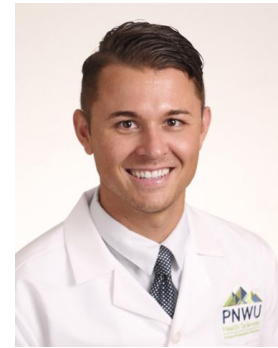


PROJECT: Dental caries is the most common chronic childhood disease, and is five times as common as asthma. Education and prevention early in a child's oral health experience can help to mitigate these challenges. The aim of this project is to implement an interactive oral hygiene education model at a student-run pediatric dental clinic at the Cambridge Health Alliance Hospital, a safety net health system in Massachusetts which provides care to vulnerable Medicaid and low-income patients. This model will utilize educational pedagogy including visual media, teach-back methodology, individualized oral hygiene goal-setting, and positive reinforcement in order to improve oral health outcomes.

Medicine (DO)

Andrew Bergloff

Pacific Northwest University
Medicine (DO)
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BIO: I am currently an Osteopathic medical student at the Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences. I previously obtained my Masters of Arts from Heritage University and my undergraduate from Boise State University. While obtaining my undergraduate and graduate degrees, I became very interested in public and preventative health and the role that I could play in creating healthy communities, especially in rural and underserved areas. One of my main interests right now includes the care and prevention of diabetes and those patients suffering from this disease, both in adults and children.

PROJECT: With the dramatic rise in diabetic patients, including those in my community of Yakima, Washington, many are developing unmanaged diabetes. With limited healthcare access many physicians are without proper resources to manage their number of patients. My focus aims to investigate the perceptions and activities of rural health care providers and diabetes self-management technologies such as insulin pumps, and other diabetic care tools. The hope is to obtain information from healthcare professionals and their staff about some of the problems they face with regards to the management of their diabetic patients and the tools they use to better their care.

Pratishtha Chhabra

Lincoln Memorial University
Medicine (DO)
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BIO: Pratishtha Chhabra is a first year medical student at Lincoln Memorial University-Debusk College of Osteopathic Medicine. A Seattle native, she attended the University of Washington where she was awarded the Mary Gates Scholarship for excellence in Research as an undergraduate. She recently finished her Masters in Anatomical Sciences and is currently the President of the American Medical Student Association at her school. Ranking third in the nation for speed policy debate in college, she continues her passion for social justice, political advocacy, and women's rights as part of the Medical Students for Choice and American Medical Women's Association nationally.

PROJECT: Teenage pregnancy is common among youth who have been disadvantaged socio-economically in childhood and have low expectations of education or the job market. In 2013, Tennessee ranked 8th in the nation for highest teen pregnancy rates, with my county having the third highest rate in all of Tennessee. Hence, my project aims to conduct an analysis on the prevalence of teen sexual activities/ behaviors through the Tennessee Department of Health, understand the

Abstinence laws that govern Family Life Education in schools, and develop culturally appropriate interventions targeting both young women and men to reduce teen pregnancy levels in my county.

Ian Coker

Midwestern University - AZCOM
Medicine (DO)
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BIO: Graduate of Linfield College. Plans on pursuing primary care and working with underserved communities

PROJECT: Implementation of community gardens in low income schools to supplement nutritional education



Hayley Golek

Midwestern University - AZCOM
Medicine (DO)
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BIO: My name is Hayley Golek and I am a third-year osteopathic medical student at Midwestern University - AZCOM in Glendale, AZ. I attended Arizona State University for both undergraduate and graduate school, where I earned a B.S. in biology and an M.S. in biochemistry. I am planning on pursuing a family medicine residency and would ultimately like to practice in Arizona. My interest in public health lies largely in the prevention and education domains, and I am looking forward to learning more through this program.

PROJECT: My project focuses on mental health amongst students in the healthcare field and will utilize an electronic survey to look at both the prevalence of mental health concerns among students at the Glendale campus of Midwestern University as well as their opinions on the stigma surrounding mental health issues and how to combat that stigma. I plan to use the collected data to establish a program on campus aimed at supporting students as well as raising awareness and decreasing the stigma surrounding mental health issues in healthcare providers. The program will also include community outreach and education.



Rachael Harris

Lincoln Memorial University
Medicine (DO)
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BIO: I am a current 2nd year medical student at Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine. I grew up in Mechanicsville, Virginia and completed my undergraduate education at Virginia Tech, where I earned my bachelor's degree in Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise. I am passionate about physical activity promotion and implementation in the local



community, especially in underserved areas. My hobbies include traveling as much and as often as possible, reading, running, and spending time with my fiancé and dogs. Go Hokies!

PROJECT: Providing and evaluating the impact of a local group-based exercise program, Walk with a Doc, on the well-being of health professions students. The program will consist of monthly group walks followed by yoga, mindfulness-based stress reduction breathing exercises or mediation. The project aims to prevent chronic disease through an increase in the frequency of physical activity in this population which is often anxious, stressed, and sedentary. It also aims to promote group cohesion among interprofessional students. Ultimately, the goal is adapting this program to involve the local community, which is part of a medically underserved area.

Jason Hirshberg

Midwestern University
Medicine (DO)

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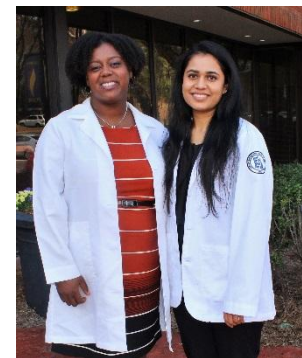
BIO: I was born and raised in Boulder, Colorado where I studied Molecular & Cellular Biology at the University of Colorado. I spent a few years in basic science research before earning a Master's in Health Science in Reproductive and Cancer Biology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Studying cancer biology at JHSPH afforded unique perspectives in healthcare and preventative medicine. I was honored by Delta Omega and aspire to continue pursuing public health to become a better clinician. My greatest passion is medical oncology and addressing health disparities in underserved communities.

PROJECT: I aim to establish and implement a peer educator program to reduce cigarette use by adolescents in grades 9-12. Arizona data from Youth Risk Behavior Surveys indicate successes in reducing tobacco use in this population, but stratifying the data reveals a disparity. My project concept is to deliver a school-based tobacco prevention program to attenuate cigarette use by young African Americans and to promote student involvement in Arizona's youth tobacco prevention coalition, STAND. By teaching youth to teach one another, I hope to promote health behaviors in communities susceptible to tobacco use and the burdens of lung cancer.

Ashruta Patel

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
Medicine (DO)

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BIO: Ashruta Patel is currently in her third year of medical school at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine - Georgia Campus. Her interests include chronic disease management, public health, underserved populations, preventive medicine, and health policy.

PROJECT: Implementation of community-based educational programs for chronic disease patients in underserved clinics in Georgia.

David Preston

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine
Medicine (DO)
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BIO: David Preston is a 3rd year DO/MPH student at Texas College Of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Worth, Texas. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Kinesiology, and has long been passionate about education, health promotion, and population health. His clinical interests include primary care, specifically with respect to underserved rural populations in both local and international contexts. In his spare time he enjoys running, rock climbing, and live music.



PROJECT: Fort Worth is home to one of the largest refugee populations in Texas. The Refugee Medical Assistance program in Texas guarantees eight months of medical care, after which refugees must acquire health insurance through Medicaid eligibility, an employer, or the healthcare marketplace. My project will partner health professions students with nonprofit programs already serving refugee populations to implement a medical care liaison program. Students partnered with refugees will provide education, transportation, and communication assistance to ensure continued access to healthcare services in Fort Worth after their initial eight months of guaranteed care expires.

Srutika Sabu

Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, Middletown
Medicine (DO)
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BIO: Srutika Sabu is a third year medical student at the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, Middletown NY. Her research interests include finding ways to merge public health, social justice and equitable health care. She is the founder of the Public Health and Social Justice Collaborative at her school, a group which aimed to educate fellow med students about local health care inequities while working with organizations in the region that work to solve these issues. She is also an artist and has used her art skills to both fundraise for grass root organizations as well as a tool to educate others about public health concerns.



PROJECT: My project is a series of workshops aimed towards South Asian parents on the topic of mental health literacy. It will specifically focus on educating parents on understanding their child's mental illness and learning about effective strategies to support them. The workshops will be run at a local religious centre and will be run in several South Asian languages.

Nicholas Snow

Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine - VA
Medicine (DO)
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BIO: Hey everyone :) I'm from North Carolina and am a graduate of NC State University, B.S. Biological Sciences and B.A. in Spanish Language & Literature. I'm current a second year student at Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg, VA with a strong interest in public health. I've enjoyed many experiences working with underserved populations and have worked as a Spanish medical interpreter in the past. I'm passionate about health, the environment, and food! My goals in the future are to employ preventive medicine to communities who need it the most and connect them to healthcare on a level that has not been done before. I hope to inspire others to take their health into their own hands and empower them the education and agency to do so. My research interests are varied, but environmental toxicology and public health have my focus currently. In my free time, I love being outdoors and spending as much time as I can either on the AT or in my garden.

PROJECT: In recent years, the impact of antibiotic resistance has grown and become centerstage as a threat to public health. Recent calls-to-action have been issued by the White House and the CDC to reduce antibiotic misuse. Frequently, these efforts to combat resistance have taken residence in inpatient settings. In order to shift antibiotic stewardship efforts to the outpatient setting, this project aims to implement an Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship Program at a local family medicine patient-centered medical home in Montgomery county, Virginia, a HRSA-recognized medically underserved area. We will collect data on antibiotic usage, the most common infectious diseases and assess for appropriate antibiotic use. This information will allow us to identify in the outpatient healthcare setting precisely how and why antibiotic misuse occurs. Then, we will introduce a myriad of interventions that will address these reasons, which will likely consist of education of both physician and patient, as well as workflow modifications. The project is designed with the notion that the Antibiotic Stewardship Program can be continued into the future indefinitely. If successful, I hope this model of antibiotic stewardship will stand as an example and inspiration to other outpatient clinics in the greater community.

Marissa Tan

University of North Texas Health Science Center
Medicine (DO)
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BIO: Marissa completed her undergraduate degree in interdisciplinary studies, combining biology, anthropology, and theology at Wheaton College. After college, she joined AmeriCorps VISTA to work at a public housing authority in Reading, PA, where she was exposed to the complexity of serving marginalized communities. There, she discovered her interest in public health to “work out” her values in social justice. Marissa is now in her third year of medical school, working towards a combined DO-MPH degree, and has research interests in neighborhood determinants of

health. Looking forward, Marissa hopes to complete a residency in Preventive Medicine and work towards health equity.

PROJECT: In 2012, 19.5% of adults in the Rio Grande Valley were diabetic, 73.4% were overweight or obese, and 34.3% had no leisure time physical activity. To address the growing rate of obesity, I will facilitate a 9-week diabetes prevention program that targets families in the McAllen-Edinburg-Pharr metroplex. The program will equip families with tools to make healthy food choices and encourage families to exercise more often with increased social support. Classes will occur once per week in English and Spanish at a community setting, like an elementary school or library.

Medicine (MD)

Anne Drolet

Michigan State University College of Human Medicine
Medicine (MD)
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BIO: Anne Drolet is currently a medical student at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine (MSU CHM), pursuing her medical doctorate, as well as a graduate certificate in public health. Past education experience includes a Master's of Science from Wayne State University School of Medicine and a Bachelor's of Science from Central Michigan University. One of her passions is health education, and she currently helps to organize health outreach and education programs with a local low-income clinic. Professional goals include pursuing a career in women's health, and possibly a role in academic medicine.

PROJECT: My project involves conducting four to five monthly, two-hour health education classes for women in Flint. Using a discussion-based format, women will learn about relevant health topics and create practical solutions to the barriers they face. The classes include a cooking session, where everyone will work together to create a low-cost, healthy meal. Because class participants actively contribute to cooking and preparing the meal, they will be empowered to re-create it on their own. The combination of cooking and sharing a meal, along with discussing health topics, enhances the community environment and creates lasting bonds.

Charlene Gaw

Mayo Clinic School of Medicine
Medicine (MD)
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BIO: I was born and raised in the Bay Area in California, and attended college at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA, where I majored in psychology and biochemistry. I am now a second-year medical student at Mayo Clinic School of Medicine in Rochester, MN. I am interested in primary care specialties with an emphasis on public health and preventative medicine to support a healthier population. In my free time, I enjoy going outdoors, playing with animals in any capacity, spending time with loved ones, reading, and yoga!

PROJECT: My project proposal is to gather fellow medical students to provide comprehensive sexual health education for underserved, Hispanic adolescents in Dodge County, Minnesota. The immigrant Hispanic population has a twofold greater rate of teen pregnancy as compared to their non-Hispanic white counterparts. The curriculum will be built off the students' requests and collaboration with a community leader who runs the clinic and has extensive understanding of the health needs of her community. Topics included in comprehensive sexual education encompass goal-setting, family planning, STIs, basic anatomy, appropriate social media use, and LGBTQ awareness, among other topics.

Gerald Gibbons

Thomas Jefferson University
Medicine (MD)
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BIO: Gerald Gibbons is an MD/MPH student at the Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) in Philadelphia, PA, currently enrolled in a one-year MPH program after three completed years of medical school. Throughout medical school, Gerald is most proud of his directorship role for a student-run clinic at a local homeless shelter, and the development of a linkage program with a community center to offer health professions exposure for middle school, high school, and collegiate students as well as enrollment into TJU pipeline programs. Prior to medical school Gerald worked two years for a new product development team at W.L. Gore & Associates.

PROJECT: Super-utilizers are patients who chronically overuse emergency and inpatient services. The goal of the interprofessional student hotspotting program is to offer personalized interventions for healthcare super-utilizers. This program encompasses the Triple Aim through promotion of patient self-efficacy to reduce healthcare costs, improve health outcomes, and increase patient satisfaction. For students, this is a chance to gain exposure to the social determinants of health. It will also highlight the difficulties in navigating the healthcare system while providing perspective on patient-provider relationships. These experiences will be integrated into interprofessional curricula as students complete assignments and attend various skills and knowledge based workshops.

Jordana Gilman

SUNY Upstate Medical University
Medicine (MD)
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BIO: Jordana is a third year medical student in the Rural Medical Scholars Program at SUNY Upstate Medical University. Next year she will be pursuing her Masters of Public Health degree with the Central New York MPH program. She attended Cornell University for undergrad, where she focused on human biology and sexuality.

PROJECT: After conducting research about the national trends and local consequences of LGBT women seeking preventative health services. I would then bring this research to the Q Center, a local center for

LGBT people in Upstate NY, and discuss my findings. Once I understood the perspective of women in the LGBT community here, I would design interventions on the community side and on the healthcare side to encourage LGBT women to access preventative health services. On the community side, these interventions would be materials and programs tailored to the LGBT population that highlight the importance of health screening. On the healthcare side, the interventions would be ways to improve office intake forms, ways to integrate gender neutral language, and specific information about LGBT reproductive health needs.

Austin Hilt

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Medicine (MD)
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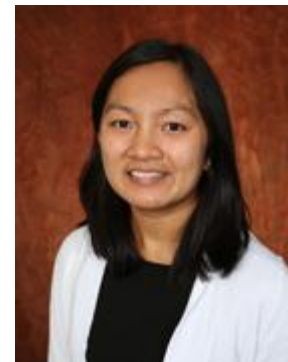


BIO: Austin J Hilt, originally from Delaware, Ohio, moved to Youngstown, Ohio after acceptance into Northeast Ohio Medical University's BS/MD program. After receiving his BS from Youngstown State University in 2013, Austin enrolled in the Consortium of Eastern Ohio Master of Public Health program through Youngstown State University, focusing his study on food insecurity and nutrition environments while applying these concepts to economic development in Youngstown. He has been passionately involved in service and revitalization efforts across the city and has advocated for considerations of health in further community planning and development initiatives. Austin received his MPH in August 2016 and is currently a first-year medical student at Northeast Ohio Medical University.

PROJECT: This community project is a continuation of previous work that showed food retail outlets in Youngstown, Ohio offered limited healthy food options and illustrated geographic disparities in food access. Further study will help link the documented nutrition environment to the home food environment, consumption behaviors, as well as resident perceptions and attitudes. Through further application of the PRECEDE-PROCEED model and the Nutrition Environment Measures Survey, this evolving conceptualization will inform the development and implementation of food access interventions by determining clear targets for action and change.

Stephanie Tran

Florida State University College of Medicine
Medicine (MD)
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BIO: Stephanie B. Tran is a medical student at the Florida State University College of Medicine. With her family in the military, she has traveled to exotic places including Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and Green Cove Springs, FL—her hometown. In her undergraduate years, she became involved with community-based participatory research investigating the motivators and barriers to healthy living in culturally diverse and low-income populations. Combining her fascination with cultures and addressing health disparities, she hopes to serve her country as a Navy physician once she graduates from medical school.

PROJECT: Recognizing advanced medical care planning as a preventive service acknowledges that inappropriate or undesired end-of-life care can raise costs, lower quality of life, and expose a patient to adverse procedures that questionably prolong life while greatly diminishing wellness. My project aims to conduct focus groups to learn about the attitudes of minorities and their religious leaders regarding advanced care planning, barriers and challenges towards discussing these issues, and how their religious community impacts their end-of-life care decisions. Following these interviews, I will implement an interventional presentation on advance care planning options with resources and strategies available for those options.

Robert Weidling

University of Missouri Kansas City
Medicine (MD)
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BIO: I am a 5th year medical student at the University of Missouri Kansas City 6 year combined BA/MD program. Our campus is one of the few across the United States with Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Medical buildings all on the same campus. Thus I have developed a strong passion for interprofessional education. The Paul Ambrose Scholarship is a unique opportunity for me to combine my passion for interprofessionalism with public health.

PROJECT: My project aims to enhance an interprofessional poverty simulation with the addition of real public health services found in the Kansas City area. The goal is to both increase health care provider knowledge of community resources and volunteerism.

Yan Emily Yuan

University of Massachusetts Medical School
Medicine (MD)
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BIO: Yan Emily Yuan is a third-year medical student at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. She was born in Tianjin, China, but now calls Boston home. Before medical school, she completed her undergraduate studies at Harvard College and a Masters of Science degree in Narrative Medicine at Columbia University. She is passionate about improving health care for immigrants. In her first year of medical school, she established the Medical Mandarin elective course for medical and graduate nursing students to facilitate patient-provider communication. She enjoys writing, baking, and traveling; she is currently reading *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi.

PROJECT: Although cancer is among the leading causes of death in Chinese immigrants in the U.S., cancer screening rates are low. Immigrants' utilization of Western healthcare services is dependent on many factors, and many will turn to family or friends for health information. Leveraging the role of social networks in impacting this population's health care decisions, this project hopes to 1) demonstrate the feasibility of group text-messaging in facilitating health care conversations, and 2) to determine if participating in text-messaging groups increases Chinese immigrants' understanding of and comfort towards cancer screening tests.

Nursing

Christy Adams

University of California Davis
Nursing
cmadams@ucdavis.edu



BIO: Christy Adams is a registered nurse and the Coordinator for the University of California Davis Health System Trauma Prevention Program. With over 20 years of trauma and critical care experience across the age continuum, her clinical career provides a strong foundation for her current work in injury prevention. Her passion for multisector collaboration is evident in her development of numerous community partnerships and injury prevention coalitions. She is currently enrolled in the UC Davis Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing and working toward a PhD in Nursing Science and Health Care Leadership.

PROJECT: Develop and implement a campaign to educate physicians in the Sacramento Region on fall prevention resources for community dwelling seniors. Components include 1) the web-based STEADI toolkit from the CDC; 2) an online database and toll-free resource number for senior resources in Sacramento; and 3) effective strategies for referring elderly patients to community resources for fall prevention. By increasing provider awareness of available fall prevention resources and removing barriers to physician referrals for community support, a greater number of seniors will access the resources being concurrently developed by regional fall prevention coalition.

Christina Baughn

Samford University
Nursing
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BIO: I am an instructor at the University of South Alabama College of Nursing in the Adult Health Program. I teach primarily in the accelerated BSN program. I live in Mobile, Alabama. I'm married with three children. I'm currently pursuing my doctorate of nursing practice at Samford University.

PROJECT: My plan proposes a collaboration between the culinary school of a local community college, the University of South Alabama College of Nursing, College of Medicine, College of Allied Health, and interested community leaders. Classes would be offered at least each semester and would include both a professional and community component. Each four hour class would include two segments. The initial two hours would be dedicated to providing education to interdisciplinary students and assisting them in devising meal plans. The final two hours of each class would incorporate community members. During that time participants would be divided so that each group included varied students and community members. Each group will prepare a particular food item using ingredients and cooking methods that subscribe to a diet that focuses on healthy fats, fiber, whole grains, and lean meats. The head chef of the culinary school will oversee preparation. While students and community members prepare their dishes,

students are encouraged to share knowledge with their community counterparts. When the dishes are prepared, each group will present their dish and discuss the nutritional advantage of the preparation as opposed to traditional versions of the same dishes.

Mallory Bejster

Rush University
Nursing
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BIO: I have a BSN and a MSN in Nursing Education, and I am currently completing my DNP in Advanced Public Health Nursing at Rush University. I have been interested in disease prevention and health promotion for much of my professional career and have had many opportunities to be involved in public health from working in a college health clinic to involvement in different community organizations. My professional area of interest is chronic disease prevention, specifically obesity prevention. I plan to continue my role as a nurse educator while exploring ways to continue improving the health of my community.

PROJECT: My community project plan includes nutrition education activities at a local elementary school to address the identified health need of childhood obesity. The project will include components aimed at positively influencing childhood nutrition through school-based nutrition education that bridges into the home environment, as students spend a significant amount of time both at school and at home. As there are many factors that impact childhood nutrition, creating a project that considers this multitude of factors is key in holistically addressing childhood obesity in a school environment.

Jeffrey Bell

University of Cincinnati
Nursing
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BIO: Jeff is a RN currently pursuing his DNP and acute care pediatric NP through the University of Cincinnati. His primary clinical background is in emergency and prehospital nursing, and he currently practices as a flight nurse for CareFlight in Dayton, OH. He also teaches a variety of nursing and healthcare provider certification courses. Jeff has a particular interest in substance use disorder incidence and education, particularly in health care providers. He has developed and presented several educational sessions pertaining to addiction and substance use disorders.

PROJECT: I would like to develop a continuing education program for healthcare providers, including pre-hospital providers, which will educate them on the pathophysiology of addiction, help them understand the role of drugs and other addictive behaviors in an individual's life, assist them in identifying risk factors and help them empathize with those afflicted with a substance use disorder. I would coordinate to present these continuing education courses at EMS agencies, hospitals and healthcare education programs.

Alina Kraynak

University of Illinois at Chicago
Nursing
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BIO: I am pursuing my Doctor of Nursing Practice in Advanced Population Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago. I received my BSN from Ball State University and my MSN from UIC as well. With my experience as a registered nurse, I have come to understand the transformative role of public health nursing in the community. Working with my patients in the hospital and my work in community health, I strive to improve health outcomes for a variety of populations. My interests outside of the healthcare world include traveling, running, and hiking.

PROJECT: My community based project focuses specifically on the environmental health in the city of Chicago. An individual's health is directly impacted by environmental quality such as: tobacco use, air pollution, water quality, chemical use, and housing conditions. The goal of my project is to aid a culturally diverse area of school aged children and their families, to understand issues surrounding environmental quality. By providing hands-on activities as well as working with community stakeholders, I will cultivate a robust educational environmental program to better serve the youth of my community.

Rebecca Mance

The George Washington University
Nursing
rdmance@gwu.edu



BIO: Rebecca is a Clinical Nurse Specialist and full time faculty member at The George Washington University School of Nursing. She has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of New Mexico a Master's of Science in Nursing with a focus in Community and Public Health Leadership from the University of Virginia, and her Doctor of Nursing Practice will be conferred in May 2017. As an RN she has spent the last 15 years working in women's health, public health, policy and healthcare quality. She is actively involved in local state and regional disaster preparedness and management.

PROJECT: Preterm birth increases both morbidity and mortality in newborns. With healthcare spending at 17.5% GDP, this is an economic and population health concern. The HP2020 Leading Health Indicator I would like to target is total preterm live births (MICH-9.1) in Washington, D.C. Preterm deliveries in D.C. are 9.6% overall, this remains a serious challenge for Southeast D.C. The district had the largest gap with in preterm birth rates of 6.8% to 12.6% percent in 2013. My project will be an early education intervention and prenatal health promotion program for low-income pregnant women.

Kalyca Seabrook

Columbia University

Nursing

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BIO: I was born and raised in Oakland, California. I graduated from the University of California, Davis with a B.S. in Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior. Before attending Columbia University's Masters Direct Entry program in Nursing, I worked in Child Abuse Prevention for 7 years. My goal as a nurse is to incorporate a preventive, interdisciplinary, community-driven culture in all levels of my practice. I am passionate about empowering and engaging underserved populations while encouraging interprofessional partnerships to develop effective, accessible prevention-focused solutions. Personally, I enjoy spending time with my family, playing sports, reading, and exploring new places/cultures.

PROJECT: A community-driven, culturally-sensitive prenatal outreach project that aims to improve birth outcomes for women in underserved neighborhoods surrounding Columbia University. The project would involve an outreach and awareness component that engages low-income pregnant women in early prenatal care and connects them with the appropriate existing community resources.

Melissa Silverman

Worcester State University

Nursing

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BIO: I obtained my BSN degree at Rhode Island College. I am in my final year at Worcester State University's MSN Program. As a RN. I have worked in acute care, home care, and school health. I work at a therapeutic school for adolescents with cognitive and social-emotional challenges. My career interest is program planning that utilizes promising practices and leads to equitable health outcomes. I will pursue professional school nurse licensure and advanced public health nursing certification. I aspire to work in the local or state public health sector. I enjoy traveling and spending time with my husband and dogs.

PROJECT: As a public health scholar at RI Department of Health, my capstone project will include researching relevant community needs assessment data, collaborating with a diverse group of stakeholders, conducting youth focus groups, and formulating a five-year adolescent health strategic plan. Interviews will address the health needs of youth, barriers, and their preferred method in accessing health information. This initiative will identify seven priority health areas, guiding principles, goals and objectives, and best practices to encourage the provision of comprehensive youth-friendly health services, a supportive environment for positive youth development, and the recognition of adolescents as equal partners in their care.

Dawn Van Ruler

South Dakota State University
Nursing
dawn.vanruler@sdstate.edu



BIO: Dawn Van Ruler is an advanced practice nurse and nurse educator who provides care for all ages in rural underserved areas. Education includes BA – Psychology, University of Minnesota, Morris, Bachelors of Science Nursing from Creighton University, Master’s of Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner from South Dakota State University in 1997, and post-master’s Mental Health nursing in 2003. Research interests include collaboration in care, mental health, physical health risk reduction, health promotion-exercise, motivational interviewing, and nursing education. Ms Van Ruler has three children and is involved in community band, church groups, gardening, educational literature, decorating, and creative pursuits.

PROJECT: Seriously mentally ill (SMI) have low physical activity (PA) and high health consequences. The project is community-based, standardized, and includes a brief (8-week) program of health risk screening (HRS) and individualized motivational materials provided by health, nutrition, and physical therapy workers to enhance PA in SMI. It is proposed that HRS plus motivational approaches will relate to increased PA levels. Designed upon self-determination theory, data would compare self-efficacy for exercise with pedometer step counts and self-report of PA, baseline and post project. Goal is feasibility testing of objective measures of PA (pedometers) and motivational strategies to improve PA, in SMI.

Kari Whitney

UMass Medical School Graduate School of Nursing
Nursing
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BIO: Kari Whitney is a second career registered nurse and DNP candidate at the Umass Medical School Graduate School of Nursing. Her interests include rural health, reproductive and sexual health and caring for underserved populations.

PROJECT: I would like to start a train-the-trainer program with the staff at the local school-based health centers. They have recently been approved to offer STI testing and birth control options to students. This would include effective communication tools to address students about sexual health, how to respond to sensitive questions, and training on how to lead workshops for teachers about reproductive and sexual health.

Pharmacy

Fatima Ali

University of the Sciences
Pharmacy
fali@mail.usciences.edu

BIO: My name is Fatima Ali and I am a fifth year pharmacy student at University of the Sciences. I have a B.S. in Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Studies and a minor in Pharmaceutical Healthcare and Business. My goal is to pursue a residency after graduation.



PROJECT: Naloxone is used by paramedics and emergency response teams to quickly and effectively reverse the negative effects of an opioid overdose for those who need it. The concept of this project involves a campus wide training for naloxone with students, faculty and staff at University of the Sciences. The ultimate goal is to provide this training to the USciences community to raise awareness and educate others about opioid abuse especially in the Philadelphia area and surrounding communities.

Jesus Gracia

Rosalind Franklin University
Pharmacy
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BIO: Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science granted me the opportunity to develop into a well-rounded healthcare professional. Graduating in 2017, I will be able to contribute to society as a pharmacist. I owe every bit of my endeavors to both of my parents, as they selflessly provided the necessary resources to pursue graduate level education. Pursuant to my mother's background in pharmacy, I chose this field as a means to make her proud and provide accessible healthcare to my communities. It is my genuine pleasure to use my capacity to make a meaningful difference in people's lives.



PROJECT: Establishing a Spanish-based HIV Community Outreach that educates high school teenagers about HIV and lowers disease prevalence in the Chicagoland area.

Mary Kasl

Creighton University
Pharmacy
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BIO: I am a second-year pharmacy student at Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, with aspirations to be a clinical pharmacist. Actively contributing to the well-being of those in my community has been a fundamental part of my life and my professional development. I am especially passionate about improving access to good healthcare for vulnerable populations, through both education and direct service.



PROJECT: The primary goal of this project is to increase the proportion of adults in marginalized populations who have been counseled on colorectal cancer screenings, with a secondary goal to increase rates of colorectal cancer screenings in these populations. Education of at-risk clients and increased rates of appropriate screenings can help prevent cancer deaths due to late-stage detection. An interprofessional team of healthcare students will be trained on cancer screening guidelines and how to recognize and advocate for patients with barriers to care. These students will then provide education and counseling for disadvantaged clients in the North Omaha area.

Marian Lyford

University of Missouri - Kansas City
Pharmacy
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BIO: I am currently a 3rd year doctoral candidate at UMKC School of Pharmacy interested in pursuing a career as a medical science liaison. I have had the opportunity to serve on medical trips to Cusco, Peru and La Romana, Dominican Republic, as well as study abroad in Cape Town, South Africa with an emphasis on global health. I have experienced the joy and fulfillment of working on interdisciplinary teams to provide sustainable solutions to impoverished regions through pharmacy services, community education programs, mobile clinics, and home health visits on a national and international level.

PROJECT: My community project will collaborate with Faith Community Health Center to target a subset of the uninsured population by developing a protocol for pharmacist-based blood pressure control interventions to reduce socioeconomic disparities in blood pressure management through education programs to improve refill adherence and blood pressure monitoring. I will be incorporating the recommendations of the Million Hearts Initiative to identify undiagnosed hypertension earlier, train providers on proper technique, provide patient-specific education sessions, enable adherence by increasing access to equipment and medications, develop blood pressure logs for self-monitoring, and design blood pressure control protocols to increase accuracy and improve cardiovascular outcomes.

Jasmine Sardar

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Pharmacy
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BIO: I was born and raised in New York where I completed my undergraduate degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. I moved to California to attend Chapman University School of Pharmacy in pursuit of a Doctorate in Pharmacy. I would like to expand my passion for helping others through focusing on public health and better engaging pharmacists in substance abuse awareness in a more proactive manner. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, exploring the outdoors and being involved with my local community.

PROJECT: My proposed project will address the lack of pharmacist involvement in offering services aimed at preventing substance abuse among prescription opioid users and to provide the support needed to better engage patients who may already be abusing prescription and illicit opioids. Providing additional training to local pharmacists as well as establishing referral services for substance abuse counselors, as well as collaborations with pain management specialists will allow pharmacists to better support their patients. By empowering pharmacists and developing a sustainable program with valuable interprofessional collaborations, this program will help reduce the burden of substance abuse both locally and beyond.

Heather Shaffer

Ohio Northern University
Pharmacy
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BIO: I was born and raised near Akron, OH. I am currently a 2018 PharmD. Candidate at Ohio Northern University. In addition, I work as a pharmacy intern for CVS Pharmacy. This past year, I completed an independent study with several other pharmacy students under the direction of the Director of Outreach Programming for the pharmacy college at Ohio Northern. Our goal was plan and execute an outreach opportunity for the underserved community of Hardin County, OH. Completing this independent study and working with the medically underserved in the local community inspired my project.

PROJECT: The goal of my project is to make information about the health providers and services in Kenton, Ohio more readily available to its community members. I plan to gather and present all pertinent information in a booklet and upload a copy of the booklet online for easy access. In addition to compiling information, I would like to hold a local health fair during which representatives from each provider are welcome to come and display further details about the services offered. I will also be inviting organizations from Ohio Northern to provide preventative screenings for community members as well.

Physician Assistant

Editha Setiawan

Yale University
Physician Assistant
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BIO: Editha is a student in the Yale Physician Associate Program. She has a background in public health and has a passion for women's health and working with underserved populations. In her spare time she enjoys exploring new cities, running, strong coffee, and cooking adventures.

PROJECT: We propose a study to culturally adapt a previously successful behavioral weight loss program with demonstrated success in White and African American breast cancer survivors to Hispanic/Latinas living in the Northeast United States. Through the use of community focus groups, we will identify

effective channels for communication, implement appropriate cultural adaptations, and develop a comprehensive weight loss intervention tool.

Public Health

Jacob Moran

The University of Texas Medical Branch
Public Health
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BIO: Jacob Moran is a third year MD-PhD student in Preventive Medicine and Community Health. He works extensively with a non-profit, student-run free clinic in Galveston, Texas. At the clinic, he has invested time establishing community health and preventive resources like a community garden and walking group. He hopes these resources will be valuable tools for the low SES community.

PROJECT: This project will establish a community walking group that will encourage healthy lifestyle in an attempt to address the high prevalence of obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and other chronic illnesses in the low SES community in Galveston, Texas.

Stan Sonu

Northwestern University
Public Health
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BIO: I am first-year fellow in the Cook County Preventive Medicine / Public Health Program in Chicago, IL. Part of this program includes working towards an MPH at Northwestern University. Prior to starting this fellowship I completed an internal medicine and pediatrics residency at Rush University Medical Center, then stayed on for another year as Pediatric Chief Resident. My interests in public health include reducing health disparities, incorporating social determinants of health in clinical care, and the adverse childhood experiences. I grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, and enjoy talking all things coffee, This American Life, and flag football.

PROJECT: School-based health centers are uniquely positioned to deliver care to some of the nation's most vulnerable: children and adolescents with little or no access to care. My project is to conduct an epidemiological needs assessment with data from a school-based health center in an underserved community in Chicago. Data will be abstracted from several years worth of Bright Futures questionnaires and profiled to assess for any health-specific barriers to student success (i.e. mental health issues, social disadvantage, family dysfunction). With our findings, we hope to develop meaningful, goal-driven recommendations for how the health center could respond to identified needs.