

**PAUL AMBROSE SCHOLARS PROGRAM  
2010**

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**PARTICIPANT DIRECTORY**

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**JUNE 24-27, 2010**

**WASHINGTON, DC**



## **Yassar Arain**

Institute: Oregon Health and Science University  
Discipline: Allopathic Medicine  
Email: arainy@ohsu.edu

I am an Orange County, California native and I received my undergraduate degree in Psychology in San Diego. I am currently in my second year of medical school at Oregon Health & Science University. Through my PASP project, I intend to increase awareness about the adverse effects of excessive TV and computer "screen-time" by performing an educational intervention in local pediatric clinics. I will target the 10-14 year old age group by assembling an interactive booklet that can be completed while waiting for pediatric office visits. The end goal is that these children will learn the importance of becoming more physically, emotionally, and mentally active in their daily routines. When I have time to step away from the books, I enjoy playing basketball, lounging in coffee houses, and contemplating the important things in life. When I do have books open at hand, I often daydream about riding a Vespa I do not own, on a road I have not found...yet.

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## **Ifeyinwa Asiodu**

Institute: University of California, San Francisco  
Discipline: Nursing  
Email: Ifeyinwa.Asiodu@ucsf.edu

I am originally from Southern California where I attended the University of Southern California and received a BS in Nursing. I currently attend the University of California, San Francisco where I am a second year doctoral student in the School of Nursing. For my PASP project, I intend to investigate the perceptions and experiences associated with infant feeding in the African American community and use my findings to design a culturally sensitive breastfeeding pamphlet and curriculum to be used during the infant feeding classes of the new Black Infant Health group intervention model. Through this project I hope to encourage young women of color to make healthier and more responsible infant feeding choices. In my free time, I love to read, watch sporting events (especially my SC Trojans) and visit with my family and best friends.



## **Danny Ballentine**

Institute: Franklin Pierce University  
Discipline: Physician Assistant  
Email: BallentineD@franklinpierce.edu

Growing up in a small town (600 people) in Northern New Hampshire was a great experience for a kid that could not keep his shoes on. In high school I became passionate about social responsibility and have been since. Post graduation from Johnson State College, I got married, joined AmeriCorps and later the Peace Corps with my wife, Heidi. Now we are back in New Hampshire and I am having a great time enjoying the natural beauty of my home state while studying to become a physician assistant. My project will be designed to show high school students the power they have to be a positive force in their communities. I will be working with students in a few of the local school systems and a local free summer camp to help them identify the health issues they feel are important and can be improved in their communities through health education and advocacy. As part of the program there will also be a yearly health professions three day retreat where students can learn about careers in the healthcare field.

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## **Jennifer Baxley**

Institute: Wingate University  
Discipline: Physician Assistant  
Email: j.c.baxley@wingate.edu

I am currently a Physician Assistant student at Wingate University in North Carolina. I am enjoying my clinical year working with patients again. In my previous profession I was an orthotist, making custom braces for patients with various physical limitations. Through this work, I became aware of the need for literature to encourage frequent repositioning of infants in the first four months of life to prevent deformational plagiocephaly. I plan to produce and distribute this literature locally and seek national support in making the literature available. My favorite past times are spending time with my husband of 10 years and my 3-year old daughter. I also enjoy traveling, snow skiing, hiking, and gardening.



## **Dan Bayliss**

Institute: University of Virginia School of Nursing

Discipline: Nursing

Email: [djb2c@virginia.edu](mailto:djb2c@virginia.edu)

I have a BS in Biology from the Ohio Northern University and an MS in Exercise Physiology from Ball State University and I am currently an MSN student in the Clinical Nurse Leader Program at the University of Virginia's School of Nursing. I am an active runner/triathlete and have been involved with Team in Training to run marathons and triathlons while raising money for leukemia research. I once ran on a treadmill outdoors in July for five hours to help raise funds for the cause! To date, I have run 11 marathons and several triathlons. Being a former smoker and overweight person, I am interested in preventive medicine for the purpose of serving as a role model and advocate for health education and promotion in the local community. For my project, I would like to provide three to five minute chair massages to nurses working on a stressful Orthopedic floor here at University of Virginia Medical Center as well as provide pedometers to promote more physical activity for nurses.

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## **Carsen Bentley**

Institute: University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry

Discipline: Dentistry

Email: [c\\_bentley1@pacific.edu](mailto:c_bentley1@pacific.edu)

I was born and raised in Missoula, Montana, moved to Hawaii where I had an opportunity to play college baseball, and then transferred to the University of New Mexico where I graduated with a degree in Chemistry and Political Science. Now in San Francisco, I enjoy reading Kerouac and Palahniuk, listening to live music, riding my track bicycle, going to movies, and playing kickball in Golden Gate Park. For my project, I plan to expand the opportunity for dental students to provide preventive education and needed dental services to high risk infants, toddlers and low income families at a community public health clinic. Based upon an existing similar successful community health model, my project is to implement a monthly Saturday clinic for children and families at the Native American Health Center (NAHC) with care and preventative services provided by Dugoni dental students.



## **Ashley Castleberry**

Institute: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Pharmacy

Discipline: Pharmacy

Email: [ancastleberry@uams.edu](mailto:ancastleberry@uams.edu)

I attend the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences where I am completing my junior year of course work in the College of Pharmacy. Even though this does not happen often, when I am not studying I like to watch the Food Network and then practice making yummy creations like Rachael Ray and Giada. I also enjoy making greeting cards to send to friends and family. My PASP project is entitled "Don't Worry, Be Healthy" (Go ahead- you can hum the tune as you read). My target population group is the entire fifth grade class of Prescott Elementary School. By using pedometers to measure steps in a day, I will evaluate the effectiveness of education on healthy lifestyle choices on physical activity. Baseline data, as well as post-education data from the pedometers, will show the impact of health education on the students' activity level outside of school.

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## **Lauren Cox**

Institute: Virginia Commonwealth University

Discipline: Pharmacy

Email: [coxls@vcu.edu](mailto:coxls@vcu.edu)

I was born and raised in a suburb of Richmond, VA and currently attend Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy. When I'm not shackled to my desk studying, I enjoy reading and writing, riding my bike with my fiancée, and traveling. I'm currently a candidate for the PharmD/PhD combined degree program in Pharmacy Administration and upon my long-awaited graduation I hope to conduct research on health disparities and healthcare utilization of minority and underserved populations. My project is called Una Vida Sana (A Healthy Life) which provides cardio-metabolic screening and health education to the uninsured Latino population in the city of Richmond and its surrounding communities. The main objective is to identify patients within the community who have unmet health care needs and to provide information on sources of free or low-cost health care services within the community and disease state management education.



## **Karen Craddick**

Institute: University of Washington

Discipline: Pharmacy

Email: karend3@u.washington.edu

I am a second year PharmD student at the University of Washington. I moved to Seattle from Sacramento eight years ago to attend Seattle Pacific University where I ran cross country and track and majored in biology. When I am not studying or interning at Harborview Medical Center, I enjoy playing with my six month old puppy, running, doing yoga, hanging out with my friends and catching up on sleep. I also really enjoy camping and hiking in Washington; there are so many wonderful trails and beautiful places to see! For my PASP project I will be evaluating and improving the health literature distributed by the pharmacy at the public health clinic where I intern. With the help of experienced individuals, I will assess the appropriateness of the literature for the health literacy level of the patients at the clinic. The goal of my project is to increase the health literacy of our patients by providing them with easy to understand, useful and appropriate materials so they can make the best choices about their health.

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## **Camia Crawford**

Institute: Alpert Medical School, Brown University

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

Email: Camia.Crawford@gmail.com

As an undergraduate I pursued cultural Anthropology at Brown University and spent time abroad in both Nicaragua and Vietnam looking at women's social movements and government visual propaganda surrounding the AIDS epidemic. Before continuing on to medical school, I did a Fulbright research project in West Papua on the relationship between environmental conservation and human health. Now in medical school, I continue to stay involved in local activism and social justice and one day hope to become a primary care doctor serving minority and under-served populations domestically and abroad. My PASP project involves working with refugee health interpreters in Providence, RI. Currently there are over 50 ethnic groups in this small city which rely on a few members from each community to serve as medical interpreters. For many, this is a position that few have prior experience in. My PASP project will provide a series of health education workshops to improve health literacy on topics identified by the interpreters themselves including TB medication, the physical exam, vaccinations, CT/X-ray exposure risk, health insurance, mental health, and family planning.



## **Sylvia Cuellar**

Institute: University of Minnesota School of Dentistry

Discipline: Dentistry

Email: [cuel0003@umn.edu](mailto:cuel0003@umn.edu)

I was raised in Minnesota where I am currently completing my third year of dental school at the University of Minnesota's School of Dentistry. The PASP project I have proposed involves educating women on the importance of oral health during pregnancy. The project's objective is to design and deliver educational resources and presentations that would be provided to pregnant women to increase their knowledge of the association of gum disease to gestational diabetes and low birth weight. I hope this project will bring further awareness of the strong link between oral health and systemic health.

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## **Catherine Cunningham**

Institute: University of North Carolina School of Dentistry

Discipline: Dentistry

Email: [catie@unc.edu](mailto:catie@unc.edu)

I'm from Lexington, North Carolina. I became a UNC Tar Heel in 1997 and can't leave. I graduated from University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 2001 with a BA in Chemistry, BS in Environmental Sciences, and BA in Biology. I started out as a studio art major; it was a big change I'd say, but I'm still using my art and hand skills as I am in Dental School at UNC-CH. Between undergrad and dental school, I was an HIV clinical research coordinator for the School of Medicine at UNC-CH (2001-2006), a ski patroller in Breckenridge, Colorado, and manager of a resort in Guatemala. My project will communicate to and educate mothers pre and post-partum on the importance of early oral health care for infants and children. I will collaborate with health departments and hospital OB-GYN clinics using a brochure and oral health products teaching the significance. I love politics, skiing, drilling on teeth, running, reading, traveling and sailing.



## **Laila Dantas**

Institute: University of Pennsylvania

Discipline: Dentistry

Email: dantasla@dental.upenn.edu

I was born and raised on the outskirts of Boston, MA, where I discovered a love of skiing. I left my beloved mountains for the flat plains of the Midwest where I studied biology and biomedical physics at Washington University in Saint Louis. I returned to the East Coast to continue my education in dentistry at the University of Pennsylvania. For my PASP project, I intend to expand the dental program with the Homeless Health Initiative, which provides medical and dental screenings to children living at three homeless shelters. I hope to create a dental resource guide for the parents that addresses concerns for children's oral care. The guide would provide a list of local dental providers that accept Medicaid and/or have a sliding fee scale. I will also work with the dental school faculty and staff to set up a preferred appointment for the screened children, and will educate the medical staff on dental concerns and resources. When I am not working, I enjoy being a residential adviser in an undergraduate dormitory, spending time outdoors biking, hiking and kayaking, and exploring Philly.

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## **Martha Foster**

Institute: Shenandoah University

Discipline: Physician Assistant

Email: mfoster08@su.edu

Growing up in southern rural Virginia, I have been blessed with things that matter most, and my life experiences have molded my desires for serving under-served populations. I have dreams of serving impoverished people groups in the US, Asia, the Pacific, Africa, and the Middle East. Over the course of my life I want to establish centers such as orphanages, homes for victims of war and conflict, and medical clinics to meet social, spiritual, and medical needs. I am passionate about making an impact on people's lives here in America and throughout the developing world by living with them, mobilizing others, and speaking on their behalf. I want to be a voice for those who are often forgotten. This is one reason why I am excited about learning from the Paul Ambrose Scholars Program. For this project, my goal is to work with an under-served Hispanic population to teach prenatal nutrition education and to research the effects of this education.



## **Julie Gegg**

Institute: West Virginia University

Discipline: Pharmacy

Email: [jgegg@sole.wvu.edu](mailto:jgegg@sole.wvu.edu)

I am originally from Cape Cod, Massachusetts and I am currently a fourth year pharmacy student in the WVU School of Pharmacy. Since most of my intern experience has been in community settings, my project will focus on community education of vaccine recommendations with a particular focus on senior citizens. With pharmacists in West Virginia now recognized as certified immunizers, many patients are turning to their community pharmacist for vaccine information and recommendations. Under this newly recognized role, now is the perfect time to get out and educate the public about the importance of vaccinations. When I'm not busy with work or school, I enjoy exercising, spending time with friends and family, and traveling.

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## **Nayiri Gharibian**

Institute: Western University of Health Sciences

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

Email: [nayirig@yahoo.com](mailto:nayirig@yahoo.com)

I was born in Damascus, Syria, but have lived most of my life in Los Angeles. I attended USC and graduated Magna Cum Laude receiving a BS in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in 2007 along with minors in Religion and Natural Science. Currently, I am a second year osteopathic medical student at Western University. For my project, I wish to create an interactive health education program that will address the five main risk factors of cardiovascular disease: hypertension, tobacco use, diabetes, poor nutrition and lack of exercise. Finding that most of my target population is Hispanic and understanding the existing issues of language barriers and cultural competence, the program will be innovative in being culturally aware and sensitive. It will empower participants to have the knowledge and proficiency they need to improve their health outcomes, and I am very excited to get started! In the spare time I have, I enjoy watching basketball, hiking and biking.



## **Timothy Gleeson**

Institute: University of Massachusetts Medical School

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

Email: [timothy.gleeson@umassmed.edu](mailto:timothy.gleeson@umassmed.edu)

I am developing an oral health education and outreach project for underserved populations in Worcester, MA which will provide a free clinic to patients, youth groups, and seniors. Because oral health needs are population-specific, I intend to further explore the needs of various communities and develop targeted oral health education and skill-building sessions. I also plan to generate oral health awareness among medical and nursing students at UMass through organized service-learning activities. I grew up in Worcester and completed my undergraduate studies at UMass – Amherst. After graduation I worked in biotechnology and publishing, and have since wanted to become more engaged in public service. I entered the U.S. Peace Corps and served in Tanzania from 2003-2006 – first as a science and health teacher and later with an HIV/AIDS home-based care program. Now back in school, I seem to spend too much time in the library, but when I am not there I like relaxing with family and friends.

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## **Jeffrey Gower**

Institute: Idaho State University College of Pharmacy

Discipline: Pharmacy

Email: [gowejeff@pharmacy.isu.edu](mailto:gowejeff@pharmacy.isu.edu)

I was born and raised in Pocatello, ID, spending most of my life here aside from a stint with college in Utah and an LDS mission in Germany. My hometown also houses the ISU College of Pharmacy where I currently study. When not studying (a rare situation!) I enjoy reading German literature, painting, playing piano, singing, as well as spending time in the outdoors and with my wife. My project plan predominantly targets citizens of the region with diabetes or those diagnosed with prediabetes to prevent progression. Different topics on the prevention and management of diabetes will be addressed. Specifically my project will have participants meet with a dietician to discuss appropriate food choices. A week after this meeting participants will meet the dietician at a local store and interactively put what was learned to practice, seeking out healthy alternatives to their previous diet. My project will also have participants meet with an exercise scientist as a means of determining exercises participants can safely perform to get into a habit of for health improvement.



## **Lindsay Guzzetta**

Institute: Daemen College  
Discipline: Physician Assistant  
Email: lguzzett@daemen.edu

I am from Western New York, where I received my undergraduate degree in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Buffalo. I am now working towards a Masters of Physician Assistant Studies from Daemen College which is also in the Buffalo area. In my spare time I enjoy playing with my puppy, putting together scrapbooks, and watching reality television shows such as American Idol. My PASP project will include educating young children of a local school system of the importance of proper nutrition in order to obtain a healthy weight. Through this project I hope to inspire the change needed to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity in my community.

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## **Angana Homchaudhuri**

Institute: New York College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine  
Email: athc23@gmail.com

My undergraduate training is in Anthropology and Public Health from New York University, and I am now looking forward to becoming a practicing physician who keeps some of these same fields in mind. As part of a Certificate in Global Health I earned in rural Ghana last summer, I helped establish and run a new health clinic. While there, I realized that some improvements could be made to prescribing practices and providing medication information to patients. With a fellow medical student, I hope to introduce a literacy practice using patient instruction and a prescription pad for use by the clinic nurses. These pads will feature simple pictographs to let patients know when to take their medications, any contraindications, etc. This technique will improve compliance and help to reorder medications. In the future, students will be trained in medication counseling, which will improve their relationships with patients abroad and locally. I look forward to meeting my fellow participants and collaborate to implement our respective microgrant projects!



## **Kelly Irons**

Institute: University of Colorado School of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

Email: 2kellybrown@gmail.com

I am originally from Boise, Idaho. I ventured to the Colorado mountains for college, receiving my undergraduate degree in engineering from the Colorado School of Mines. After college I worked as an outdoor educator and guide for the National Outdoor Leadership School and conducted research in altitude medicine. This led me to medical school at the University of Colorado where I am just beginning my third year rotations. My project addresses cultural competency issues in the health care setting surrounding active IV drug users (IDUs) and I will work to create a curriculum for students and providers which educates them on the needs of this marginalized population. The curriculum will educate students on harm reduction practices and rehabilitation options so providers know what to ask and how to identify IDUs, how to counsel IDUs on avoiding infectious disease, and how to encourage treatment programs. In my "free time", I am found hiking, biking, or skiing with my husband and my three dogs!

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## **Vandna Jerath**

Institute: Harvard Medical School

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

Email: vjerath@gmail.com

I am a medical student in Boston and will be applying to specialize in Pediatrics this fall. I love playing tennis, cooking, and going out with friends. I am a huge fan of watching America's Next Top Model and American Idol. I grew up in Georgia and I am a southerner at heart. My mentor and I are developing a community social health project entitled, "Newcomer Connection - Boston." Poor nutrition, lack of insurance, inability to speak or read English, cultural stigmas against mental health, a traumatic past, inadequate housing, acculturation, and poverty are among the few social health issues that afflict immigrant and refugee students. As immigrant children make up 17% of Boston's population (Mass.gov) and the future of Boston's workforce, it is vital that we meet their overall health needs. In response, my project will support the building of an after-school program for immigrant and refugee students at a local high school to address their specific social health concerns. We hope to expand the program to the International School and Newcomer School in Boston.



## **Daniel Johnson**

Institute: UCLA-School of Dentistry

Discipline: Dentistry

Email: Danieljohnson5@gmail.com

I grew up in the countryside of Idaho Falls, Idaho ("home of the potatoes"). I graduated with a Bachelors in Exercise Science from Brigham Young University in 2009 and am currently a dental student at UCLA-School of Dentistry. I have a passion for human health and all things related to it. I love the outdoors and I enjoy training for and competing in triathlons, playing soccer, and spending time with my wife. For my PASP project I plan to implement an oral health program targeted towards low-income pregnant mothers and mothers with newborns. We will work in conjunction with faculty and organizations that offer classes to low-income mothers on prenatal health. I hope to establish this program and offer presentations to this population on a biannual basis.

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## **Julius Kibe**

Institute: Duke University

Discipline: Nursing

Email: julius.kibe@duke.edu

I am currently pursuing my family and acute care Nurse Practitioner degree while working in cardiac critical care at Duke University Hospital. I am a huge basketball fan and am especially proud of our national championship. GO DUKE! I am most interested in addressing health disparities that affect refugees, especially African refugees. I have seen deplorable conditions in refugee camps and have continued observing effects of health disparities after moving to first world society. My project will teach refugees how to access the US health care system and about diabetes and hypertension. This project will be carried out through a peer teaching model where women will learn to teach others about these topics in their existing social circles at church.



## **Sarah Llanque**

Institute: University of Missouri-Kansas City

Discipline: Nursing

Email: [smlc55@mail.umkc.edu](mailto:smlc55@mail.umkc.edu)

I am currently a PhD student in the School of Nursing, as well as a Graduate Gerontology student in the Center on Aging Studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). I also work at the Alzheimer's Association, Heart of America Chapter. My research area of interest lies in developing interventions to promote the health of Hispanic caregivers of older adults. For my PASP project I plan to carry out an intervention entitled, "Cuidadores de los Ancianos," (Caregivers of the Elderly) which will consist of a three to four day workshop for non-paid Hispanic caregivers of older adults. This program will include health education, community resources, information about personal care, transferring, and hygiene for their older adult relatives, as well as tips on promoting the health of the caregivers in order to maintain their quality of life. When I'm not working or studying I love having fun with my friends, taking long walks and exploring Kansas City's beautiful parks, swimming, and making jewelry.

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## **Samali Lubega**

Institute: University of California San Francisco

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

Email: [slubega@gmail.com](mailto:slubega@gmail.com)

I am originally from Pasadena, CA and received my BA in Human Biology from Stanford University in 2005. I am entering my third year of medical school at UCSF School of Medicine, and hope to specialize in Family and Community Medicine. My previous research focused on psychosocial factors in HIV/AIDS primary care, and HIV vaccine preparedness and prevention education among vulnerable populations. As part of the Paul Ambrose Scholars Program, I will initiate a project developing a patient education curriculum for the prevention and treatment of HIV/Hepatitis C co-infection. In my free time, I enjoy bike riding, Afro-Brazilian dance, and hanging out in the beautiful sunshine of California.



## **Janna Ludwick**

Institute: University of Texas Medical Branch

Discipline: Physician Assistant

Email: jkludw@gmail.com

I am originally from Oregon and am a graduate of a small liberal arts school called Linfield College. When I am not studying, I am outside in the fresh air or playing piano and guitar (I love the outdoors!). One of my career goals is to serve with longer term medical missions projects, caring for persons with disabilities in particular. My PASP project will educate current and future medical professionals about caring for patients with disabilities through educational forums.

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## **Maureen McGinty**

Institute: University of Central Florida

Discipline: Nursing

Email: mmcgint@ju.edu

I am currently an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Jacksonville University, Florida-GO DOLPHINS; a PhD Student at University of Central Florida-GO KNIGHTS and a 25 year Navy Veteran-GO NAVY! I am passionate about the future education of nurses and also passionate about the belief that every baby has the right to be breastfed and every mom has the right to breastfeed her baby. My project is geared towards breastfeeding awareness and education, specifically targeting the African-American community and raising those breastfeeding rates!

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## **Saila Moni**

Institute: Dartmouth Medical School

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

Email: sailamoni@aol.com

I was born in Bangladesh but when I was ten years old my family and I immigrated to New York without any familiarity of the language and American culture. As I started high school, I became aware of my passion for human rights and public service. Consequently, I have decided to become a physician. After completing my training, I plan to practice in developing countries. I can speak Bengali, Hindi, Urdu and can read Bengali and Arabic. I enjoy reading novels, jogging, watching movies, and listening to music. For my PASP project I will educate South Asian Immigrant women in NYC about diabetes and depression, specifically focusing on prevention measures and recognizing symptoms. I will create an educational brochure and hope to pilot a needs assessment in this community through surveys.



## **Leonard Moore**

Institute: Morehouse School of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

Email: lmoore@msm.edu

I am a third-year medical student at the Morehouse School of Medicine. As an undergraduate, I worked as a Resident Assistant and was responsible for creating and implementing sexual health programs for the residents in my hall and the entire resident community. This experience spawned an idea to hold a one-day training seminar for the Resident Assistants of the Atlanta University Center in order to train them on dealing with sexual health issues within their resident communities. The seminar will cover information on how to engage students and facilitate discussions on contraception, STD testing, pregnancy, and the diagnosis of HIV/AIDS. In my spare time I love to sing, play video games with friends, and travel to new and exciting places.

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## **Daniel Morris**

Institute: University of Connecticut School of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

Email: dmorris@student.uhc.edu

I grew up in Kalamazoo, Michigan, attended high school in East Lyme, Connecticut, and studied chemical engineering at Brown University. I am currently a third year student at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. I am interested in pursuing a career in primary care, either in the fields of internal medicine or pediatrics. For my PASP project, I intend to design and implement an intervention to improve family-focused nutrition counseling offered by health care providers. In my free time, I enjoy cycling, playing the cello, and rooting for the Miami Dolphins.



## **Megan Morsi**

Institute: Wayne State University

Discipline: Physician Assistant

Email: megrum@gmail.com

I received my undergraduate degree in Biology and Women's Studies at the University of Michigan, and I am currently a student at Wayne State University in Detroit studying to become a Physician Assistant and hoping to work in Women's Health. I have a great interest in public health and Detroit is a wonderful city in which to learn. Michigan has an abstinence only policy for sexual education in their public schools, and our adolescents, particularly those without family physicians or pediatricians, may not be receiving the information and resources they need to make healthy decisions for themselves and their partners. My PASP project will attempt to ameliorate this educational gap by presenting and discussing STI prevention, relationship expectations, and options for pregnancy prevention with young women ages 13 to 18. When I have free time I love to ski and swim in Northern Michigan and I enjoy nights alone with my husband.

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## **Shirin Mullen**

Institute: University of California San Francisco

Discipline: Dentistry

Email: Shirin.Mullen@ucsf.edu

I am a half Persian, half Irish woman from Texas. Coming from a multicultural family and being raised with the teachings of the Baha'i Faith has led me to appreciate all cultures and to view the entire world as my family. I love meeting different kinds of people and am known for my constant smile. My goal is to pursue a specialty in pediatrics and a master's degree in public health in hope of championing equal access to health care. My health promotion project is aimed at improving the oral health of underserved children in the community through preventative centered, comprehensive, and continuous care. I will design and implement an elective class for dental students that will aim at offering children a positive oral health care environment. The course will prepare students to be skilled in addressing the oral health needs of children in underserved communities.



## **Sarah Murray**

Institute: Georgetown University School of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

Email: smk57@georgetown.edu

I am a fourth year medical student at Georgetown University where I love being a Hoya! I am excited to pursue a career in primary care and am thrilled to be a part of the Paul Ambrose Scholars Program. For my PASP project I hope to introduce "exercise prescriptions" to primary care offices in DC and encourage physicians to recommend physical activity as they would other medical treatments. I grew up in Wheaton, Illinois and completed my undergraduate studies in Anthropology at Harvard University. I have a special interest in bioethics, community health, and living out the Jesuit motto of "cura personalis" ("care of the whole person") in my medical practice. When I am not on the wards or in the clinics, I enjoy playing my violin, singing, biking around the District, shopping at local farmers markets, cooking, and spending time with my husband Justin.

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## **Hieu Nguyen**

Institute: State University of New York at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine

Discipline: Dentistry

Email: hnguyen@buffalo.edu

My undergraduate degree is in Biochemistry and I now attend dental school at the University at Buffalo. My project, "Educate Children and Parents on Consuming Healthy Diets and Eating Habits that Prevent Dental and Other Metabolic Diseases", under the mentorship of two faculty members of my institution, promotes the significance of preventive dentistry by portraying how our diet can lead to dental diseases and obesity. We will educate parents and their kids from K to 8th grade during National Children's Dental Health Month (February) at the UBSDM as well as monthly ASDA health fairs in Buffalo Public Schools.



## **Kerrie O'Brien**

Institute: University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine

Discipline: Dentistry

Email: obrien.kerrie@gmail.com

I am from Hopkinton, Massachusetts and received my undergraduate degree from University of Massachusetts, Amherst. I have since moved to Connecticut for dental school. I love running and being outside. I hope to run the Boston marathon someday, which starts in my home town! For my PASP project, I am working with a fellow dental student to create a community-based senior citizen oral health education program for the elderly at senior centers and senior housing establishments. A main initiative of our program is to present oral health information in an interdisciplinary manner. We hope the seniors will take away information on how oral health affects their overall health, how to use dental appliances to address mobility and dexterity issues as one ages, and proper techniques to improve dental hygiene.

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## **Hiren Patel**

Institute: Lake Erie College of Medicine

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

Email: hirennp@gmail.com

I was raised in Boston, MA, and reflect my loyalty during any sporting event, even if Boston is not playing. I went to Emory University and graduated with a degree in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology, and now attend Lake Erie College of Medicine. My interests outside of medicine include politics, sports, and lively debate. The goal of my PASP project is to design a public health course that will be test piloted at my medical college and then offered to all accredited medical schools. The course will educate students on the core principles of public health, investigative methodologies, and strategies of implementing evidence-based public health initiatives. Based on the guidelines presented by the APTR curriculum resources the course will include power point lectures, reading assignments, and a student guide to utilizing APTR resources.



## **Katherine Pope**

Institute: University of California San Francisco

Discipline: Nursing

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I am an RN getting my masters at the University of California, San Francisco. Prior to entering the nursing field, I earned my undergraduate degree in Sociology from the University of Puget Sound in Washington State and then moved to Oaxaca, Mexico for three years. I love mountains, music and being among great people! In terms of public health, I am interested in engaging communities in the planning and advocacy process. Currently a classmate and I are developing a program to bring more consistent health services to a homeless shelter in the Bay Area. I am excited to put new skills and knowledge from this conference to good use!

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## **Sanna Ronkainen**

Institute: Georgetown University School of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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I am a half-Finnish, half-Southern girl born and raised in the DC metro area. I have been a type-1 diabetic for the last 15 years, and my public health interests tend to focus on diabetes. I finished my undergraduate degree in Biochemistry and Cell Biology at Rice University in 2008, traveled abroad for a year as a Thomas J. Watson Fellow learning about diabetes education in developing countries, and am now a medical student at Georgetown (go Hoyas!). For my PASP project I hope to work on diabetes awareness and screening in the homeless population in DC to promote positive lifestyle changes. In my free time, I like to travel, hike, snorkel, go to concerts, read, play board games, and participate in trivia nights. If you called me a nerd you would be right, and there is nothing wrong with that!



## **Edward Saito**

Institute: Creighton University

Discipline: Pharmacy

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My hometown is beautiful Honolulu, HI. Currently, I attend Creighton University as a second year pharmacy student and work in an outpatient setting. My PASP project will be an interprofessional fall risk assessment and prevention program to be implemented at a local, low-income independent living facility. The intent of this project is to identify those residents most at risk and help to develop additional safety measures to ensure an optimal level of independence. In addition to being a huge pharmacy nerd, I enjoy singing, playing guitar, surfing, traveling, and being outdoors.

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## **Elizabeth Sanseau**

Institute: UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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I attended Columbia College where I majored in Art History and Italian and played Division I lacrosse. After college I worked in the Vatican Museums, helped implement an oral health project in El Salvador, coached teen lacrosse and worked in a genetics lab. An Oakland native, I returned home for medical school where I currently attend the UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program. I plan to give FLIP video cameras to teenagers to conduct a 'VideoVoice' project centered around their built environment. I recognize that the physician is the expert on disease while the patient is the expert on living with the illness. Seeing obesity as a chronic illness brought on by a dynamic interplay of various factors (food intake, physical activity, socioeconomic status, culture, the media, etc.), who better to enlighten the researcher than those living with the disease themselves? I am interested in watching those living with obesity interact with their environments over time, specifically the choices they make about food, travel and physical activity and how those choices affect their weight and body image.



## **Ashu Sharma**

Institute: NYU College of Dentistry

Discipline: Dentistry

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I grew up in Northern India where I did my initial dental training. I now attend New York University as a dental student. My proposed PASP initiative involves the development of an educational program using an interdisciplinary team to help patients understand oral health problems related to diabetes mellitus. Our project will likely involve a nursing student acting as a diabetes educator, and we will measure the impact of this intervention to see if patients retained knowledge and whether they acted to be screened for diabetes by their physicians. In my free time I love strolling in Central Park and on the banks of Hudson and watching the amazing New York City sky-line. I also enjoy cooking, dancing and doing art work.

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## **Brittany Sonnichsen**

Institute: University of Connecticut

Discipline: Dentistry

Email: sonnichsen@student.uhc.edu

I am a second year dental student at the University of Connecticut in the state where I was born and raised. I spent my undergrad years at Georgetown University where I was a psychology major with cognitive science and music minors. At Georgetown I played on the softball team and played saxophone in the jazz band. My PASP project focuses on senior citizen oral health education. The project will use an interdisciplinary approach with medical, dental, pharmacy, and nursing student volunteers. Each discipline will give an overview of oral health problems specific to senior citizens, including aspects of gum disease, denture use, oral cancer, drug side effects, and healthy eating. Outside of dental school, I live for laughing so hard my stomach hurts, being outside in the sun, and watching the Red Sox and the Hoyas basketball.



## **Michelle Stephens**

Institute: The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing

Discipline: Nursing

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My passion for pediatric nursing evolved from my mother's experience of losing her son to a congenital heart defect, as the nurses that cared for her shared their heartfelt words and lent undying support. My undergraduate degree in Nursing at Georgetown University emphasized social justice and education. This foundation radiates through my work as a PICU nurse and student Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at The Johns Hopkins University. For my PASP project, I envision implementing an interactive educational program for high risk mothers that focuses on important issues to prevent accidental, chronic illness or death in their children aged two to four years old. The topics that will be addressed are nutrition, sleep, discipline, CPR and rescue techniques, exercise, developmental milestones and safety. It will be conducted at an already well established HRSA funded institution properly named, Healthy Start. Ever since I left my hometown of Media, PA (a suburb of Philadelphia), I crave cheesesteaks and Phillies and Eagles games.

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## **Jeannette Truong**

Institute: University of California San Diego

Discipline: Pharmacy

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Though I am greeting you as a pharmacy student from sunny San Diego, California I was actually born and raised in San Jose, CA where I attended San Jose State University and volunteered at numerous clinics. For my PASP project, I plan on holding a health fair to screen the underprivileged senior population and evaluate each individual's risk of hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol, and heartburn. At the same time I will also educate others on asthma, the common cold, and how to obtain proper vaccinations. Having this event will help to identify at risk patients so they can be referred to seek additional medical care. In my spare time, I love to find healthy cake, brownie, and cookie recipes to bake and decorate for my friends to happily munch on. I also like to hike, ballroom dance, and explore museums.



## **Angela Wong**

Institute: University of California San Francisco

Discipline: Pharmacy

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I grew up in Walnut, CA, a small city in the suburbs of Los Angeles and am now at UCSF School of Pharmacy. For my PASP project, I plan to implement a change in the hepatitis B screening policy for all new employees at UCSF. This project will further the city's campaign goals to educate and screen everybody for hepatitis B. Aside from work and school, I enjoy traveling whenever I have time. This year, I plan to go to Barbados and Kenya.

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## **Bet Key Wong**

Institute: Worcester State College

Discipline: Nursing

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After earning my BS in chemistry at Brown and MS at University of Rochester, I worked in the pharmaceutical industry for over ten years in various capacities. I am now pursuing my masters at Worcester State College. I am currently an operating room staff nurse at Lahey Clinic. I came to the United States from Hong Kong when I was 11 years old and have always had an interest in helping other immigrants in overcoming language and cultural barriers in order to access health and human services. I have been a literacy volunteer for many years and have interest in health literacy. In my PASP project I would like to address low health literacy skills and promote collaboration between health care workers, literacy educators, and community organizations to improve health outcomes in Worcester. In terms of free time, if I had five minutes to myself I would use the time to take a nap. If I had more time, I would take a longer nap.