

PAUL AMBROSE  
**SCHOLARS**  
PROGRAM



## 2010 Scholars' Project Descriptions



## Yassar Arain

Institute: Oregon Health and Science University

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

Email: [arainy@ohsu.edu](mailto:arainy@ohsu.edu)

Through my PASP project, I intend to increase awareness about the adverse effects of excessive "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 routine.

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## Ifeyinwa Asiodu

Institute: University of California, San Francisco

Discipline: Nursing

Email: [Ifeyinwa.Asiodu@ucsf.edu](mailto:Ifeyinwa.Asiodu@ucsf.edu)

For my PASP project, I intend to investigate the perceptions and experiences associated with infant feeding in the African American community and use the information gained 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.

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## Danny Ballentine

Institute: Franklin Pierce University

Discipline: Physician Assistant

Email: [BallentineD@franklinpierce.edu](mailto:BallentineD@franklinpierce.edu)

My program is designed 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 health issues they feel are important and can be improved in their communities through health education and advocating.



## Jennifer Baxley

Institute: Wingate University  
Discipline: Physician Assistant  
Email: [j.c.baxley@wingate.edu](mailto:j.c.baxley@wingate.edu)

My past experience was as an orthotist, making custom braces for patients with various physical limitations. Through this work, I became aware of the need for literature to reinforce the need for 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.

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## Dan Bayliss

Institute: University of Virginia School of Nursing  
Discipline: Nursing  
Email: [djb2c@virginia.edu](mailto:djb2c@virginia.edu)

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. I will also 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)

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)

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 student's 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)

The project which this micro grant will fund is called Una Vida Sana (A Health 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 and disease state management education within the community.

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## Karen Craddick

Institute: University of Washington

Discipline: Pharmacy

Email: [karend3@u.washington.edu](mailto:karend3@u.washington.edu)

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.



## **Camia Crawford**

Institute: Alpert Medical School, Brown University

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

Email: [Camia.Crawford@gmail.com](mailto:Camia.Crawford@gmail.com)

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 serving as medical interpreters. These medical interpreters have a job they may have never had in the past. This PASP project provides 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, family planning, etc.

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## **Sylvia Cuellar**

Institute: University of Minnesota School of Dentistry

Discipline: Dentistry

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

The PASP project I have proposed would involve educating women of 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.

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## **Catherine Cunningham**

Institute: University of North Carolina School of Dentistry

Discipline: Dentistry

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

My project will communicate and educate pre and post-partum mothers 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 to teach the significance of oral health.



## **Laila Dantas**

Institute: University of Pennsylvania

Discipline: Dentistry

Email: [dantasla@dental.upenn.edu](mailto:dantasla@dental.upenn.edu)

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 educate the medical staff on dental concerns and resources.

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## **Martha Foster**

Institute: Shenandoah University

Discipline: Physician Assistant

Email: [mfoster08@su.edu](mailto:mfoster08@su.edu)

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 on a low-income Hispanic population.

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## **Julie Gegg**

Institute: West Virginia University

Discipline: Pharmacy

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

My project will focus on community education of vaccine recommendations in different patient populations with a particular focus on senior citizens.



## **Nayiri Gharibian**

Institute: Western University of Health Sciences

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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

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 in addition to understanding existing issues of language barriers and cultural competence, the program will be innovative in being culturally aware and sensitive.

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## **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/outreach project for underserved populations in Worcester, MA that will include free clinic patients, youth groups, and seniors. Because oral health needs can be population-specific, I intend to further explore the needs of each community that I will serve and then develop targeted oral health education and skill-building sessions. I also plan to generate oral health awareness amongst medical and nursing students at UMass through organized service-learning activities.

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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)

My plan predominantly involves citizens of the region with diabetes or those diagnosed with pre-diabetes and wanting to prevent progression. Different topics on the prevention/management of diabetes will be addressed. Participants of my program will meet with dietitians for two weeks to discuss appropriate food choices and seek out healthy alternatives to their previous diets.



## Lindsay Guzzetta

Institute: Daemen College

Discipline: Physician Assistant

Email: [lguzzett@daemen.edu](mailto:lguzzett@daemen.edu)

My PASP project will include educating young children of a local school system on 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](mailto:athc23@gmail.com)

Along with a fellow medical student, I hope to introduce a kind of literacy project and patient instruction/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. They will augment the existing medical records, improve compliance, and help with reordering medications.

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## Kelly Irons

Institute: University of Colorado School of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

Email: [2kellybrown@gmail.com](mailto:2kellybrown@gmail.com)

My project addresses cultural competency issues in the health care setting surrounding active IV drug users (IDUs). I hope to create a curriculum for students and providers that will educate them on the needs of this marginalized population. This will include education on harm reduction practices and rehabilitation options so providers know what to ask and how to identify IDUs, know how to counsel IDUs on avoiding infectious disease, and how to encourage treatment programs.



## Vandna Jerath

Institute: Harvard Medical School

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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

My mentor and I are developing a community social health project entitled, "Newcomer Connection - Boston." Poor nutritional status, lack of insurance, inability to speak or read English, cultural stigma against mental health, a traumatic past, inadequate housing, acculturation, and poverty are among the few social health issues that afflict immigrant and refugee students. In response, we are building an after-school program for immigrant and refugee students at a local high school to address their specific social health concerns.

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## Daniel Johnson

Institute: UCLA-School of Dentistry

Discipline: Dentistry

Email: [Danielhjohnson5@gmail.com](mailto:Danielhjohnson5@gmail.com)

For my PASP project I plan to implement a new program associated with teaching oral health targeted towards low-income pregnant mothers and mothers with newborns.

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## Julius Kibe

Institute: Duke University

Discipline: Nursing

Email: [julius.kibe@duke.edu](mailto:julius.kibe@duke.edu)

My project will involve teaching refugees how to access the US health care system, in addition to diabetes and hypertension education. This teaching will be carried out in a peer teaching model, where women will learn to teach others 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)

For my PASP project I plan on carrying out an intervention entitled, “Cuidadores de los Ancianos,” (Caregivers of the Elderly) which will consist of a 3 to 4 day workshop for non-paid Hispanic caregivers of older adults. This program will include health education, community resources, information about personal care, and hygiene for their older adult relative, as well as tips on promoting the health of the caregivers in order to maintain their quality of life so they can continue to provide care for their older relative.

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## **Samali Lubega**

Institute: University of California San Francisco

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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

As part of the Paul Ambrose Scholars Program, I will be initiating a project developing a patient education curriculum for the prevention and treatment of HIV/Hepatitis C co-infection.

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## **Janna Ludwick**

Institute: University of Texas Medical Branch

Discipline: Physician Assistant

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

This purpose of my PASP project is to educate current and future medical professionals about caring for patients with disabilities through educational forums.

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## **Maureen McGinty**

Institute: Jacksonville University/University of Central Florida

Discipline: Nursing

Email: [mmcgint@ju.edu](mailto:mmcgint@ju.edu)

My project is geared towards breastfeeding awareness and education, specifically targeting the African-American community and raising breastfeeding rates.



## **Saila Moni**

Institute: Dartmouth Medical School

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

Email: [sailamoni@aol.com](mailto:sailamoni@aol.com)

I intend to work with South Asian Immigrant women in NYC regarding Diabetes and Depression: educate women about these disorders (prevention measures and recognizing symptoms). I will create an educational brochure. I also hope to pilot a needs assessment in this community through surveys.

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## **Leonard Moore**

Institute: Morehouse School of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

Email: [lmoore@msm.edu](mailto:lmoore@msm.edu)

For my PASP project, I will develop 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. Some of the topics of the seminar will include, how to engage students and facilitate discussions on contraception, STD testing, pregnancy, and the diagnosis of HIV/AIDS.

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## **Daniel Morris**

Institute: University of Connecticut School of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

Email: [dmorris@student.uhc.edu](mailto:dmorris@student.uhc.edu)

For my PASP project, I intend to design and implement an intervention to improve family-focused nutrition counseling by health care providers.

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## **Megan Morsi**

Institute: Wayne State University

Discipline: Physician Assistant

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

My PASP project will present and discuss STI prevention, relationship expectations, and options for pregnancy prevention with young women ages 13 to 18.



## Shirin Mullen

Institute: University of California San Francisco

Discipline: Dentistry

Email: [Shirin.Mullen@ucsf.edu](mailto:Shirin.Mullen@ucsf.edu)

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 offer children a positive oral health care environment and develop students who are dedicated and skilled in addressing the oral health needs of children in underserved communities.

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## Sarah Murray

Institute: Georgetown University School of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

Email: [smk57@georgetown.edu](mailto:smk57@georgetown.edu)

For my PASP project, I hope to introduce "exercise prescriptions" to primary care offices in D.C. and encourage physicians to recommend physical activity as they would other medical treatments.

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## Hieu Nguyen

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

Discipline: Dentistry

Email: [hqnguyen@buffalo.edu](mailto:hqnguyen@buffalo.edu)

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 in the Department of Pediatric and Community Dentistry, implements the significance of preventive dentistry by studying how components in our daily intakes can lead to dental diseases as well as obesity. We will educate to 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 during the school year.



## **Kerrie O'Brien**

Institute: University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine

Discipline: Dentistry

Email: [obrien.kerrie@gmail.com](mailto:obrien.kerrie@gmail.com)

For my PASP project, I am working with a fellow dental student to create a community-based senior citizen oral health education program for delivery to senior centers and senior housing. A main initiative of our program is to present information about oral health in an interdisciplinary manner.

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## **Hiren Patel**

Institute: Lake Erie College of Medicine

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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

My PASP project will be to design a public health course that will be test piloted at my medical college and then offered to all accredited medical schools. The premise of the course will be educating students on the core principles of public health, investigative methodologies, and strategies of implementing evidence-based public health initiatives.

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## **Katherine Pope**

Institute: University of California San Francisco

Discipline: Nursing

Email: [katherine.pope@ucsf.edu](mailto:katherine.pope@ucsf.edu)

Currently a classmate and I are developing a program to bring more consistent health services to a homeless shelter in the Bay Area.



## **Sanna Ronkainen**

Institute: Georgetown University School of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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

For my PASP project, I hope to work on diabetes awareness and screening in the homeless population in D.C., and to hopefully promote positive lifestyle changes to avoid later health complications.

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## **Edward Saito**

Institute: Creighton University

Discipline: Pharmacy

Email: [esaito@creighton.edu](mailto:esaito@creighton.edu)

My PASP project will be an inter-professional 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.

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## **Elizabeth Sanseau**

Institute: UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

Email: [elizabeth.sanseau@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.sanseau@gmail.com)

I plan to give FLIP video cameras to teenagers and conduct a 'VideoVoice' project centered around the built environment. I recognize that the physician is the expert on disease while the patient is the expert on living with obesity.



## **Ashu Sharma**

Institute: NYU College of Dentistry

Discipline: Dentistry

Email: [as4443@nyu.edu](mailto:as4443@nyu.edu)

My proposed PASP initiative involves development of an educational program using an interdisciplinary team to help patients learn and understand oral health problems as they pertain 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 the knowledge, and if they were screened for diabetes by their physicians.

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## **Brittany Sonnichsen**

Institute: University of Connecticut

Discipline: Dentistry

Email: [sonnichsen@student.uhc.edu](mailto:sonnichsen@student.uhc.edu)

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.

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## **Michelle Stephens**

Institute: The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing

Discipline: Nursing

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

For my PASP project, I envision implementing an interactive educational program for high risk mothers on important issues to prevent accidental, chronic illness/death in their child aged 2-4 years old. It will be conducted at an already well established HRSA funded institution properly named, Healthy Start.



## **Jeannette Truong**

Institute: University of California San Diego

Discipline: Pharmacy

Email: [jnette.truong@gmail.com](mailto:jnette.truong@gmail.com)

For my PASP project, I plan on holding a health fair to screen the underprivileged senior population and evaluate an individual's risk of hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol, and heartburn, while also educating others on asthma, the common cold, and obtaining proper vaccinations. Having this event allows us to identify these at risk patients and refer them to seek additional medical care.

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## **Angela Wong**

Institute: University of California San Francisco

Discipline: Pharmacy

Email: [angela.ws.wong@gmail.com](mailto:angela.ws.wong@gmail.com)

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.

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## **Bet Key Wong**

Institute: Worcester State College

Discipline: Nursing

Email: [betwong@live.com](mailto:betwong@live.com)

Through the Paul Ambrose Scholars Program, 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, MA.