

## Dentistry

### Taylor Velasquez

A.T. Still University  
Dentistry  
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**BIO:** 3rd year dental student at the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health pursuing my DMD and MPH degrees. Originally from Albuquerque, NM and attended Arizona State University for undergraduate. Currently live in Gilbert, AZ with my wife, Brooke. Love reading and trying to find my golf swing.



**PROJECT:** I would like to create a public health program that allows more citizens in the state of Arizona to apply for the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS), in hopes of them receiving the dental benefit to get care in dental clinics across the state. How are we going to provide prevention and treatment if we can't even get them into our dental chair? We need to go one step forward and educate them about what is out there for them to receive care. Advocating for this benefit to our patient will help our community's problem with their access to care, as new opportunities will arise. This gives them a chance to find a dental home that they may have never received if we didn't go out their fighting for them.

## Medicine (DO)

### Rachel Brownell

Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Medicine (DO)  
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**BIO:** My name is Rachel Brownell and I am a second year medical student at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine. I graduated from Liberty University in 2012 with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology and from East Tennessee State University in 2014 with a Master's in Public Health. I have a passion for maternal and child health especially in underserved areas and global health. I completed my Master's thesis in rural Tanzania, Africa at a Maternal and Child health clinic working with HIV patients. I plan to finish a residency in pediatrics and work in an underserved area.



**PROJECT:** For my project I will target the objective to increase the proportion of infants who are breastfed. The area in which I live, Appalachia, has a significantly lower prevalence of breastfeeding than the rest of the nation. In order to create a health promotion project that will be effective, more research needs to be done on the reasons why rates are significantly lower. My project will focus on the knowledge and attitudes of the people of rural Appalachia towards breastfeeding. Then use that information to move forward with a health promotion project focused on changing knowledge and attitudes towards breastfeeding.

### Ashley Burkart

Midwestern University-AZCOM  
Medicine (DO)  
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**BIO:** I am a first year DO student at Midwestern University in Glendale, Arizona.

**PROJECT:** My project is focused on suicide prevention among LGBTQ youths by implementing a mentor program.



### Karen Custodio

Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine  
Medicine (DO)  
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**BIO:** Karen is a second-year medical student at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Stratford, New Jersey. After earning her undergraduate degree from The College of New Jersey, she served in the United States Peace Corps stationed in Cameroon. While there, she became interested in global health and the medical needs of underserved populations. As a medical student, she continues to pursue these interests by serving as administrator at the student run free clinic in Camden, NJ and participating in the Interprofessional Student Hotspotting Learning Collaborative which focuses on patient support and understanding the root causes of high healthcare utilization.

**PROJECT:** In southern New Jersey, some of the most at risk patients are transient workers in the large agricultural economy. These migrant and seasonal farm workers (MSFW) are some of the most medically vulnerable people in the state. Limited access to health care, poor living conditions, and intense working conditions all contribute to a host of health issues faced by the workers and their families. This proposal seeks to explore the impact of living conditions and intense labor on MSFW patients diagnosed with Type II diabetes and assess what interventions may be put in place for better management of this disease.



### Jonathan Doty

Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Medicine (DO)  
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**BIO:** I am a current third year osteopathic medical student at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Spartanburg, SC. I am from Michigan and earned my B.A. in biology at Spring Arbor University and MPH at Michigan State University. My clinical interests include neurology and psychiatry and addressing health disparities in underserved communities. In my free time I enjoy reading, soccer, and drawing.



**PROJECT:** My project focuses on identifying and addressing the barriers preventing youth and adolescents from accessing mental health services in Spartanburg, SC. Interviews will be conducted with adolescents, families, and mental health clinicians to highlight the barriers at play so that better interventions can be developed that will educate patients and support them in receiving needed mental health services. Collaboration with local community organizations that work with patients lacking health insurance to connect them to a medical home will aid in the development and implementation of sustainable interventions for the Spartanburg community.

### Rachel Horn

Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Medicine (DO)  
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**BIO:** I am from a small town called Pilgrims Knob located in Buchanan County, a county in rural Southwest Virginia. After graduating high school, I earned a degree in Human Nutrition Foods and Exercise from Virginia Tech. Currently, I am a student at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg, Virginia. I enjoy cooking and attending or watching sporting events such as basketball and football. My goal is to become an osteopathic physician and to advocate for rural underserved communities.



**PROJECT:** Many chronic diseases stem from difficulties in weight status, where poor diet and lack of exercise are at the core of the problem in many patients. Counties in southwest Virginia rank low in many categories in county health rankings, including health behaviors. I will be addressing the Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity Leading Health Indicator (LHI) for my project. To address this LHI in southwest Virginia, I will be working directly with primary care providers (PCPs) to implement more education and discussion with patients.

## Lucas Kane

Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Medicine (DO)  
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**BIO:** I was born in Northern Virginia and am currently living in Wichita, KS as my wife finishes her Family Medicine Residency. Our longterm vision as a couple is to practice medicine in an underserved area overseas.

**PROJECT:** My project focuses on identifying areas most affected by the outbreak, understanding current approaches to diagnosis and prevention, evaluating their effectiveness, and implementing strategies for improvement. I plan to collaborate with medical directors, case managers, and physicians and to conduct surveys to evaluate physicians' awareness of syphilis outbreaks, frequency of screening for STIs, physicians' ability to recognize syphilitic lesions, and education given to patients. I also plan to evaluate safe sex education, and the means of distributing informational material to patients. Based on the data acquired, I will implement improvements for educating patients and physicians in the areas of deficit.

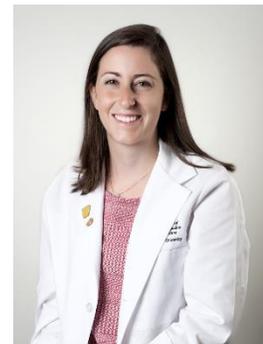


## Carly Noel

NYIT-COM at Arkansas State University  
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**BIO:** My name is Carly Noel and I am a second year medical student at NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University. Prior to medical school, I completed my BSPH in 2014 from Tulane University. After this, I continued at Tulane to receive my MPH in Epidemiology in 2016 from the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. During my time in New Orleans, I worked as an EMT, researched at the Tulane Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Center, and worked on different public health projects. My most meaningful experience was studying global health abroad in Shanghai, China.

**PROJECT:** NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine at A-State is in Craighead county. This is a dry county, meaning that there is no public sale of alcohol. In September 2016, St. Bernard's Medical Center of Jonesboro performed a health needs assessment on the community. It found that Craighead County scored well above the national benchmark for excessive drinking by about 4% and alcohol impaired driving deaths by a startling 13%. I will begin a health campaign entitled "Live and Let Live" with goals to change laws, perceptions, and the alcohol culture.



### Preeya Patel

VCOM-Carolinas  
Medicine (DO)  
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**BIO:** I am a first-year medical student at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine - Carolinas in Spartanburg, SC. I was born and raised in Charlotte, NC and I attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where I earned a B.S. in public health with a concentration in health policy and management. One of my passions is preventative medicine and education in the diabetic population. I enjoy volunteering at free clinics in the community to ensure that the underserved population has access to healthcare resources. My goal in the future is to encourage and inspire others to play an active role in their health and wellness by connecting with them with the resources they need and educating them on the importance of preventative measures. In my free time, I enjoy binge-watching Grey's Anatomy, spending time with friends and family, and cheering on Carolina basketball! Go Heels!



**PROJECT:** My project aims to collaborate with a community organization in hosting an event in an underserved neighborhood to increase awareness on the importance of healthy eating habits and exercising to prevent obesity and reduce the development of chronic conditions such as heart disease and diabetes. During a walkathon, I hope to bring community members together to not only engage in physical activity, but to learn how to gain access to affordable fruits and vegetables and how to prepare healthy meals. A registered dietician will be invited to speak on the benefits of eating healthy and fitness instructors from the local YMCA alongside VCOM student volunteers will teach easy and fun exercises that can be done at home to get our community members up and moving. If successful, I hope this walkathon will become an annual event that continues to inspire the population of Spartanburg and its surrounding communities to build a healthier environment.

### Shikha Patel

Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine  
Medicine (DO)  
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**BIO:** My name is Shikha Patel and I am a first year osteopathic medical student at Rowan SOM. I graduated with a B.S. in Human, Biology, Health and Society from Cornell University in 2017. My current interests include family medicine, internal medicine, and public health. I am excited to be a part of the program this year and look forward to meeting fellow future health professionals!



**PROJECT:** Diabetes is an important public health issue across the United States that contributes billions of dollars to the total healthcare costs and has significant complications for the individual patient. Living with unmanaged diabetes can severely reduce one's quality of life. My project aims to use a community health worker based model to improve diabetes care management.

## Sindhuja Ranganathan

University of New England  
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**BIO:** Sindhuja is a 3rd year medical student at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed her undergraduate education at Cornell University where she studied psychology and global health. After college, she worked for Planned Parenthood, an experience that helped cultivate her passion for women's health and preventive medicine. She hopes to use her education to empower others to take control of their health and well being, and strives to utilize her knowledge of public health issues and interventions to directly impact underserved populations.



**PROJECT:** My project idea aims to link mobile communication technology with blood pressure control via text messaging intervention for anti-hypertensive medication compliance. Patients with uncontrolled hypertension and cell phone ownership will have the opportunity to enroll in an experimental program, which will send daily text message reminders to take their medication over a 12-week period. Medication adherence and blood pressure will be evaluated before and after the 12-week period in order to assess interventional effect.

## Hytham Rashid

NSUCOM  
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**BIO:** Hytham Rashid is a third year medical student pursuing a joint DO-MPH at NSUCOM, where he researches novel biomarkers of chronic illnesses that compromise immunologic and neurologic functions. Hytham completed his undergraduate studies in Biomolecular Engineering at UCSC, where he developed regulatory molecules for the Nanopore DNA sequencing platform, and antimicrobial materials acquired by the military to reduce nosocomial infection rates. Hytham currently serves on the Board of Directors for Latinos Salud to advocate for local queer youth of color, and hopes to be a trauma surgeon to help refugee families like his own survive the horrors of war.



**PROJECT:** HIV prevalence in Miami eclipses that of entire states. While local HIV testing access has improved in many locations, resources for injection drug users have not. This leads to key disparities in settings such as at a local sex club, where preliminary HIV testing revealed a new HIV diagnosis in a setting struggling with opiate overdoses. This project is a strategic collaboration for capacity building between HIV testing organizations and a local needle exchange to address the growing needs of this endemic community through naloxone distribution to prevent further overdoses.

### Jacob Thatcher

Pacific Northwest University  
Medicine (DO)  
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**BIO:** Jacob grew up on a potato farm, was a missionary in Brazil for two years, and was a river-guide for 3 years on the Colorado River. He also lived in Alaska and the Philippines and taught anatomy and physiology as an Adjunct Professor at Brigham Young University-Idaho. Jacob's passion is rural health. As a NRHA 'Fellow', member of the Rural Health Congress, and Chair of a student-led interprofessional committee he advocates for osteopathic medicine and quality care in rural communities. The things he loves most in life are his wife and daughter, his relationship with God and the amazing outdoors.



**PROJECT:** Shared Medical Appointments (SMA's) represent a healthcare system redesign with a potential to achieve the Triple Aim and reduce direct cost of care. However, SMA's utilized in chronic pain patients has not been elucidated. The most common treatment for chronic pain is limited to pharmaceuticals. Recently, treating chronic pain with opioids has drawn particular attention for contributing to an "opioid epidemic". Lincoln County is a rural county in Idaho. In conjunction with Shoshone Family Medical Center, and Hazelden Betty Ford, we will identify chronic pain patients and hold monthly, SMA's to evaluate the effectiveness of treating patients with chronic pain.

### Jeff Wisniowski

University Of New England  
Medicine (DO)  
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**BIO:** Jeff Wisniowski is a third year medical student at the University of New England School of Osteopathic Medicine. He received his Masters in Public Health with a concentration in Urban Public Health from Northeastern University.



**PROJECT:** In my community of Newark, New Jersey there is a large percentage of uninsured or underinsured patients who routinely manage their chronic conditions or access health care services through the emergency department. My project seeks to investigate the causes and characteristics of high utilizing patients. My goal is to better understand both patient and physician perceptions of chronic disease management and service utilization.

## Medicine (MD)

### Sahil Angelo

Emory University School of Medicine  
Medicine (MD)  
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**BIO:** Sahil is an MD Candidate at the Emory School of Medicine. He is interested in combining policy, advocacy, and clinical research to deliver high-quality care to underserved and under-resourced communities. Prior to medical school, Sahil was a Program Manager and Research Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Global Health Policy Center, where he conducted policy research on infectious diseases and health systems strengthening. Sahil has a BS in Biology & International Studies from Boston College. In his free time, Sahil enjoys cooking, reading, and Chinese lion dancing.

**PROJECT:** The Grady Healthy Living Health Coaching Program has three goals. First, to help primary care patients at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta – one of the largest safety net hospitals in the country – manage their chronic diseases through regular health coaching and resource navigation provided by medical students. Second, to enhance medical education by training students on social determinants of health (SDH), motivational interviewing, and local resources outside the hospital that can help patients meet their health goals. Third, to collect data on social determinants of health that will be used to inform Grady Memorial Hospital's future quality improvement initiatives.

### Britney Harris

West Virginia University  
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**BIO:** I am a 3rd year at WVU School of Medicine. I attended Purdue University prior to medical school where I earned a degree in health and disease biology with a minor in spanish. I'm interested in pursuing a career in surgical oncology. In addition to my clinical role, I plan to work in my community on preventative health projects as well as be involved in health policy. In my free time I like to do pretty much anything outside as well as play basketball and volleyball.

**PROJECT:** Obesity is widely recognized as an epidemic in the US and is known to increase a patient's risk for many conditions. Despite the severity of this issue, medical students still receive very little education in nutrition and weight loss counseling techniques as well as exposure to the psychosocial issues involved in weight loss. Many healthcare professionals also hold a bias, whether implicit or explicit, toward the obese patient. I plan to implement an educational program focused on reducing bias and negative attitudes as well as increasing counseling knowledge in medical students.

### Anu Murthy

Georgetown University School of Medicine  
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**BIO:** Anu Murthy currently is a second-year medical student at Georgetown University. Originally from Orange County, California, she attended UCLA to study biomedical engineering and worked as a clinical engineer in the medical device industry. At Georgetown, she became interested in health disparities research while working with the asylum and incarcerated population in Washington, DC.



**PROJECT:** This project will evaluate the exposure medical students receive to correctional health in the pre-clinical years. By meeting with and surveying students and faculty in local medical schools, I hope to assess perceived views of the incarcerated population and their health needs and any barriers that might exist to teaching students about criminal justice. Lastly, I'd like to work with curricula directors to implement modules based on correctional health, whether that be lecture based or fieldwork.

### Eryn Wanyonyi

University of Missouri-Kansas City  
Medicine (MD)  
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**BIO:** I am a 5th year medical student in the UMKC School of Medicine's 6-year combined BA/MD program. During my time in medical school, I became involved with the Dramatic Health Education Project, a peer-education program about HIV and STIs for Kansas City high school students. I fell in love with the mission of this program. By presenting them this information, we were empowering them to take responsibility for their own health. I hope to continue educating people about their sexual health through a career in OB/GYN once I graduate from medical school.



**PROJECT:** The goal of my project is to educate high school aged students in the Kansas City Public Schools about HIV and STI prevention. I want to develop HIV and STI programming and curriculum for a high school in the Kansas City Public School District. For this curriculum, I want the students to be my guide. Peer-to-peer education is about an exchange of knowledge through conversation rather than a one-sided lecture. The culmination of the curriculum would be the students developing a public service announcement about one of the STIs they've learned about and a unique prevention message.

### Alex Webb

Georgetown University School of Medicine  
Medicine (MD)  
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**BIO:** Medical student at Georgetown University with almost three years of prior work experience in Global Health. Specific interest in improving population health by realigning health system incentives to maximize social return. Additional interests in improving health equity through creative clinical and health systems strategies. Work experience includes health system strengthening, community health, emergency response, and clinical operations.



**PROJECT:** For my community-based project, I propose to address the Leading Health Indicator of Access to Health Services among DC's IDD community. The proposed project seeks to improve access for IDD individuals living in the community by 1) identifying predictive variables of hospitalization and 2) creating screening mechanisms for community-based agencies to facilitate targeted, preventive care for at-risk individuals.

### Saya Yusa

Michigan State University College of Human Medicine  
Medicine (MD)  
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**BIO:** I am a 3rd year medical student at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and am currently participating in clinicals in Flint, Michigan. I am originally from San Jose, California and attended the University of Southern California for my undergraduate education. My past experiences of working with unhoused individuals drives me to better understand and address the impact that Adverse Childhood Experiences has on adult physical and mental health and well-being. I am excited to work with and learn from colleagues and mentors who share a similar drive to address health disparities through public health initiatives.



**PROJECT:** Weiss Child Advocacy Center is an organization that provides protection and prevention services for child abuse victims and nonoffending parents of Genesee County. One focus of Weiss is to conduct forensic interviews and medical exams to collect the necessary information to prosecute perpetrators and to keep children safe from future harm. While the staff at Weiss emphasize the importance of connecting to counseling services, there is a barrier to access due to factors such as cultural perspectives on mental health as well as delay or difficulty in setting up appointments. My project proposal is to provide educational sessions to non-offending parents and guardians about the importance of counseling and follow up care for their children who have been abused or neglected. I intend to refer to local child psychologists and psychiatrists, trauma therapists, and leaders of advocacy organizations for their expertise on how to address this topic in a way that addresses the unique needs of the greater Flint area. Another goal is to provide wellness services such as meditation and yoga to the children of Weiss as a motivational gateway towards accessing further services at the local Genesee Health System.

## Nursing

### Elena Caro

University of Illinois at Chicago  
Nursing  
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**BIO:** Elena Caro is a staff nurse at La Rabida Children's Hospital, a pediatric specialty hospital with acute care for children with lifelong health conditions. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Marquette University and is an Advanced Population Health Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice student at University of Illinois at Chicago. She is on the PKU Organization of Illinois Board of Directors, National PKU Alliance Board of Directors, and is involved with Interdisciplinary Approaches to Health Disparities.



**PROJECT:** In 2016, I conducted interviews with members of the PKU Organization of Illinois' board of directors aimed at gaining perspectives about disparities that affect those with the rare disorder. In the interviews, board members talked about clinic visits being medically-centric, or focused around patient phenylalanine levels, and how they were achieved. However, patient psychosocial and socioeconomic factors, as well as quality of life, were described as needing more attention. I plan to use the data from these interviews to delve further into this disparity, and develop ways to address it to optimize care for this unique population.

### Amy Skroch

Winona State University  
Nursing  
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**BIO:** Amy is a second year Graduate Nursing student at Winona State University working on her Doctor of Nursing Practice. Growing up on a dairy farm in rural Minnesota, she never thought her passion would be caring for patients experiencing homelessness. Following obtaining her BSN at the College of St. Scholastica, she served as an AmeriCorps volunteer in Pittsburgh, PA providing nursing case management on an interdisciplinary team which provided housing for patients experiencing homelessness. Returning to Minnesota, she obtained a job as a public health nurse and since has been working at Hennepin County Healthcare for the Homeless.



**PROJECT:** Patients experiencing homelessness are at an increased risk of experiencing an opioid overdose due to multiple factors such as increased opioid dependence, injection of opioids, and recent events that could reduce tolerance such as release from jail or completion of treatment. Naloxone (Narcan) community distribution programs have been highly effective in providing this life-saving medication to many people. My project entails the initiation of a distribution program within Hennepin County Healthcare for the Homeless that will allow for easy access, low barrier distribution of life-saving naloxone (Narcan). This is meeting a need within the homeless community, and will save lives.

### Luisa Taylor

Creighton University  
Nursing  
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**BIO:** Luisa Taylor works as the Telemedicine Training Coordinator and Outreach Nurse at Children’s Mercy Specialty Clinics in Wichita, KS, facilitating the delivery of specialty medical care from pediatric practitioners to rural populations. Her passion in helping vulnerable groups of people from all spectrums is visible through her affiliations with the Junior League and BabyTalk, both which focus on impacting the local community. Luisa is actively pursuing a Doctorate Degree in Nursing and holds a Master’s in Public Health from Creighton University. She received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Newman University in 2012.



**PROJECT:** For my project, I plan on developing a faith-based program which will be held at a prominently Hispanic church. Following church services, education will be delivered in Spanish to address diet and exercise. The curriculum will include shopping guidelines for local grocery stores including pricing, an achievable exercise regimen, meal preparation ideas, and health data. A pre and post survey will be administered to the participants to gauge the effectiveness of the intervention.

### Micah Anthony

Xavier University of Louisiana College of Pharmacy  
Pharmacy  
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**BIO:** I am a native of Mobile, Alabama, and am currently a third-year pharmacy student at Xavier University of Louisiana College of Pharmacy located in New Orleans, Louisiana. After graduation, in May of 2019, I hope to pursue fellowship with the goal working in pharmaceutical industry. I am passionate about making a difference and impacting patient care on a broader scheme, which is why public health and industry are my professional interests. In my spare time, I thoroughly enjoy live music, traveling, and spending time with my family and friends.



**PROJECT:** The city of New Orleans is renowned for its amazing culture, but is notorious for its history of substance abuse. This fact combined with recent accidental deaths due to binge-drinking-related hazing at universities across the country is the basis for this community-based project. The project goal is to educate college-aged men and women on the risks of binge drinking as it relates to alcoholism and substance abuse. The project will be a seminar containing both informational and activity-based components to educate and increase awareness about the short and long-term health risks associated with binge drinking and alcohol abuse.

## Pharmacy

### Jacquelyn Bradley

UMKC School of Pharmacy  
Pharmacy  
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**BIO:** Jacquelyn Bradley was born in Wisconsin, and after traveling the US and abroad with her family as an ARMY brat, eventually settled in Southwest Missouri. Her parents instilled in her early on a desire to help others, and through high school she developed a passion for science. She decided to combine these two passions and pursue a career in pharmacy. She attended Missouri State University for her Bachelors in Cell and Molecular Biology, and is currently a third-year student with the UMKC School of Pharmacy. She is working this year for a local non-profit, Community Partnership of the Ozarks.



**PROJECT:** This year Jacquelyn has been working with UMKC and the Prevention department of Community Partnership of the Ozarks to expand Generation RX education through Southwest Missouri and teach youth about prescription drug misuse. This is where she identified a need, many people wanted to be involved, but didn't know how or were intimidated by the material. Her project will be to develop and implement a Training-of-the-Trainer program for Generation RX. This will improve community engagement and help to expand their prevention efforts to reach more youths. An individual can make a difference, but a group can make an impact.

### Kelsey Melgaard

University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy  
Pharmacy  
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**BIO:** Kelsey Melgaard is pursuing a dual degree Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Public Health at the University of Minnesota in Duluth, MN expecting to graduate in May 2019. Kelsey is passionate about expanding opioid education and naloxone distribution programs in the midst of the national opioid epidemic. Her involvement in opioid research and projects on a local level has inspired her to expand impacts to a state level and beyond. To fulfill her desire to continue learning and collaborating with other health professionals for betterment of public health, Kelsey is eager to attend the 2018 Paul Ambrose Scholars Symposium.



**PROJECT:** I have proposed to build a toolkit and educational sessions for first year and third year student pharmacists going out on community pharmacy rotations. Students will be encouraged to work with their preceptors to start prescribing and dispensing naloxone from these sites, and learn about stigma reduction in substance use disorders. Through Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs), pharmacist preceptors and student pharmacists can educate one another through their unique experiences. This is proposed to be introduced into part of the curriculum for community experimental rotations to address opioid education, naloxone distribution, and stigma with substance use disorders.

### Bailey Newman

University of South Carolina - College of Pharmacy  
Pharmacy  
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**BIO:** I attended the University of South Carolina for my undergraduate studies for 2 years, then applied to the College of Pharmacy. I am in my third year of pharmacy school and will graduate in 2019. Currently, I am the President of our school's chapter of the Student Society of Health-Systems Pharmacy. I am also the chairperson for the Junior Board Members for our state pharmacy association. I have developed a passion for working interprofessionally in preventative medicine and cannot wait to see what is in store over the course of the next few years. In my free time, I love to hike and spend time with my dog, Sallie.



**PROJECT:** My project will be focused on prevention of diabetes through education for the pre-diabetes population. Training will be implemented in various community settings and will provide numerous avenues for differences in patient preference. Education will take place in the form of educational pamphlets and group classes that are patient friendly. We also plan to provide “grocery shopping” sessions that will allow patients to develop health-conscious cooking skills and better sustain their own health. I am excited to make a difference in this patient population and help prevent the overwhelming, chronic health complications that can accompany the development of diabetes.

### Miranda Steinkopf

University of Pittsburgh  
Pharmacy  
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**BIO:** Miranda was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA and is currently a third-year student in the Doctor of Pharmacy Program at the University of Pittsburgh where she also received a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences. After graduating in April of 2019, she hopes to pursue a residency and obtain a job in which she can incorporate her passions for public health and social justice. Miranda is engaged in serving marginalized groups in her community, and her specific areas of interests include identifying and addressing racial disparities in the healthcare system and improving women’s health.



**PROJECT:** Domestic violence victims living in transitional housing after leaving their abuser smoke tobacco at a higher rate compared to the general population. Data from the Women’s Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh show that the majority of smokers staying at the shelter want to quit smoking. To help them, a smoking cessation program will be implemented and will include individual assessments, support groups, and access to helpful medications. The primary goal of this project will be to decrease the rate of women smoking at the shelter which will lower the women’s risks for heart disease, stroke, COPD, and more.

**Alexandria Sweetman**

Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine & Science  
Pharmacy  
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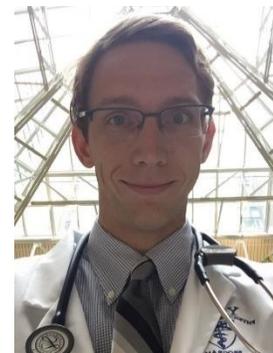
**BIO:** BS chemistry, PharmD2018 candidate

**PROJECT:** Evaluation of controlled substances collected from drug take back events

**Physician Assistant****Matthew Drause**

Yale School of Medicine  
Physician Assistant  
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**BIO:** Matthew is a second year physician associate student at the Yale School of Medicine. Before pursuing a career in medicine, he worked as a high school teacher, earning his undergraduate degree in history from Michigan State University. He has an interest in expanding preventative care to at risk populations and improving healthcare access globally.



**PROJECT:** HIV rates have fallen in the United States over the last 15 years. Though most demographics have seen a stark decline in the incidence of HIV, African American and hispanic men who have sex with men have seen an increase of upto 80%. This trend is consistent with HIV incidence rates in the New Haven community. We propose that through an educational campaign targeted designed for and targeted to these groups, we will see an increase in HIV testing, pre-exposure prophylaxis use, and an eventual decline in HIV transmission rates.

### Samantha Hammock

East Carolina University  
Physician Assistant  
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**BIO:** I grew up in Virginia Beach, VA and graduated from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a certified athletic trainer with a B.A. in Exercise and Sport Science. I am in my first year of the Physician Assistant Program at East Carolina University. I am excited to combine my experience as an athletic trainer with my training to become a physician assistant in order to care for underserved areas in North Carolina and beyond. When I'm not studying, I enjoy playing various sports, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.



**PROJECT:** My project will promote education and goal setting for physical activity and nutrition in an underserved area of eastern North Carolina in efforts to decrease the prevalence of obesity.

### Pamela Audrey Lee

Shenandoah University  
Physician Assistant  
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**BIO:** Before my Physician Assistant education, I worked as a Molecular Staff Scientist, performing HIV, vaccine, and biodefense research. I am a graduate of both Marymount University and Johns Hopkins University, and served as an adjunct biology professor at Marymount. The births of our three premature children ignited my passion to practice medicine, specifically neonatology. I advocate for both prematurity awareness, and for the parents of children with chronic health conditions. I currently sit on the board of directors of Preemies Today and live in Virginia with my husband, two daughters, and son. My personal hobbies include painting and photography.



**PROJECT:** A NICU stay has vast mental and emotional implications on parents and increases the risk of PTSD. Depression and PTSD impair the ability to bond or care for a fragile infant, consequently impacting cognitive development. While practitioners assess emotional status postpartum, these check-ups can miss NICU parents as their neonate is often still hospitalized and parents have yet to process emotions. At-risk parents must be identified and provided with resources to address their emotional state. I will create video training materials and resources targeted for obstetricians, pediatricians, and primary care providers, to help identify high-risk NICU parents.

### Catherine Mahon

Shenandoah University  
Physician Assistant  
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**BIO:** I grew up in the suburbs of Minneapolis, MN and graduated from the University of Wisconsin Madison with my B.S. in Zoology and French. In this second year of my PA education, I began pursuing a dual MPH degree to bridge my passion for education, outreach and advocacy beyond the scope of the walls of a clinic into population and global health. I want to continue fostering interprofessional relationships in collaborating for meaningful and sustainable change. In my free time I enjoy traveling, being outdoors, hiking, rock climbing (ice climbing —weather permitting), and board games with friends.



**PROJECT:** My PASP project focuses on Clinical Preventative Services with linked aspects to Substance Abuse and Social Determinants of Health. Specifically, my aim is to increase access and awareness of the importance of Hepatitis C screening in high-risk populations of homeless and intravenous drug users (IDU) in Winchester, Virginia —an area hard-hit by poverty and the current opioid crisis. My project will be oriented towards connecting these at-risk populations with formal health services, screening, education, and disease management.

### Melissa Rabinek

Shenandoah University  
Physician Assistant  
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**BIO:** My name is Melissa Rabinek and I am currently a Physician Assistant student at Shenandoah University. I grew up in Ashburn, VA and completed my undergraduate education at Christopher Newport University. I was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Cellular and Molecular Biology in 2013. My professional goals include pursuing a career in pediatric oncology with the hopes of providing care to patients at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, participating in outdoor activities and both playing and coaching soccer.



**PROJECT:** I have decided to confront mental health disparities in the Winchester community through the utilization of dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT). I plan to work with healthcare providers at the Sinclair Health Clinic, a free medical clinic that provides various types of medical care, including mental health services. They would be the ideal partner in the development and implementation of my project, as their mission is to deliver low cost, community-based health services to local individuals in need. I would like to expand upon their utilization of DBT to reach more patient populations and foster the utilization of a consultation “team”.

### Jalesa Venning

East Carolina University  
Physician Assistant  
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**BIO:** Degree in Business; Graduated from UNC Greensboro with a BS in Public Health; Currently in Physician Assistance Program at East Carolina University. I enjoy volunteering and have a deep interest in developing and supporting the empowerment of people to take charge of their healthcare experiences in the underserved communities of North Carolina.

**PROJECT:** Mobile Health Center



## Physical / Occupational Therapy

### Angela Burla

St. Catherine University  
PT / OT  
amburla@stkate.edu

**BIO:** I am a 2nd year Occupational Therapy student at St. Catherine University where I am the treasurer for the Alpha Delta chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon. I am also a member of Occupational Therapists for the Advancement of Minnesota Mental Health Services (OTAMMHS). I completed my undergraduate degree in music therapy and became a board-certified music therapist in 2013. I currently work as a behavior therapist providing applied behavior analysis therapy to children with autism. I am extremely interested in holistic healthcare and collaborating with individuals in other healthcare professions. My primary areas of interest include pediatrics and mental health.

**PROJECT:** I am planning to implement a healthy eating and physical activity program at Learning in Style, an English Language school for immigrants. Learning in Style offers English classes for adult immigrants and child-care for the children of the adult students while they are in class. I would like to implement an activity-based program in the children's room to teach them about fruits, vegetables, and healthy eating. I plan to provide the adult students with information on shopping for healthy foods on a budget.



## Public Health

### Melissa Fils

Nova Southeastern University  
Public Health  
mf1184@nova.edu

**BIO:** Melissa Fils, B.Sc., is seeking a Master's degree in Public Health and under the advisement of Dr. Nancy Klimas at the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine. Ms. Fils obtained her undergraduate degree in Biology from Nova Southeastern University, where she developed her area of focus in medical community service through HOSA - future health professionals. She is a member of the Interprofessional Diabetes Awareness and Education (IDEA), Community Chair of Public Health Student Association, and member of the Dr. Kiran Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine at Nova Southeastern University. Ms. Fils seeks to obtain a future medical degree in Fall 2018. In addition to her endeavor, she has a particular interest and skill in medical research in ME/CFS- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and data-analysis, healthcare management, patient-provider communication; and health policy communication.



**PROJECT:** Honeybee Hygiene Project implements a movement that identifies the unmet needs of homeless individuals and provide health education, sustainability, and access to affordable hygiene products for underserved communities in Florida. Honeybee Hygiene has established community leaders within the underserved communities in Broward County by recruiting 10 homeless individuals who demonstrate sustainability through education and rehabilitation. Additionally we have prevented disease related illnesses due to poor personal hygiene and sanitation by providing access to personal hygiene in Broward County, Florida.

### Janice F Guider

Benedictine University  
Public Health  
Janice\_Guider@ben.edu

**BIO:** Janice F. Guider is a candidate for the Master of Public Health degree (TBC June 2018). Twenty years of achieving in corporate America, acquiring expertise in media, marketing, public relations, training and professional development, as well quality management, she found herself at a critical juncture: The catastrophic birth of her youngest son projected the family into a healthcare stratosphere. Being his primary caregiver became the catalyst for her commitment to improving the health condition including equity in access and quality of care for all, including advocacy. Her mantra, balancing, managing and executing life acquired in the responsibility of both her sons.



**PROJECT:** I hypothesize self-medicating for an undiagnosed mental disease is causality for major depressive episodes and seemingly nonmedical use of prescription drugs, an organic transition to street drugs in this population. Our nation's current experience of an epidemic-opioid addiction correlates to unprecedented as well costly morbidity and mortality rates. Yet, over-prescribing of opioid pain relievers

is the prevailing link to causality. Utilizing a multidisciplinary approach to identify adolescents experiencing mental disease will help mitigate depressive episodes.

### Fadi Jamaledin Ahmad

University of New Mexico  
Public Health  
fjamaled@salud.unm.edu



**BIO:** A first year public health student with concentration in Epidemiology, Fadi Ali Jamaledin Ahmad has demonstrated determination to working and caring for the underserved. As proud “Lobo” student at the University of New Mexico, he has work with local clinics and institutional research projects to help managing diabetes and to be able to one day reverse this chronic condition, which has been part of his career interest. Fadi currently works at the UNM Diabetes Research & Treatment Center where he dedicates his time to research the effectiveness of diabetic FDA approved drugs while providing diabetes care to his patients.

**PROJECT:** The proposed project that I want to implement is to use an electronic medical system (EMR) to capture data of their A1c levels and case management notes where we can keep track of their results and notes while we can use interns or apprentices from the community to implement a way to quantify compliance and use technology to make them deliver care. This can be done by creating an app that can help us track their daily medication intake and help us see if there is an association between taking meds and lowering A1c levels.

### Ashaki Thompson-Hall

Morehouse School of Medicine  
Public Health  
hall.ashaki@gmail.com



**BIO:** Ashaki Thompson-Hall, a native of Saint Louis, Missouri, is a second year student in the Master of Public Health Program at the Morehouse School of Medicine. Ms. Thompson-Hall’s research interests include swimming safety and instruction in minority communities, health communications, global health, and reproductive health. Ashaki currently works as a Health Educator at Feminist Women’s Health Center, a women’s wellness clinic in Atlanta, GA. Along with health education, Ms. Thompson-Hall translates for Mandarin-Speaking clients. Ashaki hopes to pursue doctoral studies as well as create her own non-profit organization.

**PROJECT:** Ashaki Thompson-Hall will be implementing a swimming safety and instruction program at Mother Hubbard Daycare and Kindergarten Center in Atlanta, Georgia that serves black children ages 0 to 12 years. Ms. Thompson-Hall has been a trained lifeguard for over ten years. Using her expertise in swimming instruction and water safety, Ashaki will implement a program to provide knowledge in an effort to prevent drowning incidents among young African-American children. Ms. Thompson-Hall hopes to use this program to decrease the alarming drowning rates of black children in the United States.