

PAUL AMBROSE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

2011

PARTICIPANT DIRECTORY

PAUL AMBROSE
SCHOLARS
PROGRAM



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WASHINGTON, DC



Adrian Ambrose

Institute: John A. Burns School of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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I was born in Paris, but was raised all over Eastern Asia, and afterward, spent my pubescent years in Honolulu. I perpetuate the stereotypical Hawaiian boy archetype, as I do love hiking, surfing and playing the ukulele. I like to think of my life as an amalgamation of perpetual laughter, dog-eared pages and an overall gravitation toward maximum entropy. My claims to fame involved accidentally having dinner with Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, and consensually hugging our current President. Incidentally, one of my life goals is to hug someone on every continent. I am currently trekking the MD route, and I hope to lament the loss of my social life with a subsequent JD/MPH. I am passionate about addressing the social determinants of health in vulnerable minority and underserved communities through synergistic individual empowerment and institutional supports. After the conference, I hope to develop a complementary curriculum for my medical school that centers on social awareness and health activism.



Shamsul Arif

Institute: University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy

Discipline: Pharmacy

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I was born and brought up in Dhaka, Bangladesh. After completing high school, I moved to United States in 2005. I enrolled at University of Connecticut in 2006 and am currently in the last year of the PharmD program. I go by my last name (Arif). I am my parents' second of three sons, and yes, I believe I suffer from middle child syndrome! I watch a lot of cricket and soccer. As my project, I wish to implement an Asthma Education Program in Hartford, Connecticut. The goal of the project is to educate asthma patients or their families, relatives and caregivers on prevention of indoor and outdoor asthma triggers, proper use of inhalational devices, and the importance of continuous management and oral care for asthmatic patients.



Ashanta Brady

Institute: Howard University

Discipline: Pharmacy

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I was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. I received my Bachelor's in Science in Neurobiology/Physiology from the University of Maryland in 2008, and am currently a 2012 candidate for the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree at Howard University. I currently serve as the Graduate and Professional Student Council President. I am highly involved in research and would like to pursue careers in working with disadvantaged communities in the fields of mental health and infectious disease. I also enjoy classical ballet, jazz, liturgical dance, and playing a variety of sports. As a Paul Ambrose Scholar my project includes providing medication therapy management services at a preferred discount pharmacy and possible mobile clinic located in Washington D.C. targeting patients that have current mental illness. My goal is to raise awareness about optimizing psychopharmacotherapy management.



Deborah Bryant

Institute: Yale University

Discipline: Nursing

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I completed my undergraduate degree in Communication at Boston University before moving to San Francisco as an AmeriCorps volunteer with the Community HealthCorps. I am currently studying to be a Family Nurse Practitioner at Yale University School of Nursing and enjoying all that New Haven has to offer. I especially love taking my dog, Lucy, to the park and going hiking with my husband. I also enjoy baking, playing piano and reading when I have a break from schoolwork. For my PASP project, I plan to develop a Diabetes Day at HAVEN free clinic, neighborhood health fairs and the local soup kitchens. The goal of Diabetes Day is to screen for diabetes and encourage uncontrolled diabetic patients to re-enter care through education and offering a number of preventive and screening services, including foot exams, immunizations, depression screens, A1c, nutrition consultation, eye exams, medication review and smoking cessation.



Magdala Chery

Institute: University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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Born and raised in New Jersey, I am an average 24 year old with a zeal for life and a passion for providing service to others. Currently, I am a first year medical student at UMDNJ-School of Osteopathic Medicine. When I'm not tied down by the demands of schoolwork, I love writing, watching professional basketball, and working with young girls. The latter has paved the way for my PASP project idea. My PASP project is to hold an interactive day workshop for adolescent females in Camden, NJ entitled, "Love Starts with Understanding Me". Through this project I hope to address dating violence, outline the components of healthy relationships, and assist the girls in valuing who they are as maturing young women in society. The goal of this workshop is to emphasize their potential in achieving their dreams and accentuating the importance of loving themselves first and foremost.



Chun Pae Cho

Institute: New York University College of Dentistry

Discipline: Dentistry

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I had an awesome experience working with students from other health disciplines when I participated in SARET (Substance Abuse Research Education and Training) my first year in dental school. I took the next step and joined New York Academy of Medicine as a student associate member. There I saw the true potential in working together with colleagues from pharmacy, medicine and public health. It was very exciting to see problems get solved with experts from different fields sitting in one room. I am very excited about this opportunity to meet with leaders from all over the country with common goals in mind. My project is designed to educate children of low socio-economic groups about the association between obesity and periodontal disease and the importance of proper nutrition. I want to also perform a pilot study on this population to develop better screening tools for preventive oral health.

Christian Dean

Institute: Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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Adventures are my passion. Whether I'm playing in the creek by my house, making me late to the Nutcracker play when I was six or doing clinical research on Mt. McKinley, I strive to not be in one place for too long. In high school, I got my fill of trains, hiking trails, the best crepes in the world, and views of the alps while studying abroad for a semester in Zermatt, Switzerland. I did two years of college in Maine then transferred to Boulder, Colorado, where I finished my molecular bio degree and skied as much as I went to class. During my first year of medical school in Texas, I started a health screening event at a homeless shelter. I want to expand this program by creating another program to educate the social workers and case managers about mental illness emergencies and how best to refer these folks.



Kahlil Demonbreun

Institute: Medical University of South Carolina

Discipline: Nursing

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Originally from Detroit, MI, I now live in Orangeburg, SC where I practice as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. I am currently a Doctor of Nursing Practice student at the Medical University of South Carolina and love living in the South. My concentration for my PASP project relates to a policy change in prescribing privileges of health care providers in this state to allow for treating partners of patients diagnosed with an STD without a physical exam or consultation visit. I am married and the proud dad of two beautiful, bright, strong daughters, but the true boss of our household is our Miniature Schnauzer "Butterfingers."



Meredith Freeman

Institute: Butler University

Discipline: Physician Assistant

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I grew up in Fishers, IN, a suburb of Indianapolis, IN. I completed my undergraduate studies at The University of Dayton and Butler University. I am currently completing my Masters in Physician Assistant Studies at Butler University. You may have heard about Butler from the NCAA Men's basketball tournament! When I am not studying, I enjoy spending time with friends and family, running, biking, and attending farmers' markets when in-season. When the Indiana weather permits, I enjoy spending time outdoors, including hiking and camping. For my PASP project I plan to create an HPV educational program for young high school girls in Indianapolis public schools. My project goals of educating young women are to reduce STD transmission and cervical cancer rates, and empower the young women to seek ownership of personal health, lessening the stigma of seeking care for sexual related health concerns.



Andrew Gray

Institute: Baylor College of Medicine

Discipline: Physician Assistant

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I am a 36-year-old yoga instructor/opera singer/former high school English teacher who is nearing the end of his first year of Physician Assistant school at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. For my PASP project, I plan to survey a community of recovering gay male crystal methamphetamine addicts about their specific sexual behaviors before, during, and after their addiction. I also plan to test the community for Hepatitis C, and educate them about the specific risks and treatment plans for this disease. Finally, I want to create a pamphlet for health care providers to distribute to patients who are engaging in certain sexual practices which pose particular risk of Hep C transmission. In my free time I watch a lot of Oprah and quietly mourn the approaching end of her final season.



Zain Hasan

Institute: Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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I am a second year medical student who grew up in Maryland. I attended the University of Maryland for my undergraduate degree in Finance. I am an avid Ravens and Wizards fan and love to play Xbox and almost any sport. For my PASP project I decided to help a population base that is in need but doesn't know it. Living in Erie, PA for two years I noticed that there is very little sun, especially during the winter months which last from October to April. The Muslim women in this area, along the entire Great Lake brim, that dress conservatively with the headscarf do not realize that they are very deficient in Vitamin D. My project will gather up-to-date information on Vitamin D benefits, hold a seminar with handouts and links and then receive feedback on the presentation. After this I plan to disseminate the information to other Religious Organizations in the area and along the Great Lakes.



Corey Hayes

Institute: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Discipline: Pharmacy

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I completed my undergraduate coursework in Chemistry at Southern Arkansas University. I am currently a pharmacy student at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and I work as a Student Fellow at the VA Center for Mental Health Outcomes and Research. With the micro grant, I plan to create a Medicare Planning/Brown Bag Special Clinic at the UAMS Institute on Aging and eventually across the state to educate seniors about Medicare plans available and help them in choosing the best plan for their needs. It would also be an opportunity for seniors to bring all their prescription medications, herbal supplements, and over-the-counter drugs so that pharmacists and pharmacy students can identify and resolve any adverse drug effects and interactions. In my spare time, I like to spend time with my wife, play tennis, and read.



LoAnn Heuring

Institute: University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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My experiences prior to and during medical school have fostered a desire to practice primary care in underserved communities. Moreover, I have developed a particular interest in health literacy and its role in decreasing health disparities. As a student clinic director, I coordinate monthly “Patient Education Sessions,” which are hour-long presentations developed by a team of medical students. I hope to improve this project by collaborating with experts from the “University Hospital’s Health Literacy Action Committee” to transform these presentations into interactive, hands-on workshops. My goal is to cultivate the development of future physicians equipped to communicate clearly and effectively with patients of varying literacy levels and from diverse backgrounds. As a result, medical students will do more than provide health information; they will also empower their patients with literacy skills necessary to become active participants in their healthcare. Finally, I aim to use this model to develop a “Health Literacy Module” so that “Patient Education Sessions” may be replicated in other student-run clinics throughout the country.



Ashley Janis

Institute: University of Cincinnati James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy

Discipline: Pharmacy

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Originally from Youngstown, Ohio, I now attend The University of Cincinnati, James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy as a third year student. Working as an intern at The University Hospital led me to the development of my Paul Ambrose Scholars Program project. With the grant, I would like to initiate a low-cost prenatal vitamin program in the hospital's Women's Center. This would be implemented to aid the women already utilizing the discounted services, and patient counseling is central to the plan. In cooperation with the outpatient pharmacy, I hope to provide a means to enhance prenatal care to improve outcomes for both mom and newborn. In my free time between rotations and working, I like to discover and cook new recipes, explore the city with friends, learn how to golf, and play with my two ridiculous kittens.



Robert Kelly

Institute: Drexel University College of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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After several years of teaching middle school math, I realized that while I didn't see myself teaching Algebra for the remainder of my career, I did enjoy working with that most misunderstood age group: adolescents. I decided to go back into the classroom, this time as a student, and enrolled in medical school. I will graduate from Drexel Medicine in 2012, and plan to enter Family Medicine, establishing a niche in Adolescent Medicine. My PASP project is related to this area as it is in conjunction with Healing Hurt People, a community-focused, hospital-based program in Philadelphia designed to reduce re-injury and retaliation among youth ages 8-30. Clients are enrolled after being admitted to the ED following an intentional-injury trauma (gunshot, stab/assault wound). Interventions of the program include providing connection to resources such as emotional support, mentoring, school-related support, job-training/placement and parenting education and support. My project will focus on measuring the efficacy and reproducibility of the intervention by analyzing pre and post-intervention measures, specifically in the pediatric and adolescent population.



Jennifer Kroll

Institute: A.T. Still University Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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The goal of my project is to encourage elderly members of the Kirksville community to adopt a more active lifestyle. This program will center on student volunteers from KCOM leading elderly participants in exercise sessions and discussion of preventative health care strategies. With the help from a student partner, participants will be able to set personal wellness goals and discover ways to improve their fitness level.



James Lesniak

Institute: Jefferson College of Health Sciences

Discipline: Physician Assistant

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I am originally from the Bay Area in California and have lived in Roanoke, VA since 1990. I have a BA in Black Studies and Sociology from UC Santa Barbara and a MA in Liberal Studies with a Social Science Concentration. I am currently a Physician Assistant student at the Jefferson College of Health Sciences in Roanoke. PA school is a career change after spending 19 years working in the fields of Community Organizing and Neighborhood Development. My PASP project will seek to identify environmental/social barriers to meeting treatment goals for patients with a history of hospitalization for psychiatric conditions with an outcome of enhancing continuity of care and improved compliance with medical management. When not working or completing clinical rotations I love to spend time with my wife of 20 years and my 12 year old daughter. I love to read, listen to live music and eat great food.



Vinvia Leung

Institute: Midwestern University-Chicago College of Pharmacy

Discipline: Pharmacy

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I am currently a second year pharmacy student at Midwestern University. I received my bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I plan to implement a mobile diabetes and hypertension education program led primarily by student health professionals. Each mobile health session will consist of three segments: education on diabetes and hypertension, health screenings and post-testing consultation. A mobile health program will increase awareness of these chronic diseases and empower people with knowledge to improve their quality of life. Aside from my studies, I have a great passion for food and travel. I have an endless amount of energy and like to stay active. I am not afraid to explore places unknown and am enticed by beautiful scenery and delicious aromas.



Saria Lofton

Institute: Rush University

Discipline: Nursing

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I was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois and grew such a passion for the African American community that I abandoned hospital nursing to work for African American families in the Chicago Public Schools. I am currently working on my PhD in Nursing at Rush University to address the health disparities in obesity and food availability to low-income families on the West side of Chicago. I enjoy cooking, learning new ways to eat healthy with vegan options, and running. However, I most enjoy working with my two young children and seeing them grow right before my eyes. My project will focus on my newest passion in environmental health. I intend to address poor family eating habits with an environmental health experiential-based education program on sustainable agriculture, renewable energy and waste reduction.



Sapna Lohiya

Institute: University of California, Los Angeles

Discipline: Dentistry

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A true Bruin, I received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Anthropology at the University of California, Los Angeles and have continued my graduate training there as well. I am currently a 2nd year student at the UCLA School of Dentistry and have truly enjoyed my experience thus far. For my PASP project, I plan to provide oral hygiene instruction to elementary school students and their parents. By designing posters, communicating with school nurses, and providing classrooms with toothbrushes, toothpastes, and educational pamphlets, I hope to achieve this goal. My interests include indulging my taste buds with diverse cuisine, attending movie premieres, watching Indian movies, and playing Angry Birds.



Mary Lundgren

Institute: Midwestern University-Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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I am originally from Colorado. I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Notre Dame, followed by a doctorate in Biochemistry at Rush University. I am currently getting a medical degree from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. When I am not busy getting degrees, I am following any sport that is currently in season. Go Irish! Although out of sight and out of mind to many, the medical concerns of the homeless have not been ignored at one community clinic in Chicago. The homeless shelter associated with the clinic requires screening for tuberculosis to receive services. This offers a prime opportunity to educate patients. For my PASP project, I want to provide specific medical information about tuberculosis to these patients as they wait to be seen by a physician. Providing tuberculosis education to this population will improve their individual health condition as well as overall community health.



Stanley Marlowe

Institute: Lincoln Memorial University

Discipline: Osteopathic University

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Over the years, growing up in the Appalachian coalfields of eastern Kentucky, I developed an appreciation for the need of quality medical care and education in this area. Prior to attending medical school at LMU-DCOM I was employed as a respiratory therapist, and thus have seen a need for better asthma management. My proposed project is intended to educate patients on common asthma triggers and prevention using a pamphlet/ booklet with vocabulary understandable to a fifth grade elementary student. My focus will be on triggers more common to Appalachia, for instance coal heating, smoking, and high pollen counts. When I am not in class or at work I enjoy spending time with my wife and two children. Home improvements, traveling and classic cars are among my hobbies and interests.



Kabir Matharu

Institute: University of California, Davis

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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I am a third-year medical student at the University of California, Davis. As an English Literature major at Cornell University, I focused on theater arts and their ability to voice cultural concerns. I have extended that work as a medical student, organizing medical students, physicians, and social workers to read scenes from plays of social relevance. My work encompasses the plight of sexual minorities. The micro grant will support a group I newly founded named, "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Psych-Ed Support." It is a health promotion service for Sacramento County patients who wish to learn more about sexual health, practices, and other concerns including depression, cancer screening, and hormonal therapy. I intend to serve a diverse host of patients, irrespective of background, as a physician.



Katie McElroy

Institute: University of Maryland School of Nursing

Discipline: Nursing

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I am a long-time labor and delivery nurse with a new passion for environmental health. I am in the BSN-PhD program at the University of Maryland School of Nursing, hoping to look at effects of environmental exposures on pregnancy, the developing fetus, and infants. My project will target low-income, high-risk pregnant and postpartum women in Baltimore City that currently receive home visits from health department nurses. I would like to develop educational materials pertaining to the dangers of environmental exposures during pregnancy, along with simple ways to protect the pregnant woman and her fetus. I also hope to hold a "Baby Bottle Exchange" during which families can trade old, toxic bottles for newer ones that do not contain bisphenol A (BPA). Although Maryland has banned the sale of baby bottles that contain BPA, many of these toxic bottles are still in use, especially in low-income households.



Julie McNeish

Institute: University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine

Discipline: Dentistry

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I grew up in Southbury, Connecticut. I did my undergraduate training in Biology and English at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. I am currently a second year dental student at the University of Connecticut. For my PASP project I plan on implementing a program for Hartford, a neighboring city, which teaches inter-generational education about heart health and oral health. Through this project, I hope to embrace non-traditional families that make a large portion of this urban community, as well as find a better way to target the lack of health awareness that exists. I will be approaching my project with an inter-disciplinary team that includes medical, dental, nursing, and pharmacy students. When I do have free time I love to bake (cheesecakes are my specialty). I also love to run and work out, which counters my baking habits quite nicely!



Birdie Nguyen

Institute: University of Maryland, Baltimore

Discipline: Pharmacy

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I attend pharmacy school not too far from Washington, D.C. at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. I grew up in Sacramento, California and graduated from the University of California, Berkeley as a double major in Molecular and Cell Biology, and Psychology. When I'm not studying or working, I'm learning how to swim at the indoor pool! I love working with kids so for my PASP project I plan to teach food and nutrition to school age children through mini health fairs. Where I live in downtown Baltimore, corner stores and fast food restaurants replace supermarkets, selling meals high in sugar, salt, and fats. Poor nutrition means higher rates of heart diseases, diabetes, and obesity. The goal is to reach out to school age children and pursue communication strategies with them at a critical age. I'm looking forward to great weekend with everybody involved with the symposium!



Diane Ogborn

Institute: University of Utah College of Pharmacy

Discipline: Pharmacy

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I have four amazing children and a wonderful husband. After 15 years of teaching high school chemistry students, I am starting a new career as a pharmacist. I enjoy volunteering at my son's junior high and serving in the women's organization at my church. I like to spend time with my sisters, white water river raft, bird watch, work in the flower garden, and watch movies. For my community-based health education project for the PASP, I will address birth control options and costs to the undocumented or working poor and the under-18 populations in Utah County, UT where I live. I will gather information about contraceptive methods, costs, co-pays, and places of access. I will create a bilingual pamphlet with simple graphics explaining the options, costs, and consequences of birth control. I will provide this information to my target audience through local WIC offices and a county health fair.



Benjamin Olmedo

Institute: Yale School of Medicine

Discipline: Physician Assistant

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I am originally from California and graduated from Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo in 2002 with the help of an ROTC scholarship. I then spent the next seven years with the active duty military learning about leadership, traveling all over the world, and experiencing the impact that Physician Assistants can have on health care. My dream has always been to work as a health care provider and I separated from the U.S. Army as a Captain in 2009 in order to start my medical education at the Yale School of Medicine Physician Associate program. My PASP project includes working with various organizations to establish a culturally based sex education class with a focus on reducing risk behaviors as well as increasing STI screening and treatment in minority adolescents and young adults with immigrant backgrounds. When I'm not working I love hiking, running, traveling and spending time with my fiancé.



Laura Palombi

Institute: University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy – Duluth
Discipline: Pharmacy
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I am originally from a small town in northern Minnesota but currently live in Duluth, where I am a third-year pharmacy student at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. I have undergraduate degrees in Biology and Theology and a master's degree in Theology. For my PASP project I have started working with Carlton County public health officials to design a project that would allow College of Pharmacy students to plan and participate in Operation Community Connect, a one-day event that makes community resources of all types available to the homeless that live in rural Carlton County. This event strives to include direct service engagement in the areas of medical screening, housing assistance, energy assistance, employment services, family services, benefit enrollment, counseling for chemical dependency and mental health, and personal care services. This inter-professional event will bring together medical professionals from all areas including nursing, dentistry and pharmacy to provide free screenings for Carlton County's homeless population.



Erin Philpott

Institute: Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine
Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine
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I grew up in Durango, CO and Juneau, AK. I went to Colorado College and had the opportunity to study at the University of Havana for a semester as well as in Quito, Ecuador. I attended nursing school at Loyola University Chicago and have worked as an Emergency Department Nurse for the past five years in California and Colorado. It was through the daily experience of being exposed to so many preventable injuries, accidents, and illness that gave me the passion for preventable disease and the motivation to become a doctor. My project goal is to implement an educational program geared toward lifestyle modifications including establishing a healthier diet and a regular exercise routine for the Latino population with Type II Diabetes residing in Lakewood, CO. I intend to examine the obstacles that this community currently faces with regard to enjoying a healthy diet and participating in regular exercise.



Marc Polacco

Institute: University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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I grew up in St. Louis but spent my high school years in small town Minnesota. Continuing with the rural atmosphere, I attended Gustavus Adolphus College where I majored in biology and chemistry, with a minor in music. I am now an M1 at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine and have been blessed to have had the opportunity to participate in public health initiatives in my community. For my PASP project, I will be coordinating a health and nutrition program at several local elementary schools. Once a week, volunteers will teach a lesson at a school, with an emphasis placed on active participation. My goal is not only to teach children about health and nutrition, but also to provide them with the tools to implement the principles presented.



Maryam Safaee

Institute: University of Utah School of Medicine

Discipline: Allopathic Medicine

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I will soon enter my fourth year at the University of Utah's School of Medicine. Throughout my clinical rotations I was surprised to observe so many younger patients fighting some form of skin cancer caused by excessive sun or UV light exposure. For this reason, I have decided to create a presentation kit to educate high school students about the health risks arising from excessive UV light exposure, particularly from tanning beds. I recently started to give presentations to high school students in my community and, with gained insight from the Paul Ambrose Scholar Program, hope to reach many more throughout my State. When I'm not studying or cranking out the hours during rotations, I exercise and run competitively. Someday I hope to master the art of running and studying at the same time! I also love to read, travel and spend time with my family and friends.



Jarrett Schanzer

Institute: University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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Growing up in Holmdel, NJ my favorite things to do included playing soccer, practicing Karate, eating fast food and staying up all night playing video games. Like most children, I thought I was invincible. But all that changed on the cold and snowy morning of December 20, 1995 when my family and I were in an airplane crash at JFK Airport. Miraculously, we all survived. Life took on new meaning. For the first time, I began to understand and appreciate the value of life. Given this second chance, I aspire to make a difference in the lives of others. I have since, thankfully, grown out of my Karate uniform and into a white coat and replaced my lust for Wendy's with a Masters in Nutrition. My passions today are working out, learning and helping others. The overall goal of my project, entitled "Learning how to Prevent Childhood-Obesity in Camden County (and beyond)", is to design a research project that ultimately will create a fun and interactive learning experience for kids (catered directly to their learning style (i.e. auditory/visual/kinesthetic). Ultimately, I hope to incorporate the final product into the health curriculum in our schools.



Neelam Shah

Institute: Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine

Discipline: Dentistry

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I grew up in Massachusetts and attended Boston University for my undergraduate training. I currently attend BU School of Dental Medicine and will be soon entering my second year! For my PASP project I plan on implementing a project that will integrate the OB/GYN and dental departments at a local community health center. Through this project I hope to educate pregnant woman and their children on the importance of oral health, reverse the misconception of the safety of dental care during pregnancy, and encourage mothers to seek treatment for periodontal disease and dental caries for themselves and their children. Aside from my passion for community health, I enjoy dancing (all types), trying new restaurants with friends, and baking!



Vanessa Solomon

Institute: Western University of Health Sciences – COMP

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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I will be entering my third year of medical school at Western University in June 2011. I have a Masters Degree in Cellular, Molecular, and Developmental biology and I both studied and worked in the public health field, primarily in HIV/AIDS prevention and research, before beginning medical school. I do my best to exercise every day with a run in the lovely Southern California sunshine or yoga when I get the chance. If I'm feeling particularly ambitious, I like to boulder at our local climbing gym. My proposed project focuses on hypertensive, diabetic, and pre-diabetic patients. I will be working with patients at the Western University Diabetes Institute to determine the possible beneficial effect of either a customized meal and activity plan or motivational interviewing to gain patient buy-in into healthier lifestyle change or both on health outcomes such as HbA1c and blood pressure.



Benjamin Stacy

Institute: Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine

Discipline: Osteopathic Medicine

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I am currently a 1st year osteopathic medical student in Virginia at VCOM. My previous undergraduate and graduate work was completed at the University of South Florida in Tampa. I have stayed busy when not in school serving as a medic in the US Army, working as a Laboratory assistant and a Research specialist. What I enjoy most is spending any free time I have with my wife Marty and son Abraham doing whatever the day allows. The prevention education project I will develop is based on mental health and its importance with prevention of cardiovascular disease. The goal will be to engage the community with a survey to establish the community's interest in mental health as it relates to their cardiovascular disease. Then I plan on formulating an informative handout about the benefits of mental health counseling via health professions in the area and improve the awareness of access to those professionals that are available. The idea behind the project: "Developing a sound mind in order to strengthen your heart for tomorrow's challenges."



Jessica Stein

Institute: New York Institute of Technology

Discipline: Physician Assistant

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I grew up in Queens, NY and then did my undergraduate degree in Psychology/Neuroscience and Biology at Penn State University. I worked in a group home with disabled adults throughout college. I earned a Certificate in Global Health where I traveled to a remote village in Ghana for a Medical Mission trip. When I am not studying, I enjoy hiking, rock climbing, and watching movies. For my PASP project I would like to organize interactive educational sessions for medical students on competency issues. These sessions would include how to work with interpreters, different religions and cultures as well as which diseases are more prevalent in certain populations. Other sessions would include information about healthcare issues for those with physical and developmental disabilities, the geriatric population and the LGBT community. They are meant to educate future health care professionals with the goal to improve the health and quality of health services.



Kayla Stinson

Institute: University of Louisville

Discipline: Nursing

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I grew up in a rural southern Illinois town and always desired to work in healthcare. I received my Bachelor's degree in Nursing from Murray State University in 2005. After graduation, I had the opportunity to work as a traveling nurse for two years and gained very valuable experience both personally and professionally during that time. Currently, I am a Family Nurse Practitioner student at the University of Louisville. I have a passion to educate people about preventive healthcare as well as assist people in understanding how to make lifestyle changes to improve health. The program I will implement involves teaching senior citizens how to reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease through proper nutrition, exercise, and smoking cessation. I will hold personalized sessions with each older adult to help them develop a specific plan of action. Through this activity I hope to increase the wellness of this population.



Amy Turner

Institute: Emory University Physician Assistant Program

Discipline: Physician Assistant

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I am currently a first year Physician Assistant student at Emory University. After graduating from Vanderbilt with a degree in Psychology in 2006, I moved to Chapel Hill, NC where I was a project coordinator at UNC for a study on heart disease prevention and became involved in Emergency Services as an EMT-B. My fiancé (who is also a first year PA student at Emory) and I have two dogs and love to do anything outdoors. We are getting married on May 8th- so currently my hobbies include studying and planning a wedding. I also enjoy hiking, running, and singing. For my PASP project, I have decided to address the discrepancy between the elevated prevalence of depression and lack of depression screening in primary care. The focus of my intervention will be three-fold: 1) to educate patients about depression, 2) to educate all members of the healthcare team about the importance of depression screening, and 3) to provide patients and the healthcare team with community resources for managing depression.



Daniel Walsh

Institute: Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry

Discipline: Dentistry

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I grew up in Olympia, Washington where I attended Saint Martin's University and received a BS in Biology. I currently attend Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry. As a participant in the Paul Ambrose Scholars Program, I will work to design a pilot study to track patient "activation" within the clinic at my dental school with plans to expand this model to public health clinics. Determining a patient's "activation level" will allow oral health clinicians to track levels of awareness and participation in healthy behaviors, allowing for the development of a customized plan to educate and encourage each patient. My hope is to find a way to effectively mobilize patients to take charge of their health by self-management of factors that can be controlled and changed to positively modify health status and decrease health services utilization for preventable conditions. I find balance in my life by spending time with my wife, Amanda, as well as teaching and practicing martial arts. I am excited to be a part of the 2011 PASP!



Xiaorong Wang

Institute: University of Louisville, School of Nursing

Discipline: Nursing

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I am a doctoral student in the University of Louisville School of Nursing. I am very interested in chronic disease prevention and control. My project is to improve the care of chronic diseases in Metro Louisville, Kentucky, to help chronically ill individuals to live well and be healthy. I will partner with Living Well Workshops (LWW) of University of Louisville (UofL) Family and Geriatric Medicine, part of UofL Academic Chronic Care Collaborative (ACCC). The ACCC is a multi-disciplinary healthcare collaboration of UofL, which partners with the Association of American Medical Colleges, and Improving Chronic Illness Care (ICIC), a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, adopts Dr. Ed Wagner's Chronic Care Model to improve the care of chronic diseases in Metro Louisville community



Abby Willaert

Institute: Augsburg College

Discipline: Physician Assistant

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I grew up in River Falls, Wisconsin and currently live in St. Paul, Minnesota with my husband. I attend Augsburg College as a Physician Assistant student. My areas of interest include Hospital Medicine, Women's Health, and Pediatrics. Prior to returning to school, I worked as a public health nutritionist for the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program. It was during this time that I witnessed first-hand the obesity epidemic and its detrimental effects. For my PAsP project, I want to develop and implement a program which targets overweight and obese women planning to become pregnant. The goal of this program is twofold: to educate this population about their increased risk of complications during pregnancy and to offer various tools to help them work towards a healthier weight. When not working or studying, I enjoy practicing yoga and spending time with my family and friends.