

**Introducing the
2019 Summer Research Program Student Cohort!
Public & Global Health Track**



Vineeth Amba - *College of New Jersey*

I am entering my final year at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, New Jersey, currently studying biology and public health, and plan to pursue medical school and further education in public health afterward. I am interested in addressing health disparities in underserved communities and improving health outcomes in pediatric patients specifically. Last summer I had the opportunity to conduct nutritional epidemiology research and receive training in converting my findings into policy brief formats, at the National Institutes of Health. This summer, I will be working with Dr. Jason Newland to conduct clinical research, which is a field I am new to but very excited to explore. I am looking forward to continuing my research training in the public health sciences through the IPH Summer Program and being a part of the St. Louis community.



Lyndsey Armes - *University of Kentucky*

I am a rising senior at the University of Kentucky. I am majoring in biology and minoring in health advocacy, with hopes of entering a combined MD/MPH program in the future. Last summer, I worked in Lima, Peru as an intern for Medicine, Education, and Development for Low Income Families Everywhere (MEDLIFE). This internship opened my eyes to the breadth and severity of public health concerns that disproportionately impact people of a lower socioeconomic status. I am excited to participate in the IPH Summer Research Program and look forward to learning from experts in the fields of global and public health. Specifically, I am eager to begin my work with Dr. John Constantino. I will join Dr. Constantino's team in investigating the efficacy of methods for predicting and preventing child maltreatment in high risk populations. Overall, I am looking forward to a summer full of research, learning, and Cardinals baseball games.



Antonia Asher - *Tulane University*

I am majoring in Public Health and minoring in Sociology at Tulane University in New Orleans. This fall, I will be entering my senior year, but I will also begin a MPH in International Health and Development as part of Tulane's combined BSPH/MPH program. I spent this spring in Durban, South Africa, learning about community health and social policy, which has strengthened my interests in primary health care and addressing the social and structural issues that affect health. I'm very grateful to be a member of this program and excited to be working with Dr. Darrell Hudson on his project examining the intersection of racism, social context, coping, and health behaviors. I look forward to the insights and memories to come from this wonderful opportunity and exploring a new city.

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Brittany Calkins - Emory University

I am from St. Louis, MO and recently completed my third year at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, where I study psychology. I am very excited to participate in the IPH Summer Research Program and to work with Dr. Chet Hammill this summer to compare expert vs. non-expert ratings of cholecystectomies to prevent bile duct injury. Although I currently study psychology, I am interested in applying to MD/MPH programs, so I am excited to conduct research this summer that perfectly combines medicine and public health.



Colette Cambey - Vassar College

I'm from Hillsborough, NC and currently a student at Vassar College with concentrations in both biology and public health. I hope to ultimately pursue an MD, MPH dual-degree and work with vulnerable populations in the United States. I'm thrilled to be working with Dr. Virginia McKay this summer on a project studying dissemination and implementation (D&I) of evidence-based practices addressing HIV prevention.



**Sithembile Chithenga - Washington University in St. Louis
Stephanie and Chris Doerr Summer Research Scholar**

I am a first year Masters of Public Health student at Washington University in St Louis. I am from Blantyre, a city in the southern region of Malawi. My background is in clinical medicine, and I am very excited to work with renowned researchers, as well as other IPH Summer Program Scholars, in Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD). I applied to the program because I want to help develop ground-breaking methods that will improve the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of NTDs in resource limited settings. I enjoy amateur photography and cycling.



Juliet Enow - Jackson State University

Originally from Cameroon, I am currently a doctoral student of Public Health Policy and Management at the Jackson State University School of Public Health in Jackson Mississippi. I am grateful for the opportunity to join the IPH Summer Research Program under the mentorship of Dr. Ellen Fitzsimmons-Craft. I am elated to be working with great minds in the field of mental health research, a subject area I am passionate about and working on for my dissertation. I look forward to a great summer in a new city, with an amazing team.

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Samuel Jaros - Loyola University

I am a rising senior at Loyola University Chicago studying bioinformatics and sociology. I believe that the future of public health requires combining the benchtop and social sciences, and I believe the Institute of Public Health at Washington University is a great place to start my career. I cannot wait to work with Dr. George Kyei to see patients with HIV while also doing in-depth research on the virus itself. The experience I will gain performing research in an international setting at the University of Ghana will also be invaluable to my future career as an epidemiologist.

Amy Jasani - University of Alabama, Birmingham

I am a rising junior at the University of Alabama at Birmingham majoring in Neuroscience and pursuing a Fast-Track Masters of Public Health. I am originally from Atlanta. Upon finishing my degrees, I plan to go to medical school and one day, work on public/global health interventions as a physician and researcher. I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of the IPH Summer Research Program and deepen my knowledge in and contributions to public health. I will be working with Dr. Stephanie Fritz investigating methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) epidemiology, virulence mechanisms, and host defenses. A part of the project will entail conducting household visits and interviews in the St. Louis metropolitan area regarding MRSA infections, specifically in children, and assessing decolonization measures in these homes. While in St. Louis, I look forward to bonding with the other program researchers and exploring the city and surrounding area!



**Caitlyn Johnson - Washington University in St. Louis
Stephanie and Chris Doerr Summer Research Scholar**

I am from Washington, DC and a rising junior at Washington University in St. Louis, where I am a pre-medical student majoring in Anthropology: Global Health and the Environment and minoring in American Culture Studies. After completing my undergraduate degree, I plan on going to medical school. I am honored to have been selected to participate in the IPH Summer Research Program. This summer, I will be working with Dr. Elizabeth Quinn to examine breast milk of women in various environments - high altitude, low temperature, etc. - to see how the breast milk composition changes to give babies the nutrients they need to survive in that particular environment. I look forward to meeting my peers and building strong relationships with people that are as passionate about public and global health as I am.



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Eniola Kasim - *University College Dublin*

I am a medical student at University College Dublin. Prior to this, I graduated from the National University of Ireland, Galway with a Masters of Engineering (Biomedical). However, studying medicine has always been my goal. As an ambitious first-year medical student and a graduate biomedical engineer, I am a problem-solver keen on being involved in medical research and am absolutely honored to be taking part in the IPH Summer Research Program at Washington University. This summer I will be working with Dr. Jennifer Philips to study host-pathogen interactions in tuberculosis pathogenesis. I hope to use this as an opportunity to gain laboratory experience, to learn more about public health and to meet students from around the globe with similar passions. I look forward to getting involved in medical research as well as exploring the city of St. Louis!



Lauren Klein - *University of Notre Dame*

I am a rising junior at the University of Notre Dame majoring in biological sciences and minoring in public policy. I am excited to obtain a research experience in public health this summer, as it will combine my interests in health, biology, and the public sphere. I am grateful for the opportunity to build on my background in cancer biology research and to gain experience in a field that interests me. After graduation, I plan to obtain a degree in public health or biology. I am thrilled to be a part of the Institute for Public Health Summer Research Program working with Dr. Ryan Bogdan on a project involving the intergenerational transmission of health. The subject of intergenerational transferral of opportunities and characteristics fascinates me, and I am eager to learn more about this topic through my summer research.



Chee Teik Lee - *University College Dublin*

I'm a second-year undergraduate medical student in University College Dublin and I am extremely delighted to be taking part in the IPH Summer Research Program at Washington University. I chose the public health program because I want to view medicine from a different and much larger perspective. As much as personalised medicine is taking over the world, health issues should also be approached from a global point of view. This summer I will be working with Dr. Toriola to study the relationship between mammographic density and breast cancer risks. This program offers me a chance to learn, and at the same time, experience what St. Louis has to offer, which I'm really looking forward to!

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Jordan Leith - *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

In the fall, I will be a fifth year senior pursuing a degree in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. My passion for global health was born as a child living in Hong Kong but it has been nourished during the past year. I lived in Arusha, Tanzania studying Kiswahili, conducting research, and working in public health outreach. I am incredibly excited to learn more about the epidemiology of infectious diseases under the mentorship of Dr. Hilary Babcock. I will undoubtedly develop an understanding of the interface between medicine and public health through interactions with professors and my fellow student researchers.



Relebohile Masitha - *Agnes Scott College*

I am an international student from Lesotho, currently in my junior year at Agnes Scott College. A double-major in Public Health and Economics, my goal is to achieve a masters degree (and eventually a PhD) in Global Health Economics, and, to become a health economist and conduct research that influences policies and promotes evidence-based decision making, especially regarding HIV/TB co-infections in low-income settings like Lesotho. I cannot wait to start working with Dr. George Kyei on the Attitude of HIV Patients in Ghana towards HIV Cure Approaches. This research will inform researchers working on an HIV cure on what patients think about all the methods and whether or not they will be willing to participate in clinical studies. Most importantly, this project will give patients the opportunity to learn about current strategies. I am grateful that this research with Dr. Kyei grants me the opportunity to do research in my setting of interest, a low-income country and to contribute to the development of research HIV cure approaches.



Tobi Okopie - *Georgetown University*

I am a rising senior at Georgetown University in DC. Originally from Houston TX, I've enjoyed the opportunity to study in the nation's capital. I've dedicated my four years of study to a major degree in Biochemistry and a minor in Justice and Peace Studies. I dream of one day combining my interest in global health, medicine, and, poverty and homelessness to work in a field that best serves the interest of the underserved and unheard. I have an itch for travel so this summer, under the guidance of Dr. Shanti Parikh, I will be working on HIV/AIDS research in rural Uganda. I am thrilled to have received this opportunity, and I cannot wait to see how the summer unfolds.

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Olivia Pokoski - *University of Kentucky*

I currently attend the University of Kentucky, where I have been involved in an accelerated five-year program with the College of Public Health. After having received my Bachelor's of Public Health degree in May, I will delve further into my MPH graduate coursework with a concentration in Health Behavior. Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, I am honored to have the opportunity to return and participate in the IPH Summer Research Program. I am extremely excited to work with Dr. Shanti Parikh on her HIV research as it relates to sex workers in Iganga, Uganda. Creating surveys and then actually implementing those measures in Uganda will be an amazing experience.



Emily Saxon - *Michigan State University*

I am a St. Louis native and rising junior at Michigan State University majoring in Psychology and minoring in Spanish and Global Public Health & Epidemiology. This summer, I will be working with Dr. Rumi Price on a project focusing on the reduction of youth violence in St. Louis. I am passionate about improving the well-being of youth, especially in my home city, and I have strong career interests in the intersection of social justice and health. I hope to apply what I learn this summer towards a master's degree in social work or public health and to hopefully return to St. Louis after graduation to begin making an impact in my community. Outside of work and school, I enjoy running, spending time outdoors, and cheering on the Michigan State Spartans in football and basketball!



Chinmayi Venkatram - *University of Pittsburgh*

I am a rising senior studying sociology and global studies. In the future, I plan on applying to medical school and pursuing a MD/MPH degree. I aspire to work on a team that guides community/state interventions, health policy, and health behaviors. I will be working with Dr. Virginia McKay to research the de-implementation of HIV prevention programs as well as the barriers/facilitators to antimicrobial stewardship programs in Missouri hospitals. Through this research, I hope to gain a better understanding of evidence-based interventions and learn more about the key stakeholders involved in addressing the prevention of HIV infection and antibiotic resistance. I look forward to being in St. Louis this summer and being a part of a community of public health professionals and research scholars.