

# 2022 Institute for Public Health Summer Research Program

## Public and Global Health Track Cohort



### **Casey Allen, BA** – *Summer Pediatric Research in Global Health Translation (SPRIGHT) Scholar*

Originating from Kansas City, Missouri, I am currently pursuing my Master of Public Health at Saint Louis University, concentrating in Global Health and Biosecurity/Disaster Preparedness. Previously, I attended Creighton University and completed a Bachelor of Arts in Medical Anthropology and Public Health and a Graduate Certificate in Health and Wellness Coaching. After completing my undergraduate degree, I completed a year of service at a refugee resettlement agency in Arizona. I hope to continue working within disaster response and displacement services after completing my master's program. I am grateful and excited for the opportunity to join the IPH Summer Research Program – Public and Global Health Track and learn from experts in the fields of public and global health.



### **Alexandra (Alex) Dent, BS** – *Centene Institute for Advanced Health Education Scholar*

I am currently a second-year graduate student at University of South Florida pursuing my Masters in Public Health, concentrating in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and Epidemiology. My primary research interest that I would like to investigate is how epigenetics contributes to birth and health outcomes for African American households. My long-term future goals in MCH are to become a perinatal epidemiologist in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This summer, I will be assisting Dr. Darrell Hudson with his research on racial health disparities among the African American population as part of the IPH Summer Research Program – Public and Global Health Track. I am extremely excited to gain knowledge and research skills that will help improve health outcomes for the African American population.



**Mihai Dumbrava, BMSc** – *Schilsky Family Summer Research Scholar*

I am a second-year MD-PhD student at the Mayo Clinic School of Medicine, originally from Romania. I grew up in Canada and received my undergraduate degree in biochemistry from Western University in Ontario, Canada. Following my graduation, I pursued developmental biology research at the Hospital for Sick Children at the University of Toronto. I am interested in cancer biology, immunology, bioengineering, and public health. In the future, I hope to translate my lab research to the clinic, developing interventions that can especially help underserved patient populations. I'm looking forward to the IPH Summer Research Program and working with Dr. Alfred Kim.



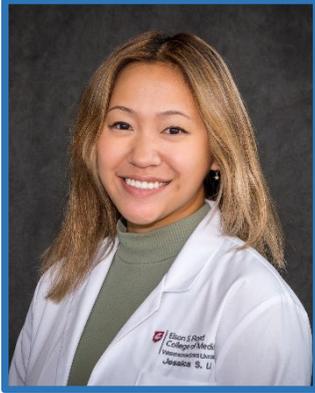
**Clarissa Gaona Romero** – *Summer Pediatric Research in Global Health Translation (SPRIGHT) Scholar*

I am a rising fourth-year student at Washington University in St. Louis, where I've dedicated my studies as an undergraduate to my major in Anthropology: Global Health and Environment. In the fall, I will be joining the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis as a first-year Master of Public Health student. This summer, I hope to gain valuable experience in public health and to form new, meaningful connections with peers and professionals in the field. I will be working with Dr. Jean Hunleth on a project on children as cancer caregivers and I'm excited to see how this project evolves and what new insights and connections we can make. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to contribute to valuable research and for this opportunity for growth and exploration. With my passions for social justice, community, and addressing health disparities, I can't wait to get started!



**Theodore (Theo) Hanson, BSc** – *UCD Scholar*

I am a first-year postgraduate medical student at University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland. I'm originally from Sydney, Australia and moved to Dublin for my studies. My undergraduate degree is in neuroscience and anatomy and I'm completing a Masters of Public Health at Flinders University. I'm extremely grateful to have been chosen to represent UCD at the IPH Summer Research Program at Washington University in St. Louis. I'll be under the supervision of Dr. Chet Hammill analysing the variation in definitions of neuroendocrine neoplasms across national cancer databases. Currently, there is disparity between different databases' classifications of these tumours which is problematic for research in this area. I'm looking forward to starting work on this project which will hopefully benefit future study on neuroendocrine neoplasms.



**Jessica (Jess) Li, BS** – *Summer Pediatric Research in Global Health Translation (SPRIGHT) Scholar*

I am a current MD candidate at Washington State University's Elson S. Floyd College of medicine. Previously, I worked as a research scientist at the Washington National Primate Research Center's Department of Translational Medicine and with UW Medicine to develop gene gun technology for delivering nucleic acid vaccines targeting HIV, influenza A, and SARS-CoV-2. I received my bachelor's degree from the University of Washington in microbiology and global health. My hope is to pursue an internal medicine career in the sub-specialty of infectious diseases while conducting research in public/global health. I am so privileged to have the opportunity to participate in the IPH Summer Research Program. I will be working with Dr. Hilary Reno looking at the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the management of STIs in St. Louis, Missouri. I hope to apply my current foundations as a translational medicine researcher into clinical research and develop my abilities of scientific inquiry that will inevitably assist in my career as a healthcare provider. I so look forward to meeting and collaborating with such a brilliant cohort and learning more about myself, public health research, and...St. Louis!



**Maya Patel** – *Summer Pediatric Research in Global Health Translation (SPRIGHT) Scholar*

I am from Princeton, New Jersey and I'm currently studying Anthropology, Global Health, and Biology at Washington University in St. Louis. After completing my undergraduate degree, I hope to pursue an MD/MPH degree. I am excited to work with Dr. Hilary Reno as my mentor this summer, contributing to the growing field of research on how the pandemic has impacted access to health care. I look forward to learning more about how STI testing availability varies around St. Louis, a historically stratified city, and having the opportunity to better inform future public health interventions.



**Jada Phillips, BS** – *James A. Harding Scholar*

I am a first-year medical student at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine. I graduated in May of 2021 from the University of Kentucky with a bachelor's degree in Human Health Sciences. I currently serve as the Advocacy Chair on the executive board of the Student National Medical Association at my school, as well as a Student Ambassador for my class. I hold interests in public health, women's health, and addressing health disparities with culturally competent care. I am elated that the IPH Summer Research Program – Public and Global Health Tracks will give me the opportunity to explore all of those interests while working on Dr. Adetunji Toriola's clinical research team. I am looking forward to learning so much from this opportunity!



**Rida Qureshi** – *Gold Family Summer Research Scholar*

I am a rising junior majoring in Anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis. For the past two years, I have had the opportunity to explore varied research interests at the WashU School of Medicine -- notably gynecological health disparities and virology -- and improve my public health skillset for a future career in epidemiology and women's health. This summer, I am very excited to be working with Dr. Matthew Ellis on different projects utilizing opioid abuse data from the national Survey of Key Informants' Patients Programs. I hope to hone my statistical analysis abilities, have a tangible impact on the country's growing opioid epidemic, and meet future public health heroes during my time in the IPH Summer Research Program – Public and Global Health Track.



**David Rosene, BA** – *Summer Pediatric Research in Global Health Translation (SPRIGHT) Scholar*

I am a first-year MPH student at Washington University in St. Louis with an emphasis on global health. Previously, I received a BA in Biology and Anthropology at DePauw University in Indiana. The IPH Summer Research Program is an exciting next step for me in the field of global health. I am grateful to partner with Dr. Shanti Parikh, an anthropology professor at WashU, to help code qualitative interviews of the HIV care experience during COVID-19 in both the city of St. Louis, Missouri and the city of Campinas, Brazil. This project will look at how this care experience is shaped by a person's socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, and gender identity. I am very excited to go out and about in Forest Park again this summer!



**Gabriella Schmidt-Grimminger, BA** – *James A. Harding Scholar*

Originally from South Dakota, I am currently in St. Louis finishing my Master of Public Health in Maternal & Child Health as well as Global Health at Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri. I was thrilled to be accepted into the IPH Summer Research Program – Public and Global Health Track, and I was even more excited to hear that I would be working Dr. Ginger McKay and her team! I am eager to make new connections with the rest of the faculty at the Brown School over the summer and I am incredibly excited to get to know other students in the program!



**Niamh Simmons, BSc** – *Summer Pediatric Research in Global Health Translation (SPRIGHT) Scholar*

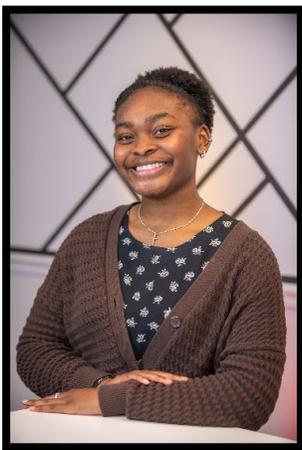
I am a first-year graduate entry medical student at University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland, and I am extremely excited and grateful to be participating in the IPH Summer Research Programme at Washington University in St. Louis. My undergraduate degree in Psychology stimulated my passion for advocating for positive well-being and health equity for people living in low socioeconomic status, which fuelled my desire to study Medicine and my interest in public and global health. My career goal is to be a practising physician and an active medical researcher. I am honored to be working with Dr. Carlos Mejia this summer investigating the missed opportunities in the diagnosis of TB meningitis.



**Mahadevan (Madhu) Subramanian** – *Summer Pediatric Research in Global Health Translation (SPRIGHT) Scholar*

I am a rising junior at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island double concentrating in Biology and Public Health. I am originally from Portland, Oregon. Following my undergraduate degree, I plan on applying to MD/MPH programs with the goal of becoming a Pediatrician. Inside of public health, I am interested in child nutrition and obesity, especially in the context of public health education and direct patient care. I am extremely excited to be a part of the IPH Summer Research Program – Public and Global Health Track this summer, where I will be working with

Dr. Denise Wilfley and PhD candidate Jessica Jakubiak, on a clinical trial investigating the effectiveness of a family based behavioral treatment for obesity in childhood survivors of acute lymphoblastic leukemia. This experience will help me build key research skills to support my future studies in public health.



**Victoria (Tori) Wright** – *Summer Pediatric Research in Global Health Translation (SPRIGHT) Scholar*

I am a rising sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis studying cognitive neuroscience and global health. I aspire to branch into health policy to help provide affordable and accessible global mental healthcare to all. By prioritizing individuals' mental health, I hope to effectively combat the impacts of cognitive, social, and developmental health stigmas in healthcare. I am excited to be working with Dr. John Constantino on the SYNCHRONY project: a clinical service addressing the unmet mental health needs of young children at extreme high risk for maltreatment and its consequences by integrating the efforts of clinical experts in infancy and early childhood with community family support and social service teams. I look forward to meeting my peers and others passionate about global and public health.



**Isha Yardi** – *Colonel Carroll A. Ockert Scholar*

I am a rising senior studying public health science in the Gemstone Honors College at the University of Maryland. I am interested in the intersection of medicine, public health, and policy, and I plan on pursuing an MD/MPH with a concentration in epidemiology after graduating. I currently assist with clinical research at the University of Maryland Medical Center, and I am a member of Big Data 4 Health Equity, a national research collaborative that leverages big data sources such as Twitter in exploring the social determinants of health. On campus, I am a Student Coordinator at my university's Do Good Institute, a member of the Student Health Advisory Committee, and a volunteer at a women's health clinic that serves the greater College Park area. I am very excited to be working with Dr. Timothy McBride in the Center for

Health Economics & Policy this summer to evaluate Medicaid expansion in Missouri. I look forward to building relationships with my cohort and learning more about health policy evaluation!



**Kianna Zucker** – *Stephanie and Chris Doerr Summer Research Scholar*

Originating from Oakland, California, I am a rising senior at Washington University in St. Louis, studying Cognitive Neuroscience and Anthropology & Global Health. I am passionate about social justice and making mental healthcare equitable for all communities. I am also interested in the development of healthcare technology, so I am excited to explore these intersecting areas this summer assisting Dr. Fitzsimmons-Craft in research for an app providing cognitive behavioral therapy to patients with anorexia nervosa. I am looking forward to making an impact in public health through the IPH Summer Research Program – Public and Global Health Track, learning from both my peers and experts in the field.