



Margolis Summer Internship Overview

May - July 2020

Program Overview

The mission of Duke University's Robert J. Margolis, MD, Center for Health Policy is to improve health and the value of health care through practical, innovative, and evidence-based policy solutions. Duke-Margolis brings together capabilities that generate and analyze evidence across the spectrum of policy to practice, supporting the triple aim of health care – improving the experience of care, the health of populations and reducing the per capita cost. This requires broad multidisciplinary capabilities that few institutions can bring together, and is fueled by Duke University's entrepreneurial culture. The Center focuses on increasing opportunities to gain exposure to the field of health policy through collaborative curricular pathways and expanded mentored research opportunities for students interested in health policy.

Goals of the Internship Experience

- To learn through challenging and meaningful activities
- To link academic learning to policy and practice
- To gain professional experience within the field of health policy
- To build positive relationships with faculty and staff
- To identify, clarify, and/or confirm direction as it relates to your academic studies and future career path
- To develop strong networking/mentoring relationships
- To strengthen our Margolis student community
- To have fun in the process!

Summer 2020 Interns

This summer, we have 28 Margolis Interns coming from the undergraduate and graduate level at Duke and other Universities. Students are working closely with their mentors remotely on research projects focusing on aspects of: Health Care Transformation, Biomedical Innovation, Global Health, and Education. Through the program, interns are gaining experience in qualitative and quantitative research; training and coaching on research skills/presentations/writing skills; participating in Margolis Seminars, Summer Research Symposium, Journal Club; and are building relationships with their peers through virtual socials and team projects.



Adrianna Williams

Adrianna Williams is a rising senior at Duke University studying Neuroscience with a minor in African and African American studies and a certificate in Science and Society. She is also a pre-med student and plans to attend medical school after graduation. Adrianna's specific interests in health policy include communications, social determinants of health, and health insurance reform. Outside of the classroom, Adrianna is an active member of her local and national communities. With a passion for storytelling, Adrianna has been a member of The Bridge, an online publication at Duke and UNC that uplifts women of color. Most recently, she served as the Duke Editor in Chief during the 2019-2020 academic year. Adrianna is also an active member of the Lambda Omega Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and a volunteer with FEMMES (Females Excelling More in Math, Science, and Engineering). In her spare time, Adrianna enjoys working out, cooking (especially seafood dishes), watching The Office, and treating herself to pedicures and massages.



Ainsley Buck

Ainsley Buck is a rising junior at Duke University from Connecticut. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience with a minor in Psychology and certificate in Child Policy Research. Ainsley is currently a research assistant under Dr. Michael Gaffrey in the Duke Early Experience and the Developing Brain Lab, where her work focuses on joint visual engagement and its relation to social development. Ainsley's primary research interest is in the intersection of the brain and behavior, particularly in early mood and developmental disorders. At the Margolis Center, Ainsley is part of a team working on the North Carolina Early Childhood Action Plan, and more specifically, how to implement statewide screening of social-emotional health in early childhood. Ultimately, she would love to work in pediatrics as a practicing researcher. Ainsley hopes to help families identify these emotional and developmental disorders early on to provide the best possible outcome for the child and their family members.



Alice Chun

Alice is a rising sophomore at Duke University pursuing majors in Global Health and Public Policy, as well as a minor in Medical Sociology. She first gained interest in research through a neurosurgical research position at USC Keck School of Medicine. Through collecting data from EHRs, creating databases, meeting patients, and attending symposiums, she began to appreciate the real-life implications of healthcare research. At Margolis, Alice is currently assisting Professors Courtney Van Houtven and Brystana Kaufman on several research projects related to COVID-19's impacts on long-term care facilities. In addition, she is supporting the implementation and evaluation of a caregivers training program in select VA health centers, soon to be rolled-out nationally. At Duke, Alice is involved in the Student Wellness Advisory Council, serving as a liaison to facilitate communication about wellness between Duke students and DuWell faculty. She also assists DuWell with promotion and improvement of the health services offered on campus. In her free time, she loves dancing, trying local eateries, and watching Dodgers baseball games. Upon graduation, she hopes to continue health policy research at a government health organization, as well as pursue a professorship in the further future.



Cameron Eck

Cameron Eck is a Master of Public Health Student in Health Policy at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina. He was born and raised in Durham, NC and received his Bachelor's degree from Tufts University in Community Health. Cameron first developed an interest in health policy while working in the Massachusetts Legislature and gained further experience in health policy development at the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission, where he worked on behavioral health integration research. A year of conducting clinical research at Brigham and Women's Hospital gave him a window into many of the on-the-ground difficulties of healthcare delivery created by policy decisions. That experience prompted him to pursue his MPH degree to focus on care delivery innovation and value-based care. At Margolis he will be aiding in research on a hypertension reduction model of care and mobile technology deployment for chronic conditions.



Chloe Mitchell

Chloe is currently pursuing her Master of Public Health (MPH) in Health Behavior at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Chloe graduated from St. Olaf College in 2016 with majors in economics and psychology and a concentration in statistics. From 2016 to 2019, Chloe worked for a healthcare consulting firm called The Lewin Group. She was part of the firm's Center for Evaluation and Advanced Analytics and supported the multi-year evaluation of the Oncology Care Model—an advanced alternate payment model out of the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation. Chloe began her graduate school training at UNC in the fall of 2019. She works as a research assistant in the Health Cognition and Behavior Lab where she contributes to quality improvement projects aiming to increase uptake of the HPV vaccine as well as health communication research surrounding tobacco use and the COVID-19 pandemic. At the Duke-Margolis Center, Chloe is part of a team developing the NC Integrated Care for Kids (InCK) model. She is also contributing to a paper on value shopping in healthcare. Chloe's primary interests include care integration, the social determinants of health, and behavioral economics.



Dana Guggenheim

Dana Guggenheim is a rising sophomore at Duke from Roslyn, New York. Her academic interests include Neuroscience/Psychology, Chemistry, Public Policy, Global Health, and the integration of science with society, and she is considering Program II or an IDM to combine these interdisciplinary topics. Dana has recently been accepted into the inaugural undergraduate cohort of the Duke-Margolis Scholars Program in Health Policy and Management, which will allow her to continue her involvement with the Margolis Center. This summer, Dana is working with Dr. Dev Sangvai and his team to address COVID-19 infection control, best practices, and staff education in long-term care facilities, specifically skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). Her goal after Duke is to attend medical school and integrate research in health policy and population health with her role as a physician. On campus, Dana is also a chemistry research assistant in the Becker Lab working on non-opioid drug delivery approaches, an executive editor of The Standard, a FEMMES volunteer and mentor, and an incoming member of the Penny Pilgram George Women's Leadership Initiative Cohort.



Deepti Agnihotri

Deepti Agnihotri is a rising second-year in the Master of Science in Global Health program at the Duke Global Health Institute. This May, she graduated from the Duke University Trinity School of Arts and Sciences with a Bachelors of Arts in public policy and global health. As an undergraduate, Deepti wrote for The Chronicle, served on the Duke Disability Alliance executive board, and conducted mental health research under Dr. Sumedha Ariely. Currently, Deepti is a research assistant for Dr. Catherine Staton in the GEMINI lab. Her master's thesis will focus on the role of self-determination in the effectiveness of a brief intervention for alcohol use in emergency department patients. At the Margolis Center, Deepti will be conducting a quantitative analysis on the impact of value-based care on pregnancy outcomes in the US. Ultimately, Deepti hopes to pursue a career in public health research and policy, focusing on equity and empowerment.



Eileen Wen

Eileen Wen is a rising sophomore at Duke University where she is majoring in Neuroscience with a certificate in Science and Society. At the Margolis Center, Eileen is working with Dr. Janet Bettger's team in developing a website for the Help Desk program, a student initiative to improve health outcomes by addressing patients' unmet social needs. With this team she is also researching how social determinants of health impact the needs of special populations, such as people with disabilities and older adults, and whether Help Desk successfully meets those needs. Eileen's other interests include neuroethics, science communication, and research in Alzheimer's disease. Her goal is to ultimately become a physician-scientist and bridge her interests in the social determinants of health and neuroscience to learn how to improve health outcomes from both a clinical and social perspective.



Hannah Shuffer

Hannah Shuffer is from Cleveland, Ohio, and a member of the class of 2023 at Duke University. She intends to double major in Cultural Anthropology and Chemistry, with the ultimate goal of becoming a physician that works in an underserved area. Hannah is working with Dr. Janet Bettger's team to create a website for Help Desk, an initiative that has student volunteers make follow-up calls to ensure that patients have successfully connected to community resources. Additionally, she is working with the team to research Help Desk's effectiveness regarding members of vulnerable populations. Hannah is eager to learn more about the social determinants of health and see firsthand the failures, frustration, determination, and creativity involved in the health policy research process. The knowledge and skills gained in this internship experience will aid Hannah in both her academic and professional pursuits.



James Zheng

James Zheng is a proud Colorado native and a rising Duke sophomore currently pursuing a B.S.E. in Biomedical Engineering, with possible minors in Finance and Computer Science. He is interested in a variety of topics ranging from microbiology to music and is quite uncertain about his plans post-Duke, with some possibilities including graduate studies, medical school, and consulting. Currently, James is working with Dr. Will Bleser and Dr. Rebecca Whitaker on researching ways payment and delivery reforms are addressing social determinants of health for various populations. He hopes this summer will be an informative, challenging, and rewarding experience to expand his LinkedIn network and explore possible career interests in healthcare administration, public health, and health policy. In this unique time, James also hopes to learn more about how organizations like the Margolis center develop statistical models and impact policymaking decisions related to COVID-19 on both the state and federal level.



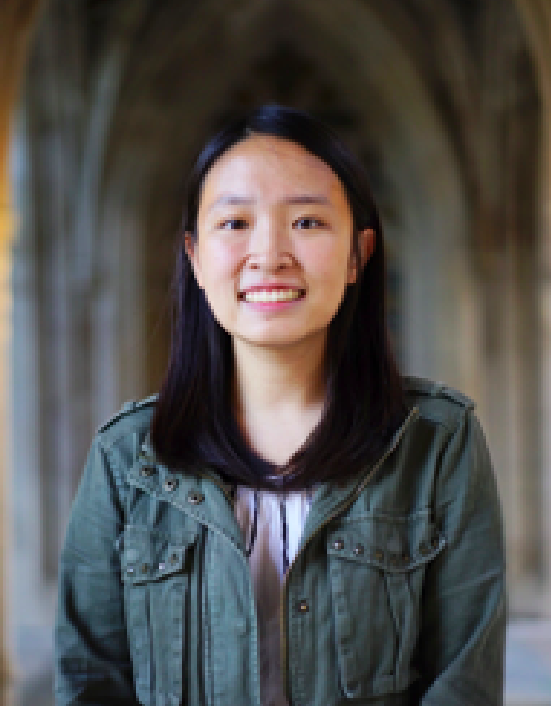
Jeremy Jacobs

Jeremy Jacobs is a rising junior from Memphis, TN. A student at Duke University, Jeremy is majoring in English, with minors in chemistry and Spanish. Currently, Jeremy is a reporter for the Duke Research Blog, where he covers the innovative research taking place on Duke's campus. Jeremy is also a copy editor for Juhood, an undergraduate-led academic journal that explores Middle Eastern culture and geopolitics. Jeremy is interested in the relationship between care delivery and policy reform. Whether as a physician or policy writer, Jeremy hopes to pursue a career in health, and he's excited to be part of the Margolis Center's efforts to reform the US healthcare system. Over the next 10 weeks, Jeremy will work closely with the Payment and Delivery Reform team in the context of the current COVID-19 global pandemic. In particular, he and the team will examine value-based payment under COVID-19 as well the elimination of low-value care across America.



Joseph Kannarkat

Joseph is a medical student at the University of Maryland who aims to work in both the clinical and health policy realms. He has a broad interest in health policy, but has recently gained an interest in payment reform and frugal innovation. In terms of medical specialty, he is unsure of what wants to pursue and hopes to decide during his clinical rotations. He previously received his MPhil in Public Policy at the University Cambridge with the Kanders Churchill Scholarship. During this time, he was able to learn more about the provision of care in the National Health Service and the innovations in health coverage in Kenya. These experiences have shaped his interest in both the operational and policy aspects of medicine in a global context. He received his BS in Economics and Neuroscience at the University of Pittsburgh. He credits his education in economics for his interest in financial aspects of health.



Judy Zhon

Judy is a member of the Class of 2023 from the Greater Philadelphia Area on the pre-medical track. Still undecided, she is considering a major in Economics with a minor in Math or designing a Program II. Prior to coming to Duke, Judy spent a few years working in a molecular biology lab, but she always felt there were larger issues with science innovation in the context of society. Currently, Judy is interested in studying health economics and the implementation science behind introducing new initiatives to the larger healthcare system. At Duke, she is part of the Huang Fellows Program, Kunshan Student Ambassador Council, Asian InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Duke University Union, and Duke Student Collaborative on Health Policy. In her free time, Judy likes to watch and rewatch all the seasons of *Madam Secretary* and updating my prized Google Calendar. Through the Margolis Summer Internship, she hopes to gain a better understanding of the larger dynamics at play in the medical field.



Julia Johnson

Julia, a Minnesota native, is a recent graduate from Meredith College where she earned her B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Professional Communication. She is continuing her education at Meredith College this fall, pursuing a Master of Arts in Psychology, concentrating in Industrial/Organizational. During her time at Meredith, she was actively involved in undergraduate and graduate research, held multiple leadership positions, and developed a portion of the new workshop series around diversity and inclusion. Currently she is completing research projects in the field of I/O psychology, looking to determine the impact of performance appraisals and employer feedback, and the relationship between workplace political climate and job satisfaction/employee wellbeing. While Julia is new to Margolis, she is not new to Duke University. She worked with Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) in their Human Resources department for the past year where she helped to develop and implement processes, identify onboarding techniques/practices, and increase employee engagement and wellness. Julia is excited to join Margolis this summer, working closely with the Education Team to develop systems and processes across education initiatives, and support the internship program as a whole.



Kevin Pignone

Kevin Pignone is a rising sophomore at UNC-Chapel Hill and is from Durham. He is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Public Health with a focus in Health Policy and Management and a minor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. Before coming to Chapel Hill, Kevin worked with the City of Durham's Urban Forestry department to manually collect data on thousands of trees within the city and quantify their positive effect on air quality to push an equitable tree planting initiative in areas with canopy coverage disparities. Kevin's main interests lie in health services research, healthcare quality improvement, and decision making. At the Margolis Center, Kevin is working with the Society for Medical Decision Making on the COVID-19 Decision Modeling Initiative to locate and address key uncertainties that could be informed with a decision-modeling framework. In the future, Kevin hopes to be a health services researcher working to improve the quality of care through quantitative decision making.



Kristin Ankoma-Sey

Kristin Ankoma-Sey is a rising sophomore at Duke University who hails from Houston, Texas. Kristin plans to pursue a major in Cultural Anthropology and a minor in Chemistry during her time at Duke. At the Margolis Center for Health Policy, she is conducting research with Dr. Elizabeth Gifford and her team. This summer Kristin is working on a research project which involves interviewing physicians and child maltreatment experts about electronic medical records. The purpose of these interviews is to learn more about how physicians use electronic medical records to screen children who are at risk for maltreatment as well as determine the efficacy and ethical consequences of these strategies. In the future, Kristin hopes to pursue a career as a gynecologist and address the needs of underserved communities. As a Margolis Center intern, Kristin is excited not only to have the opportunity to conduct research, but also to delve deeper into health policy and understand its importance and role in society.



Laura Benzing

Laura is a senior at Duke University majoring in Biology and minoring in Bioinformatics and Creative Writing. At Duke, she studies mitochondria and their response to environmental toxins in the Meyer Lab and leads rock climbing and backpacking trips with Duke Outdoor Adventures on the side. At the Margolis Center, Laura is working with the Real World Evidence (RWE) collaborative to create a centralized resource of examples of when the FDA used RWE in regulatory decision to promote the usage of high quality evidence outside of a randomized controlled trial. Her ultimate goal is to improve patient's lives through data, and she is deciding on the lens she wants to do it through: research, pharmacy, and/or health policy.



Megan Knauer

Megan is a rising junior pursuing a self-designed major examining medical utilitarianism. Her ultimate goal is to understand how we incorporate our ethical frameworks into both policy decisions and one-on-one interactions with patients. This is her second summer working at the center under Dr. Gillian Sanders Schmidler. Her projects include connecting policymakers with decision modelers on the COVID-19 response, a Bass Connections group studying the global burden of hearing loss while also working under Dr. Osondu Ogbuoji. She is also building off of her previous summer's work examining the effect of differing perspectives on cost-effectiveness analysis. When on campus, she is part of the women's varsity rowing program, studies bird color categorization at the Nowicki Lab and mentors middle schoolers through The Girls Club. She hopes to combine her love for genuine human connection with policymaking and pursue a career where she can advocate for people holistically, not only viewing them as patients.



Nikhil Gadiraju

Nikhil is a rising second-year undergraduate student from Apex, North Carolina attending Duke university with the intent to major in Biomedical Engineering. His scientific passion lies in understanding the applications of technology and engineering in the field of medicine. As an aspiring physician, Nikhil continues to learn that providing the best medical care to patients involves not only health care work and medical innovations, but also key decisions made by teams of researchers and policy makers. Through the valuable opportunity provided by the Margolis Internship, he hopes to research and learn more about the processes and tools used in defining and implementing the health policies that impact the lives of others. Through this experience, he is also excited to explore the impact of science on the society we live in. Outside of my academics and research, Nikhil enjoys playing ultimate Frisbee with Duke Brimstone and volunteering in his local community.



Paige Kleidermacher

Paige Kleidermacher is an incoming sophomore at Duke University. Paige is pursuing a double major in Environmental Policy and Global Health. She is concerned with the cross-border health risks of pollution and how to address these issues and adapt solutions from a global health perspective. Additionally, she is interested in environmental toxicology and its legal implications. As a Margolis Intern, Paige is working at The Center for Policy Impact in Global Health on a project relating to Chinese Health Aid. She is investigating China's health aid footprint by estimating the scope and nature of underreported sources and flows of aid. Additionally, she is trying to create disaggregated and standardized accounts of China's contributions that can ultimately be compared with other top aid donors. Through these analyses, Paige hopes to better understand China's transformative role in global health.



Paige O'Leary

Paige O'Leary came to Duke from Ontario, Canada. Currently, she is a rising second year Master of Science candidate at Duke University's Global Health institute. She yields from the University of Toronto where she earned her Master of Science in Cells and Systems Biology studying degenerative neurological diseases. Previously, she earned her Bachelor of science at Queens in Life-science specialization with a focus on neuroscience. Her academic interests include health systems strengthening, health access, equitable care, traumatic brain injury, racial injustice and neuroscience. This summer with the Margolis center she is working as an intern with Dr. Micheal Frakes. Specifically, she will be creating a database of the Stark and Kickback law counterparts within each state. The database will be used to compare and contrast the state level laws and to understand how and if these state laws have changed over time. In Paige's spare time she enjoys working out, reading books, physical distancing with friends and drinking coffee.



Rachel Holtzman

Rachel earned her BSPH in Health Policy and Management at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, where she wrote her senior thesis titled 'In Person Assisters: Lessons Learned from ACA Enrollment in North Carolina.' She is now a MPP/JD dual degree student at the Duke Sanford School of Public Policy, and the UNC Chapel Hill School of Law. Prior to beginning grad school, Rachel worked as a Policy Fellow at the National Health Law Program in Washington, DC where she assisted in policy advocacy related to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. Rachel also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Palpa District of Nepal, where she worked for two years with community leaders to facilitate maternal and child health projects. Rachel's interests include Medicaid, health equity, access to care, and ways to address the social drivers of health for low-income and underserved communities in the South. In her free time, Rachel enjoys dancing, playing guitar, exploring the Eno, and spending time with her family and friends.



Reed Kenny

Reed Kenny is a rising senior at Duke University from Alexandria, Virginia. She is pursuing a dual degree in Public Policy and Global Health. Reed is a part of the Bass Connections research team that is working on developing recommendations for the state of North Carolina to implement the North Carolina Early Childhood Action Plan. This plan outlines ten goals for North Carolina to reach by 2025. Her team is currently working on goal seven which outlines how to implement statewide screening of social emotional health for young children in North Carolina. Additionally, her team will be working on the food security goal of the North Carolina Early Childhood Action Plan in order to outline current food security problems children in North Carolina face, and how to address these problems. Reed is very interested in health and child policy and would like to pursue health policy as a career path after her graduation from Duke.



Sahil Sandhu

Sahil Sandhu graduated from Duke University in May 2020 with a self-designed bachelor's degree in "Health Innovation: Evidence to Impact." He studied the use of evidence-based practice to design, implement, and evaluate new health innovations. This summer, Sahil is working with Dr. Charlene Wong on a new Medicaid payment and delivery model to integrate care for children across health and social service sectors. Sahil has previously conducted health services and policy research with the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy, Duke Bass Connections, the Duke Institute for Health Innovation, and the Duke Social Science Institute. On campus, Sahil founded and served as the Co-President of the Duke Student Collaborative on Health Policy (SCOHP). This fall, Sahil will pursue a Master's in Health Services Research at Newcastle University in the UK as a Fulbright Scholar.



Sarah Bond

Sarah Bond is a rising senior at Duke University, majoring in Public Policy and Global Health with a minor in Spanish. This is Sarah's second year as an intern at the Duke Margolis Center, working on the Global Health Portfolio with Andrea Thoumi as her mentor. This summer, Sarah is working on two main projects: 1) A memo discussing critical policy barriers and enabling factors to implementing the see-and-treat model for cervical cancer in Peru and 2) A rapid review on the implications of value-based care on health disparities in the United States. In addition to her work with the Center, Sarah is pursuing an honors thesis in the Public Policy department and continuing work with her Bass Connections team. For her thesis, Sarah is examining what factors are responsible for some states eliminating the five-year wait-period for legal permanent resident women and children to access Medicaid and CHIP while others have not. On the WearDuke Bass Connections team, Sarah has led the project team in research of effective wearables, surveys, and incentives for a wellness initiative. In her free time, Sarah enjoys hiking, reading, and spending time with family and friends.



Shawin Vitsupakorn

Shawin Vitsupakorn is a rising sophomore at Duke University. Alongside a B.S. in Neuroscience and a global health minor, he plans to pursue sociology and psychology coursework. In the realm of public health, Shawin has marked interests in rural-urban and public-private disparities, mental healthcare transformation, and HIV/AIDS initiatives. This summer, he is working at the Center for Policy Impact in Global Health to assess the Indian government's Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) scheme and its progress relative to Thailand's earlier rollout of universal coverage. In his free-time, he enjoys watching Studio Ghibli films, listening to contemporary R&B, and dancing.



Vignesh Alagappan

Vignesh Alagappan is a rising junior from Melbourne, Australia. He is a Statistics and Philosophy major at Duke University, with a keen academic interest in using analytic methods to explore the limits of Rationalism. Outside the classroom, Vignesh is involved with the Robertson Scholars Leadership Program, so he is obliged to cheer for the Tar Heels as well as the Blue Devils. He is also a Research Assistant at the Center for Advanced Hindsight, a recreational diver, and an avid devotee of Il Forno. Vignesh joined Margolis to work on improving health coverage in Low and Middle-Income Countries, particularly those in Sub-Saharan Africa. Frustrated with hearing about health inequality and neocolonialism in these regions, he hopes to help inform evidence-backed policy decisions that promote sustainable and independent economic development. Over the next few months, he will work closely with the Duke Global Health Innovation Center and the African Collaborative for Health Financing Solutions to support local policymakers in moving towards Universal Health Coverage.



Zoe Zwecker

Zoe is a rising senior at Colorado College where she studies Environmental Science and Global Health while pursuing a pre medicine tract. Zoe's primary research interests investigate the intersection between a changing climate and its effects on human health. Though much of the work Zoe does at Colorado College (through her involvement with women in STEM, teaching 4th and 5th graders about sustainability, and her research on the Pikes Peak Massif region) are directly related to understanding the climate crisis, she hopes Margolis will help her understand the important translation from this, to health and policy more deeply. Her involvement with the medical field began when she had the opportunity to shadow physicians at her local hospital. Here, she learned that much of what happens, particularly in rural communities is managing chronic conditions which are largely underpinned in inequality or the social determinates of health. This focus is reflected in her engagement with the Margolis center where her work on the Southeastern Diabetes Intervention project focuses on understanding health disparities from a geospatial perspective to aid in more productive community intervention and policy. Zoe hopes to improve health outcomes by considering the built and natural environment that surrounds patients.

Summer 2020 Mentors

Andrea Thoumi

Beth Gifford

Bradi Granger

Charlene Wong

Christina Silcox

Courtney Van Houtven

Dev Sangvai

Gavin Yamey

Gillian Sanders Schmidler

Ipchita Bharali

Janet Bettger

Krishna Udayakumar

Matt Maciejewski

Michael Frakes

Nirosha M. Lederer

Osondu Ogbuoji

Patty Green

Rebecca Whitaker

Robert Saunders

Rushina Cholera

Sarah Dunn Phillips

Wenhui Mao

William Bleser

Mentor Acknowledgment

Mentors, thank you for taking the time this summer to support the 2020 Margolis Interns. With your support and mentorship, students will have the opportunity to gain foundational knowledge of the field of health policy, network with professionals and peers, gain hands-on research and presentation experience, and much more. Thank you for building positive relationships with our students, further strengthening the Margolis community.