



Overview of the Scholars Program

2021-2022

About Our Center

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 catalyzes Duke University's leading capabilities, including interdisciplinary academic research and capacity for education and engagement, to inform policy making and implementation for better health and health care.

Overview of the Scholars Program

The Margolis Scholars program is a prestigious program for Duke University students that demonstrate strong interest in and commitment to a career in health policy and management, as well as leadership potential to improve health policy. Named in honor of Robert Margolis, M.D., the founder of Duke-Margolis and a pioneer of innovative integrated care delivery models, the Margolis Scholars program provides promising students with the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to be the next generation of health care leaders. Margolis Scholars is a competitive program open to students at all learner levels. Selected Scholars are engaged in the program for 1 to 2 years, depending on their program of study.

In the 2021-2022 academic year, we have 39 Margolis Scholars coming from the undergraduate and graduate level at Duke. Students are mentored by our Faculty Director, Margolis Core Faculty and Senior Research Staff throughout their program tenure in the areas of health care transformation, biomedical innovation, and global health.

Program Components

The Margolis Scholars program has four key components: knowledge building, skills enhancement and training, professional development, and community building and networking. Activities offered across the four components include, but are not limited to:

- **Knowledge Building:** participate in health policy coursework, attend bi-weekly Margolis Seminars and regular Scholars Journal Club sessions, and take part in a health policy boot camp
- **Skills Enhancement & Training:** engage in research, Scholar Skills Labs, and teaching assistantships, as well as plan policy events.
- **Professional Development:** receive 1:1 academic and professional advising/mentorship, attend professional conferences, and receive internship/fellowship guidance and placement
- **Community Building & Networking:** participate in peer mentorship programming, attend Margolis retreat and other social/alumni/scholar events, contribute to local community engagement projects, and participate in unique opportunities to meet experts in the field

Meet the Margolis Scholars



Adelyn Curran, 2nd-year Scholar

Adelyn is currently a third-year law student. This past summer she interned at the Federal Defenders Program in Atlanta, Georgia in their Capital Habeas Unit. At the Federal Defenders, she worked on death penalty appeals and compassionate release motions for inmates with preexisting health conditions that make them more at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic. At Duke Law, she serves as President of Criminal Law Society and she is a member of the Clemency Project. Before coming to law school, Adelyn was an executive recruiter at a firm that exclusively works with innovative, venture capital, and private equity-backed health care and health care technology companies. In 2017, Adelyn graduated from Amherst College after majoring in American Studies. As a Margolis Scholar, she is particularly interested in studying prison health care reform. Adelyn's interests also include health care access in rural and underserved populations, emerging health care technology, and the politics of health care reform.



Albert Rancu, 2nd-year Scholar

Albert is a junior studying biophysics and is part of the Duke Trinity College of Arts & Sciences. Albert is interested in the use and application of quantitative methods to analyze the efficacy of public policy decisions. In addition to being a Scholar, Albert was also a Margolis Intern during the summer of 2021 where he worked with the Duke-Margolis Center to examine the equity of primary care efforts aimed to address social determinants of health. Additionally, he works in the Basic Science Lab analyzing the effects of aging on liver regeneration. He plans to attend medical school on an MD-PhD track and pursue a career in gastroenterology.



Alexandra Young, 2nd-year Scholar

Alexandra is a second-year Master of Business Administration student. Prior to Duke, she worked for a boutique strategy health care consulting firm, where she developed strategies to launch novel oncology therapies internationally, created pricing models for orphan drugs, and designed strategies for bringing molecular diagnostic platforms for infectious disease testing to developing countries. She then worked for a startup pharma company developing novel therapeutics for inflammatory and autoimmune diseases and for the life sciences division of a Private Equity/Venture Capital firm. Alexandra earned her BS in molecular biology and Spanish at Duke, with a Certificate in Genome Science & Policy. She wrote her honors thesis on the gene patenting legal challenge and the landmark Supreme Court decision *AMP v. Myriad*. Additionally, her genome capstone team presented policy recommendations on Capitol Hill regarding comprehensive national guidelines that would allow individuals predisposed to inherited cancers access to testing and prophylactic treatment. Alexandra is interested in the integration of science, policy, and the challenge of commercializing new therapies and aims to take a leadership role in bringing transformative health care advances to patients.



Alice Chun, 1st-year Scholar

Alice is a junior at Duke Trinity College of Arts & Sciences and is 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 health care research. Alice is also a Margolis Intern who, during the summer of 2020, assisted 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 the 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.



Anna Bartz, 1st-year Scholar

Anna Bartz is a dual Master of Business Administration and Master of Public Policy candidate concentrating in health policy. Prior to Duke, Anna worked as a consultant in the employer-sponsored health and benefits industry. During her first year at Duke, Anna worked on several research projects supporting local North Carolina communities in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including as a Bass Connections student. Anna is eager to expand on her knowledge of the U.S. health care system and explore innovative solutions that promote health equity for vulnerable communities. During her time as a Margolis Intern, Anna worked on health care transformation, social drivers of health, and state health reforms. As a Margolis Scholar, Anna is eager to collaborate with Margolis faculty and students on local, national, or global health policy projects, and learn from industry leaders across disciplines.



Ari Panzer, 1st-year Scholar

Ari is a Master of Public Policy candidate concentrating in health policy. Prior to Duke, Ari worked as a Project Manager at the Center for the Evaluation of Value and Risk in Health at the Tufts Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts. Ari also attended Tufts University where he received a dual degree in community health and psychology. Ari's health policy interests include patient access to specialty drugs, value-based health care form, price transparency, public health literacy, and the impact of climate change on care delivery and population health. As a Margolis Scholar, Ari is eager to engage with the vibrant community of interdisciplinary, creative, and driven individuals with a passion for improving US health care. He is also looking forward to learning from fellow Scholars and faculty to inform actionable, pragmatic, and creative health policy solutions.



Audrey Dotson, 1st-year Scholar

Audrey is a Master of Business Administration candidate concentrating in health sector management. Prior to coming to Duke, Audrey worked in healthcare consulting with a focus on US health systems at Booz Allen Hamilton and Boston Consulting Group. During her MBA, she interned at Vertex Pharmaceuticals on its Global Marketing team. Audrey also has a Master of Analytics from American University's Kogod School of Business and a BA in economics and political science from Bucknell University. She is most interested in identifying and driving innovative, and more effective, models of health care. Whether it is a health tech start-up, an innovative payer-provider, or small biotech, she is fascinated by companies that are using innovative approaches to fill gaps in care. Audrey believes this kind of change needs to be a partnership between the public and private sectors. As a Margolis Scholar, Audrey is excited to learn from some of the best minds in health research, policy, and business, as well as bringing her own perspectives to the community.



Chorong Song, 2nd-year Scholar

Chorong is a third-year law student. Prior to starting her JD, Chorong worked for a biotech company in several regulatory and compliance functions. She was responsible for obtaining drug approvals from various health authorities, including the FDA. In her compliance role, she partnered with a brand-new manufacturing operation site in Korea and successfully obtained facility approval from the FDA. Chorong earned her B.A. degree in Neuroscience and Public Health, and MS degree in Regulatory Science, both from Johns Hopkins University. She is interested in the food and drug law and associated regulations and improving health disparities and access to medicine through public health policy.



Chris Lea, 1st-year Scholar

Chris is a third-year medical student. In addition, Chris is part of the Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program and the Student National Medical Association. He also has a certificate in Theology and Health Care through Duke University's Divinity School and a BS in psychology also from Duke University. His interests include understanding the systems that youth and young adults navigate to achieve mental wellness. Chris believes that it is important to recognize how the experience of beneficiaries can translate into policy initiatives that allow youth to thrive. Chris is excited to leverage the Margolis Scholars Program to learn from and inspire change alongside thoughtful faculty and colleagues from across diverse disciplines.



Cokie Young, 2nd-year Scholar

Cokie is a second-year student in Bioethics & Science Policy program, Cokie earned her B.A. in neuroscience and Spanish from Vanderbilt University in 2019. During her undergraduate career, she volunteered and studied in communities in countries across the globe, including Cuba, Ecuador, Peru, and Tanzania, in order to better understand how to make health care and education more accessible to low-income communities of color. Cokie's interests center on creating equitable health policy as a means to confront racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in health care.



Cynthia Dong, 1st-year Scholar

Cynthia is a junior at Duke Trinity College of Arts & Sciences and is pursuing a self-designed degree entitled "Health Disparities: Causes and Policy Solutions." Cynthia is a Margolis Scholar, a Duke University Huang Fellow, and a Bass Connections student. She is greatly interested in understanding what causes social inequality and how it contributes to health inequity. She hopes to use the knowledge she gleans from her program of study to contribute effective health policy solutions. At Duke, Cynthia is the Social Chair of Duke Chinese Dance, a Senator on Duke Student Government (with a focus on mental health and equity), a Help Desk Community Resource Navigator, a COVID-19 contact tracer, and an undergraduate research assistant in the West Lab. In the future, Cynthia plans to pursue an MD/MPH and continue contributing to the fight against health inequity. When she was a Margolis Intern, Cynthia worked on gaining a better understanding of health care transformation and as a Margolis Scholar, she is eager to network with others invested in health policy and learn more about the skills needed to create effective policy solutions.



Dana Guggenheim, 2nd-year Scholar

Dana is a junior at Duke Trinity College of Arts & Sciences and pursuing an interdepartmental major in public policy and neuroscience with minors in global health and chemistry. During the summer of 2020, Dana was a Margolis Intern and has continued her internship via the Duke Population Health Management Office over the past year. During the summer of 2021, Dana worked as a Health Insurance Student Trainee with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Her research interests have been focused on older adults and aging populations, specifically in long-term care and skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). She is also a member of the Duke-Margolis Bass team: Impact of Face Coverings on Patient-Provider Communication and Health Outcomes. Dana is further interested in exploring social determinants of health, health equity, and health care innovation. Her goal after Duke is to attend medical school and integrate research in health policy and management with her career as a physician leader. On-campus, Dana is also a chemistry research assistant in the Becker Lab, Copy Editor of The Standard, Programming Coordinator of FEMMES Connect (STEM mentorship), and an analyst on the Duke Student Government Research Unit.



Devan Desai, 1st-year Scholar

Devan is a junior at Duke Trinity College of Arts & Sciences and pursuing a major in public policy and minors in biology and chemistry. At Duke, Devan serves as Chair of the Duke Honor Council, Senator of Academic Affairs in the Duke Student Government, and an undergraduate teaching assistant. He is also researching COVID-19 contact tracing policies through Bass Connections. As a Margolis Scholar, Devan hopes to expand his health policy experience through engagement with the Margolis Center and his position as a Co-Chair of Health Policy Education with the Student Collaborative on Health Policy. Ultimately, Devan hopes to earn an MD/MPH and work at the intersection of health care and policy to improve patient care and treatment outcomes with a specific interest in pediatrics and orthopedics. As a Margolis Intern in 2021, Devan researched guideline congruent care for spine disorders. From the Margolis Scholars Program, Devan is eager to develop skills that are directly applicable to a career in health policy while also exploring Duke's vast resources in this field. He is looking forward to gaining mentorship, research experience, and a network of Scholars.



Eli Boone, 1st-year Scholar

Eli is a Master of Public Policy student concentrating in health policy. Before enrolling at Duke, Eli worked as a Policy Analyst with the Colorado Health Institute in Denver, Colorado. Eli also has a BS in business administration from the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business. His health policy interests center around increasing access to affordable health care. In addition, Eli is interested in payment transformation across payer and provider environments, improving care delivery models, and the role of states and the private sector as sources of health policy innovation. As a Margolis Scholar, Eli is looking forward to partnering with — and learning from — Margolis Center staff, faculty, and Scholars to deepen his understanding of health systems and learn how to create effective health policy solutions upon graduation.



Emily Snow, 1st-year Scholar

Emily is a Master of Business Administration student. Prior to Duke, Emily worked as a Senior Analyst at AVIA Health Innovation where she focused on digital consumerism. Emily has also worked as a Senior Analyst for The Advisory Board Company in Washington, DC where she focused on health care strategy. In addition to being a Margolis Scholar, Emily is a recipient of the Manning Family Foundation Scholarship in Health Care Business Leadership. Her health policy interests include leveraging digitally-enabled care delivery models to improve health disparities and exploring reimbursement and policy barriers to proliferating solutions to inequity. As a Margolis and Manning Scholar, she is looking forward to expanding her understanding of the healthcare ecosystem, develop skills to translate policy learning to action and build a community of peers committed to improving health.



Ethan Borre, 2nd-year Scholar

Ethan is currently a fourth-year graduate student in the Medical Scientist Training (MD/PhD) Program, with graduate studies in Population Health Sciences. He earned his BA in Biology and Music from Williams College in 2015. Prior to graduate studies at Duke, Ethan completed a two-year tenure at Massachusetts General Hospital working with investigators to identify optimal scale-up strategies for HIV care in the US and abroad. Ethan's research interests include decision science, mathematical modeling, and cost-effectiveness analysis.



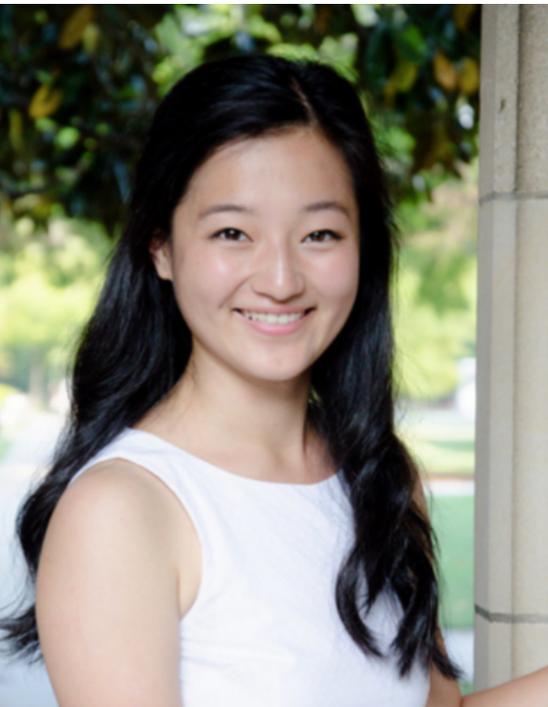
Farrah Madanay, 1st-year Scholar

Farrah is a Public Policy PhD student. Farrah has a MA in modern European studies from Columbia University as well as a BA in religious studies and art history from Rice University. In the past, she has worked as a teaching assistant for Introduction to the US Healthcare System and Behavioral Economics and Public Policy, both courses part of Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy. Her health policy interests include health care consumer judgment and decision making, primarily related to quality evaluation and price shopping. As a Margolis Scholar, Farrah is most excited to engage with faculty and peers from disciplines across campus in both health and health policy research translation. She is also eager to broaden her knowledge of current topics in health policy, meet experts in the field, and conduct research aimed at improving health equity and value.



Ginny Rogers, 1st-year Scholar

Ginny is a Master of Business Administration student and is concentrating in health sector management. In addition to being a Margolis Scholar, Ginny is a recipient of the Manning Family Foundation Scholarship in Health Care Business Leadership. Prior to coming to Duke University, Ginny worked as a Manager at Optum where she strategized and implemented digital health programs that promote access to care, including remote patient monitoring and telehealth. Prior to that, she worked as a change management consultant at Deloitte where she served clients internationally in federal and social impact sectors. Overall, Ginny's health policy interests are value-based care and health technology. More specifically, Ginny is interested in value-based care arrangements and the effectiveness of novel digital health solutions in health systems. As a Margolis Scholar, Ginny is excited to tackle complex problems in health care and connect and engage in thoughtful discussions with fellow Scholars and members of the Duke-Margolis Center.



Gloria Zhang, 1st-year Scholar

Gloria is a third-year medical student. Prior to medical school, Gloria worked as a Senior Associate at Triage Consulting Group where she focused on work that contracted improvements to hospital CFOs. In addition to being a Margolis Scholar, Gloria is also a Bass Connections Graduate Student Researcher, a Co-Founder of the Duke Business in Medicine Interest Group, and the Journal Club Chair in the Duke Orthopedic Surgery Interest Group. Gloria's health policy interests surround provider/payer reimbursement, cost-effectiveness analysis, and health care transformation to make healthcare more affordable and accessible. As a Margolis Scholar, Gloria is thrilled to be joining a multidisciplinary group of individuals who are all passionate about health policy. She is also excited to learn from world-class faculty who will help her navigate an ever-changing policy and health care landscape.



Jay Lusk, 1st-year Scholar

Jay Lusk is a dual Doctor of Medicine and a Master of Business Administration candidate. Jay also performs research in the Departments of Neurology and Population Health. Jay's primary interests are in the population health of cardiovascular disease. He is interested in how systems-level policy strategies can be utilized to promote cardiovascular health on the population level. Additionally, he is interested in clinical leadership, quality improvement, and health economics research methods, and is planning to pursue a clinical career in neurology. As a Margolis Scholar, Jay is excited to develop the strong interdisciplinary skills necessary to pursue an impactful career at the nexus of health policy, population health, and clinical medicine. He is also excited to join a broad, interdisciplinary professional network of emerging leaders in health policy.



Jessye Halverson, 2nd-year Scholar

Jessye is a second-year Master of Public Policy student. Prior to Duke, she worked at the New York Alliance for Careers in Healthcare, New York City's health care industry partnership, in order to help build an effective health care workforce development system focused on diverse pipelines. Jessye also spent two years with City Year New York as an AmeriCorps Member and Team Leader supporting students in a Queens middle school. She earned her BA in global studies and interdisciplinary studies (self-designed with a focus on social determinants of population health) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She focused her award-winning honors thesis on the ethics of health care voluntourism and its effect on sustainable development in communities in Nicaragua and Panama. Jessye's health care interests include promoting health equity, addressing health and racial disparities, and prioritizing the need for value-based payment reform to ensure better quality and access to care in under resourced communities.



Joanne Kim, 2nd-year Scholar

Joanne is a senior student at Duke Trinity College of Arts & Sciences studying public policy and psychology. Her research and interests lie at the intersection of technology, ethics, and health with her previous work covering topics such as medical AI and consent issues, data privacy, and security, the implications of stalker were, and etc. She currently co-leads Ethical Tech, a non-partisan research initiative, and Devilthon, Duke's dance marathon and fundraising group for CMN and the Duke Children's Hospital. She is also a policy competitor and the new member training programmer as part of the Cyber Team. Currently, Joanne is working part-time as a Health Policy Analyst for the Duke Institute of Health Innovation and the Pandemic Response Network researching and synthesizing the impact of COVID-19 on children and schools.



Josee Li, 2nd-year Scholar

Josee is a third-year Duke Trinity College of Arts & Sciences and pursuing a degree in Program II focused on Global Disability and Health: Policy, Practice, and Narratives. She is interested in studying global methods and models in increasing health care access and equity, especially through analyzing attitudinal and policy barriers in the disability community. Her involvement on campus includes being the Co-President of the Duke Student Collaborative on Health Policy (SCOHP), a student-led organization. Josee is also a 2021 Duke-Margolis Intern. As a Margolis Scholar, Josee is excited for an immersive experience of peer and professional mentorship, research development, and community networking with her fellow Scholars and Margolis faculty. She hopes to ultimately develop an expansive knowledge and skills base to support and impact her local community through academia and service.



Keren Hendel, 2nd-year Scholar

Keren is a second-year Master of Public Policy student. Originally from California, Keren earned her BS in quantitative economics with a second major in community health from Tufts University. Following graduation, Keren spent a year working at the American Institutes for Research evaluating literacy and numeracy in the United States. Prior to Duke, she worked at the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), where she analyzed the budgetary effects of proposed health policies related to drug pricing and health insurance coverage. Keren's interests include access to affordable care and health insurance, behavioral health care, health literacy, and long-term services and supports.



Kim Grier, 1st-year Scholar

Kim is a PhD candidate in nursing. She holds a BSN, RN, CHPN, CHPPN is a Ph.D. Nursing graduate student at Duke University. Kimberlee has worked as a Clinical Instructor at the Duke School of Nursing, as a Clinical Care Manager at Pediatric Services of America, and as an RN Case Manager at Transitions LifeCare. Her interest in health policy is rooted in her passion for advocating for vulnerable pediatric populations, both in foster care and palliative care. In her clinical work as a pediatric palliative and hospice nurse, she became cognizant of the significant policy and practice gaps as well as the lack of goals of care discussion and access to community-based pediatric palliative and hospice. As a nurse researcher, she plans to integrate her pediatric palliative care access aspirations with health policy so vulnerable and underserved families can also benefit from pediatric palliative care and high-quality goals of care conversations. As a Margolis Scholar, Kimberlee believes that learning and engaging with multidisciplinary advisors and policy colleagues would be an invaluable opportunity to expand her skills and widen her understanding of policy development and implementation.



Lauren Holt, 2nd-year Scholar

Lauren is a PhD candidate in nursing. She graduated with a BS in nursing from Angelo State University in 2013, where she participated as a student-athlete and later obtained her MSN in Nursing Education. Upon graduation, she then moved to Austin, Texas, where she worked as a registered nurse and adjunct faculty member at Austin Community College. Her work with HIV patients in Austin and Honduras inspired her interest in sexual and reproductive health research and policy. Lauren is interested in researching the influence of sex education policies on sexual and reproductive health outcomes in adolescent and young adult women.



Lisvel Matos, 2nd-year Scholar

Lisvel is a PhD candidate in nursing. She earned her AND from Central Piedmont Community College (2012) in Charlotte, North Carolina. She began her career as a staff RN working with adolescents in a behavioral health facility while earning her BSN from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (2013). Lisvel pursued graduate studies with Duke University where she earned her MSN as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (2016) and her Post-Graduate Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate (2019). Throughout her career, she has worked in community-based settings as a provider and advocate for the Latinx community. Lisvel's interests include access to care, quality of care, and addressing the impact sociocultural factors have on Latinx Health outcomes.



Megan Knauer, 2nd-year Scholar

Megan Knauer, a fourth-year Duke Trinity College of Arts & Sciences and pursuing a degree in medical utilitarianism. Megan is also a Margolis Intern, a middle school mentor with The Girls Club, a volunteer at the Children's Hospital with Arts for Life, and a student-athlete on the women's rowing team. At the Margolis Center, she works as a research assistant under Dr. Gillian Sanders Schmidler and a student researcher with the Bass Connections Global Burden of Hearing Loss team. Her long-term goal is to attend medical school and work simultaneously as a practicing physician and a policy advisor, bridging the gap between policy and practice. During her time as a Margolis Intern for the summer of 2021, Megan worked on evaluating the effectiveness of food accessibility programs. As a Margolis Scholar, Megan is excited to build a network of Scholars.



Michael Manasia, 2nd-year Scholar

Michael is a second-year Doctor of Nursing Practice candidate. Prior to Duke, he earned an MS in health policy and economics from Cornell University and a BS in nursing from Boston College. In his current position, he is an Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN®) working in the Urology Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York City. As a researcher and clinical leader dedicated to improving quality healthcare delivery, Michael has completed nursing research fellowships at Boston College and Memorial Sloan Kettering, has co-authored several journal articles, and has presented his work at national conferences.



Nadia Bey, 1st-year Scholar

Nadia is a third-year at Duke Trinity College of Arts & Sciences and studying biology, global health, and bioinformatics. Her primary research interests include Medicaid, access to care, social determinants of health, and pharmaceuticals. On-campus, Nadia is part of the University Scholars Program and will join the Margolis Scholars Program in fall 2021. She is a reporter and editor for The Chronicle and will serve as managing editor in the 2021-2022 academic year. She also volunteers at Neal Middle School through Bull City Scholars and teaches the associated house course. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a graduate degree in public health. During her time as a Margolis Intern for the summer of 2021, Nadia researched the reduction of health disparities in the shift to Medicaid managed care. As a Margolis Scholar, Nadia is excited for the opportunity to network with faculty and her fellow Scholars as well as learning more about the applications of policy.



Natalie Wong, 1st-year Scholar

Natalie is a junior at Duke Trinity College of Arts & Sciences and pursuing degrees in public policy and minoring in economics. She is also pursuing the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Certificate. At Duke, she conducts research with a Bass Connections cohort to study how social media can connect vulnerable patient communities to healthcare solutions. In addition to her active involvement in the Student Collaborative on Health Policy, Natalie also playing guitar, figure skating, and solving crossword puzzles in her free time. During her time as a Margolis Intern, Natalie researched regulatory oversight of oncology products. As a Margolis Scholar, Natalie is looking forward to gaining a comprehensive understanding of the non-clinical healthcare sector while developing hard skills to use in the field.



Nikki Prattipati, 2nd-year Scholar

Nikki is a second-year Master of Science in Global Health candidate. Prior to Duke, she worked on the Health Policy Team at the Center for American Progress in Washington D.C., where she assisted in quantifying the effects of Medicaid expansion under the ACA. Nikki holds a BS in psychology from the University of Texas at Dallas. Nikki also spent time at the High Health Council of Amman, Jordan, researching health services offered to Syrian Refugees. These experiences have strengthened her interests in health equity and access to care through sustainable reform in health systems, which she hopes to further explore at Duke.



Olivia Ferris, 1st-year Scholar

Olivia is a second-year law student. Prior to coming to Duke, Olivia worked as a Research Project manager at Boston University's School of Public Health and the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute. In addition to working there, Olivia also has a BS in behavior and health and a Master of Public Health from Boston University. Olivia is interested in how the social determinants of health impact mental health and in creating policies to address those factors. She is also interested in the connection between housing and health. As a Margolis Scholar, Olivia is looking forward to learning more about areas in health law and policy that she is less familiar with. She is also excited to work with scholars from many different disciplines.



Rachel Holtzman, 2nd-year Scholar

Rachel is a dual Master of Public Policy (Duke) and Juris Doctor (UNC) candidate. Prior to beginning at Duke, she worked 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 Nepal, where she worked with community leaders to facilitate maternal and child health projects. Rachel has earned her BSPH in health policy and management at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Rachel's interests include health equity, access to care, and ways to address the social determinants of health for low-income and underserved communities in the South.



Samantha Smith, 1st-year Scholar

Samantha is a Master of Public Policy candidate. Prior to coming to Duke, Samantha attended Georgetown University where she received a BS in health care management and policy. In addition to being a graduate student, she also works as a Quality Programs Analyst for TSI Healthcare in Chapel Hill, NC. She has also worked as a Legislative Aide for the Office of Congressman Thomas R. Suozzi and as a Health Policy Intern for the Children's Defense Fund. Samantha is interested in the role of federal and state governments in health care access. She is also interested in how the government can regulate public payer systems to yield positive public health outcomes and equitable access as well as alternative payment models. As a Margolis Scholar, Samantha is looking forward to gaining a professional network of health policy professionals, broadening her knowledge of various health policy areas, and working with the Margolis Center on her master's project.



Seve Gaskin, 2nd-year Scholar

Seve is a dual Master of Public Policy and Master of Business Administration candidate. Prior to Duke, he helped health care providers navigate strategic, financial, and operational challenges as an Engagement Manager with Optum Advisory Services - United Health Group's consulting division. Seve graduated from UNC with a double major in public policy and economics. While at UNC, he co-founded Get Covered Carolina, an organization licensed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to help consumers access health coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. After graduation, Seve worked as an intern and Field Organizer for a US Senate campaign during the 2014 cycle. In his spare time, Seve serves on the External Advisory Board for the Honors Carolina program at UNC and serves as a young alumni mentor to students in the program.



Sharla Rent, 2nd-year Scholar

Sharla is a second-year Master of Science in Global Health candidate and a faculty member in the division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at Duke. Prior to starting her MS, she did her fellowship training at the University of Michigan and conducted research in neonatal resuscitation in low-resource settings. She obtained her MD from Loyola University in Chicago and a BS in biomedical engineering from Northwestern University. Sharla serves on the board of directors for an NGO dedicated to newborn care in Ethiopia and has ongoing projects in Ethiopia, Ghana, and Guatemala. Her interests include health equity, decision making at the margin of viability across cultures, technology translation to low-resource settings, and exploring how resource limitations and policy impact health care delivery.



Shreyas Hallur, 1st-year Scholar

Shreyas is an undergraduate student at Duke University and part of the graduating class of 2023. In addition to being a student and a Margolis Scholar, Shreyas is also a Project Advisor at the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center, a Student Researcher at the Duke Autism Center, and a Duke Bass Connections student. Shreyas' main interests are in Medicaid administration and health policy innovation, especially as they pertain to behavioral health and urban/rural disparities. As a Margolis Scholar, he looks forward to connecting with current Scholars and Margolis faculty and exploring the intersection of statistical modeling and healthcare innovations. He is also excited to participate in research to expand health care access in rural America.



Stephanie Stan, 1st-year Scholar

Stephanie is a Master of Science in Global Health candidate. Prior to coming to Duke, Stephanie attended the University of Michigan where she received her BS in biopsychology, cognition, and neuroscience. Stephanie has worked as a Programming and Communications Intern at Global Ties Detroit and as a PEERS Research Assistant for Michigan Medicine. In addition to being a Margolis Scholar and a graduate student, Stephanie is also a 2021 Emerging Leader for the Global Ties U.S., Emerging Leaders Program. Her main interests are in the role of health governance and diplomacy in increasing culturally competent health care for marginalized communities through policy reform. She is particularly interested in immigrant health, mental health, and the overlap between the two. As a Margolis Scholar, Stephanie is looking forward to gaining an in-depth understanding of current health challenges and policy solutions, and to creating a widespread network of peers, faculty and health policy professionals. She is also looking to develop skills to reshape health and social systems through policy reform. Stephanie is also excited to collaborate with faculty and fellow Scholars on projects aimed at mitigating socio-cultural health impacts by translating research into effective legislation.

Meet the Margolis Scholars Program Team



Corinna Sorenson, PhD, MHSA, MPH
Faculty Director

Dr. Sorenson is an Assistant Professor in Population Health Sciences and Public Policy and a Core Faculty Member at the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy. She has extensive research and policy experience in value assessment in health care, comparative effectiveness research, drug and device regulation and payment, and health policy evaluation. She is interested in the design, implementation, and assessment of evidence-based strategies to enhance value-based health care. Current work focuses on value-based payment and care delivery reforms, low-value care de-implementation, shared decision-making approaches, and stakeholder engagement in research, practice, and policy reforms. Outside of academe, Dr. Sorenson has served in senior health policy and consulting positions in both the private and public sectors.



Sarah Dunn Phillips, MA
Assistant Director for Education

Sarah Dunn Phillips is the Center's Assistant Director for Education. In this role, she develops and manages the Center's rapidly growing portfolio of educational programs. Working closely Gillian Sanders Schmidler, Deputy Director, Academics, and the Center's Faculty Directors for its educational portfolio, Janet Prvu Bettger, Corinna Sorenson, and Krishna Udayakumar, Sarah conceptualizes and executes initiatives at the undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate levels. In addition, Sarah will work to identify and implement joint-educational programs with other Schools and Departments to pursue courses, certificates, tracks, and experiential learning opportunities. Sarah is a mentor for Duke students and a key liaison for them to promote and advise the Center on its educational programs.