



Duke

MARGOLIS CENTER  
*for Health Policy*



# Margolis Scholars Program Overview

2022-2023



## 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 2022-2023 academic year, we have 37 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.

## 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: health policy coursework, bi-weekly Margolis Seminars and other public convenings, health policy foundations workshops, and journal and book club discussion series
- Skills Enhancement & Training: research, communication, career, and leadership skills labs and/or modules, research and teaching assistantships, health policy internships, and health policy leadership event organization
- Professional Development: tailored academic and professional advising/mentorship and support for relevant conference attendance and other professional trainings
- Community Building & Networking: annual Margolis Scholars event, informal and formal peer mentoring, "meet an expert" sessions and other coordinated opportunities to meet leaders in the health policy field, annual Margolis Center Retreat and Margolis Scholar social events, and community service projects

# Meet the Margolis Scholars



## Albert Rancu, 3rd-year Scholar

Albert is a senior majoring in biophysics and minoring in chemistry. He has been an active member of the Wax BIOS lab since his freshman year, researching label and contact free ways of assessing cellular structure with an eye towards creating low-cost, high-throughput diagnostic technology. In addition to research, Albert is a regular volunteer in a trauma nursing unit at UNC Medical Center and at Meals on Wheels in Durham. As a Margolis Scholar, he has researched barriers to health care access both at individual and macroscopic levels. Looking forward, Albert hopes to pursue a career in medicine while utilizing the knowledge he's learned as a Scholar and a researcher to translate rigorous science into medical innovations that alleviate health care disparities.



## Alexa Chronister, 1st-year Scholar

Alexa is a second-year law student. She serves on the board of the Health Law Society, is a member of the Healthcare Planning Project, and volunteers with Root Causes. Before law school, Alexa worked for United States of Care, a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that everyone has access to quality, affordable health care. She graduated from the University of Delaware in 2020 with a degree in public policy. Alexa is also the founder and current president of Fight Like A Warrior, a non-profit organization working to unite, empower, and advocate for those battling chronic health conditions. Alexa's interests include health equity, access to care, and improving health care for chronic and rare disease patients.



## Alice Chun, 2nd-year Scholar

Alice is a senior at Duke majoring in public policy and global health. Her experience as a neurosurgical research intern at USC Keck School of Medicine in high school first sparked her interest in health care research. As a 2020 Margolis Summer Intern under Professor Courtney Van Houtven, she supported the national implementation of a caregivers skills training program at the VA and research pertaining to COVID-19 policies in long-term care facilities. She has also been engaged with two Bass Connections teams: one applying human-centered design to enhance healthcare navigation for pediatric complex care patients and another supporting the implementation/evaluation of palliative care programming for rural caregivers. This summer she had the amazing opportunity to intern for FHI360 on a project team enhancing family planning services in LMICs. Outside of her health policy engagements, Alice works as an intern at the Student Wellness Center and serves as the Vice President of a multicultural dance team. She is passionate about rare/invisible disease advocacy, globalization of Korean culture, and chai lattes. Upon graduation, Alice hopes to continue health policy and implementation work in the government or non-profit health care sector before pursuing graduate education.



## Anna Bartz, 2nd-year Scholar

Anna is a dual Master of Business Administration and Master of Public Policy candidate concentrating in health policy and health sector management. Prior to Duke, Anna worked as a consultant in the employer-sponsored health and benefits industry. During her time at Duke, Anna has worked on several health policy projects, including collaborations with local NC public health departments on their COVID-19 pandemic response (Bass Connections) and engaging with Duke Hospital on strategic initiatives (DUH-ELP). During her time as a Margolis Intern, Anna supported various health care transformation projects and bolstered her knowledge on social drivers of health and state health reforms. As a Margolis Scholar, Anna is eager to continue collaborating with Margolis faculty and learn from health care experts and leaders across disciplines.



## Ari Panzer, 2nd-year Scholar

Ari is a second-year Master of Public Policy student. Prior to Duke, Ari was a Project Manager at the Center for the Evaluation of Value and Risk in Health (CEVR) at Tufts Medical Center. Ari earned his BS in community health and psychology from Tufts University. 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.





## Cynthia Dong, 2nd-year Scholar

Cynthia is a senior at Duke University pursuing a self-designed degree entitled "Health Disparities: Causes and Policy Solutions." Cynthia is a Margolis Scholar and is currently researching telehealth disparities with Dr. Janet Bettger and Dr. Rebecca Whitaker. Her project involves identifying disparities in access to care and contributing research to help inform NC Medicaid policy. At Duke, Cynthia is the performance director and choreographer for Duke Chinese Dance, a Help Desk Community Resource Navigator, a Death and Dying TA, and a neurobiology research assistant in the West Lab. She also works as a crisis counselor for Crisis Text Line and was previously a COVID-19 contact tracer for Duke. In the future, Cynthia plans to pursue an MD/MPH and continue combatting health inequity.



## Dana Guggenheim, 3rd-year Scholar

Dana is a senior pursuing an interdepartmental major in public policy and neuroscience and a minor in chemistry. Dana was Duke-Margolis Summer Intern in 2020 and 2022. During her time as an intern in 2020, she worked with the Duke Population Health Management Office and continued her work through the following academic year. In Summer 2021, Dana had the opportunity to work as a Health Insurance Student Trainee with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). She was also a member of the Duke-Margolis Bass team: Impact of Face Coverings on Patient-Provider Communication and Health Outcomes. Most recently, Dana worked as a public policy intern at Unite Us, a technology company that connects health and social services via a care coordination network, while also assisting Dr. Beth Shaz from Duke-Margolis on data and policy analysis for the Duke-Carolinas Cord Blood Bank. Her goal after Duke is to attend both medical and business graduate programs and integrate research in health policy and management with her career as a physician leader.



## Devan Desai, 2nd-year Scholar

Devan is a senior at Duke University from Durham, North Carolina. He is majoring in public policy and minoring in biology and chemistry. At Duke, Devan serves as Executive Vice President in the Duke Student Government, Chair of the Duke Honor Council, Tour Guide, and an undergraduate teaching assistant. 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. Devan is also involved on a variety of research teams on topics ranging from spine care at DUHS, contact tracing policies in North Carolina, HIPAA and privacy regulations, and hypertension with the Durham community.

Ultimately, Devan hopes to earn an MD and work at the intersection of health care and policy to improve patient care and treatment outcomes with a specific interest in health equity and orthopedics. Through 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 expanding mentorship, research experience, and network of Scholars this year.



## Elaijah Lapay, 1st year Scholar

Elaijah is a junior pursuing an individualized degree on Migrant Health and Healthcare. Elaijah has conducted research in the past through Duke Bass Connections on food insecurity in the Latinx/e community and the state of equity in Duke's university-community partnerships. Elaijah has continued his interest in food insecurity through Root Causes' Fresh Produce Program, where he works to coordinate food deliveries in English and Spanish to families every weekend in Durham and is co-coordinating a study funded by Duke CTSI's Community Engaged Research Initiative to investigate efficacy of produce deliveries, diet, and education sessions on health outcomes among hypertensive and food insecure members of Durham's African American and Latinx/e populations. Following an internship helping address pediatric patients' and families' social and resource needs at Lincoln Community Health Center, a federally qualified health center in Durham, Elaijah is excited as a Margolis Scholar to further investigate and address barriers for immigrants and refugees to access equitable healthcare.



## Eli Boone, 2nd-year Scholar

Eli is a Master of Public Policy student at Duke's Sanford School of Public Policy, concentrating in health policy. Before enrolling at Duke, he led various research and consulting projects, collaborated with state legislators, and managed the Colorado Health Access Survey as an analyst with the Colorado Health Institute. His health policy interests center around health care transformation and 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, he enjoys learning from Margolis Center staff through courses and training, participating in Bass Connections research, and collaborating with his fellow scholars.



## Emily Snow, 2nd-year Scholar

Emily is an MBA candidate at the Fuqua School of Business, pursuing a certificate in Health Sector Management. She spent her summer at Deloitte within their Healthcare and Life Sciences Practice, working with a large medical device company and helping develop the firm-wide outlook on consumer health. Before Fuqua, Emily worked at AVIA Health Innovation, a digital health consulting firm, providing strategic support to health systems engaging in digital transformation. Prior to this role, Emily worked at The Advisory Board Company, where she supported leading health systems with their imaging and cardiovascular service line strategies. 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, Emily is looking forward to expanding her understanding of the healthcare ecosystem, developing the skills to translate policy learning to action and building a community of peers committed to improving health.





## Estefania Rodriguez Martinez, 1st-year Scholar

Estefania is a Master of International Development Policy student. She has a BA in international relations from Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey. Prior to Duke, Estefania worked as a Project Manager of the Food Policy Program at the Nutrition and Health Research Center at the Mexican National Institute of Public Health. She has co-authored journal articles and book chapters on food environment and conflicts of interest in nutrition and health policy. Her interests lie at the intersection of politics, policies, law, and the food environment. As a Margolis Scholar, Estefania is eager to engage with faculty and peers from disciplines across campus in food policy, health and development. She is also eager to broaden her knowledge on topics like social and commercial determinants of health.



## Farrah Madanay, 2nd-year Scholar

Farrah is a public policy PhD student. Farrah has a MA in modern European studies from Columbia University and 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 Health care 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 and her dissertation focuses on patient judgments of their physicians in online reviews. As a Margolis Scholar, Farrah is 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, 2nd-year Scholar

Prior to Duke, Ginny was a Manager at Optum where she strategized and launched digital health initiatives that promote access to care, including remote patient monitoring (RPM) and telehealth. Before that, she was a consultant at Deloitte serving clients internationally in the federal and social impact sectors. In addition to her time as a Duke-Margolis Scholar, she is the Health Provider Association's Communications lead and on the student government DEI Cabinet. She spent her summer interning at Accenture as a Summer Strategy Consultant. In addition to being a Margolis Scholar, Ginny is a recipient of the Manning Family Foundation Scholarship in Health Care Business Leadership. Within health care, she is most interested in the value-based care transition, efficacy of novel technology solutions in the provider space, and equity and access in provision of healthcare services.



## Ginny Tsao, 1st year Scholar

Ginny is a Master of Business Administration candidate concentrating in health sector management. Prior to Duke, Ginny earned her PharmD from the University of British Columbia. As a pharmacist, she worked across diverse healthcare spaces, both on the front lines of hospitals and pharmacies and at the management level of a health authority and a non-profit. No matter the setting, she always found upstream policies and interventions most critical for optimizing patient-centered care. Ginny, motivated by her breadth of experiences, is particularly interested in the payer-provider convergence and value-based reimbursement models that reflect equitable access to health care. In addition, she is eager to explore how policy can define business standards and fuel transformational investments to create a sustainable health care system. In addition to being a Margolis Scholar, Ginny is a recipient of the Manning Family Foundation Scholarship in Health Care Business Leadership. During the Margolis Scholars Program, Ginny looks forward to learning from and collaborating with the Margolis Center faculty and her fellow scholars to help shape the tomorrow of our health care to be more resilient, interconnected, and predictive.



## Jack Pitsor, 1st-year Scholar

Jack is a Master of Public Policy student concentrating in health policy. Most recently, he worked at the National Conference of State Legislatures in Denver, Colorado as a health policy associate focusing on various access, costs and coverage issues. Prior to NCSL, Jack was an international volunteer in Belize City, Belize through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, working at a youth prison as a program coordinator. Jack received his B.S. in health administration and policy in 2018 from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. His policy interests include health system costs, medical debt, surprise billing, private insurance affordability and other related health care costs issues. Jack is excited to collaborate with and learn from the Margolis Center staff, faculty and students in order to effectively evaluate policy interventions at the federal, state and local level.



## Josee Li, 3rd-year Scholar

Josee is a fourth-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.





## Kathrine Wetherbee, 1st-year Scholar

Kathrine is a first-year Master of Public Policy candidate. Prior to Duke, Kathrine worked for various healthcare technology organizations in the Bay Area in both operational and commercial roles. Her work centered on improving access to health insurance for both the self-funded employer and subsidy-eligible independent contractor. Kathrine also attended Washington University in St. Louis where she studied biology and public health. Kathrine is eager to dive deeper into policy solutions to improve domestic and global healthcare access and outcomes. In addition, Kathrine is interested in women's health equity, value-based care, and digital health strategies.



## Kim Grier, 2nd-year Scholar

Kim is a PhD candidate in nursing. She holds a BSN, RN, CHPN, CHPPN. 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 work as a foster parent, she became cognizant of the significant policy and practice gaps that exist regarding mental health access and equity for children in foster care. As a nurse researcher, she plans to integrate her foster care and mental health aspirations with health policy so vulnerable and underserved families can benefit. 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.



## Kristian Wright, 1st year Scholar

Kristian is a second-year law student. Prior to attending Duke Law School, Kristian earned a B.S. in general biology from the University of California, San Diego in 2015. Following graduation, Kristian worked as an analyst for the University of California Office of the President in its systemwide health office, where she worked on issues of diversity and inclusion within the university's health professional schools, and a study on improving health care outcomes in California's San Joaquin Valley. Most recently, she worked as a legislative analyst for the California Department of Managed Health Care, where she analyzed legislation addressing issues, such as surprise balance billing, Medicare supplement insurance, and Affordable Care Act waivers. Among other things, she annually assisted with the drafting and editing of a report on prescription drug costs, and regularly assisted constituents with their complaints against health plans. Kristian's interests include prescription drug pricing, health plan regulatory compliance, and improving affordability of health care.



## Laura Stilwell, 1st-year Scholar

Laura is a graduate student in the Medical Scientist Training (MD/PhD) program, doing a PhD in public policy with a concentration in economics. Laura earned her BS in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2014. Prior to her graduate studies at Duke, Laura worked for three years as a research assistant to Esther Duflo, PhD, at the Jameel Poverty Action Lab in Cambridge, MA, where she worked on large-scale randomized evaluations of policy interventions. Laura's research broadly explores household decision making with respect to child investments and the impact of policies and programs on child health and well-being. Her current work focuses on three topics areas - housing, child maltreatment, and infant feeding – and includes projects in the US and Pakistan.



## Nadia Bey, 2nd-year Scholar

Nadia is a senior and second-year Margolis Scholar studying biology, global health and bioinformatics. Her primary research interests include access to care, health equity and social determinants of health, and she places great value on health communication and data. Nadia began working with Margolis as a 2021 summer intern, and her research on telehealth led to an independent study on farmworkers that culminated with a publication in Health Affairs Forefront. Her other campus involvements include the University Scholars Program, The Chronicle and the Student Collaborative on Health Policy. After graduation, she hopes to pursue graduate study in public health.



## Natalie Wong, 2nd-year Scholar

Natalie is a Master of Public Policy student at Duke's Sanford School pursuing a concentration in health policy. During her undergraduate career at Duke, Natalie studied public policy with a minor in economics. Her health policy interests include telemedicine adoption, pharmaceutical policy innovation, and increasing racial and ethnic diversity in clinical trials. Natalie looks forward to connecting with the vibrant Margolis community while furthering her understanding of the health policy landscape as a whole.





## Nikhil Chaudhry, 1st-year Scholar

Nikhil is a junior at Duke Trinity College of Arts & Sciences pursuing a double major in neuroscience and global health with a minor in chemistry. At Duke, Nikhil serves as a Co-Chair of Campus Engagement for the Student Collaborative on Health Policy, Treasurer for Duke Best Buddies, and an executive board member of the Global Health Major's Union. Nikhil also participates in research through the Carpenter Lab of the Duke Center for Autism and Bass Connections, working on projects related to health equity and global neurosurgical systems. As a Margolis Scholar, Nikhil hopes to continue working on health equity projects and continue exploring other health policy topics introduced to him during his internship at the Margolis Center in 2021. In the future, Nikhil plans on pursuing a medical career and continuing to research health policy. He is excited to meet faculty and other Margolis scholars to learn about effective health policy solutions.



## Olivia Ferris, 2nd-year Scholar

Olivia is a third-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 studying the relationship between eviction and various health outcomes. Olivia also has a BS in behavior and health and a Master of Public Health from Boston University. In addition to her interests in the intersection between housing and health, Olivia is interested in helping innovative life sciences companies improve health outcomes through her legal work. This past summer, Olivia interned at Morrison Foerster, LLP, a law firm with a variety of clients in the life sciences industry.



## Rachel Holtzman, 2nd-year Scholar

Rachel is a dual Master of Public Policy (Duke) and Juris Doctor (UNC) candidate in the class of 2023, and earned her BSPH in health policy and management at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health in the class of 2014. Prior to beginning grad school, Rachel 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. During grad school, Rachel has interned with NC Integrated Care for Kids (NC InCK), Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC), el Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc. (CDM), and the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG). Rachel's interests include racial and economic justice, health equity, meaningful access to public benefits (particularly, Medicaid), and addressing the social drivers of health for low-income and historically marginalized communities nationwide.





## Rewa Malhotra, 1st-year Scholar

Rewa is a Master of Business Administration student. Prior to Duke, Rewa worked as a Senior Product Analyst at Optum where she worked at the intersection of healthcare policy and digital transformation to implement the CMS Interoperability ruling and CAA provisions for UHC health plans to reduce surprise billing for members. She has also worked extensively in defining growth strategies for Optum Health businesses. Her health policy interests include leveraging strategic interventions for members to accelerate value-based care adoption and exploring synergies in government programs to improve health outcomes. In addition to being a Margolis Scholar, Rewa is a recipient of the Manning Family Foundation Scholarship in Health Care Business Leadership. As a Margolis Scholar, she is looking forward to expanding her understanding of the health care ecosystem and learning from world-class faculty and peers to build a 360-degree perspective of health care.



## Rhea Dash, 1st-year Scholar

Rhea is a third-year medical student. She holds a BS in biological sciences from the University of Maryland and recently earned a Master of Public Health in health policy from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. While in Boston this past year, she also worked for the Massachusetts state-based insurance exchange, where she designed and implemented a program to lower the cost of high-value medications for Massachusetts ConnectorCare members. Her research and policy interests include advancing value-based insurance design, lowering health system costs, and improving population health outcomes. As a Margolis Scholar, Rhea is excited to engage in a multidisciplinary community of faculty and students, learning how to build equitable and evidence-based solutions to complex health care problems.



## Riya Mohan, 1st-year Scholar

Riya is a member of the Class of 2024 in the Trinity School at Duke University. She is pursuing a self-designed Program II major titled “Ethical and Regulatory Issues of Human Genome Editing”. Her research interests lie in the realm of health policy with a focus on the genetic/genomic sciences and she hopes to use interdisciplinary education and tools to analyze various issues within the field, such as through wet-lab research, policy development, and community engagement. She is currently an undergraduate researcher at the Heitman Lab in the Duke School of Medicine and has been named a Margolis Health Policy Scholar as well as a former Visualizing Cities Lab Fellow. At the University, she is also the president of Duke Ethical Tech, a university-based tech think tank, and Duke Cyber, the university’s premier cyber technology and security organization.





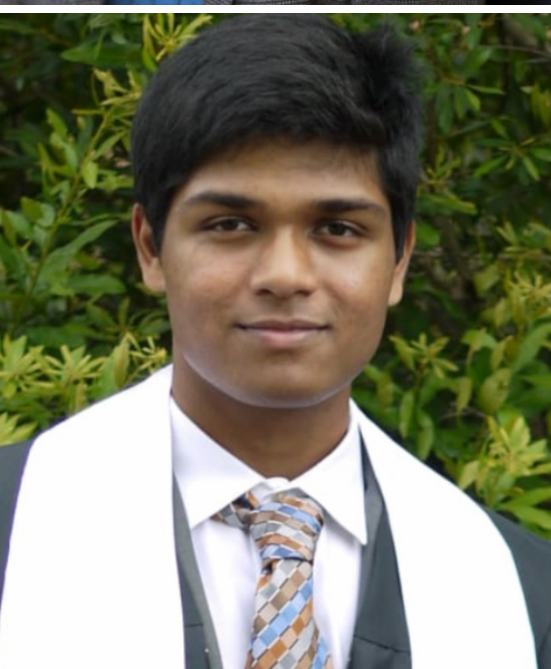
## Ro Huang, 1st-year Scholar

Ro is a junior at Duke's Trinity College of Arts & Sciences and is studying a self-designed degree entitled Ethical Psychiatric Healthcare & Policy. They are deeply passionate about ensuring the humane treatment of psychiatrically disabled individuals across medical, judicial, and societal institutions. Their research interests also include global health economics and equity. As a Margolis intern in the summer of 2021 and 2022, Ro has investigated international aid for health with the Center for Policy Impact in Global Health under Dr. Gavin Yamey and Dr. Wenhui Mao. They are also a member of a Bass Connections team "Trauma-Informed Courts: A Public Health Approach to Juvenile Justice". Outside of research, Ro is active in Duke's mental health advocacy scene where they volunteer frequently with Threshold Clubhouse and serve as the President of the National Alliance on Mental Health@Duke. Eventually, they hope to enter an MD-MPH program to incorporate disability studies research and policy in a psychiatric setting to improve patient well-being and provider efficacy.



## Rose Lee, 1st-year Scholar

Rose is a junior at Duke Trinity College of Arts & Sciences and pursuing a double major in biology and public policy with a minor in chemistry. Her interests lie in improving palliative care for all ages, strengthening caregiver policies, and building a better support system that guides patients beyond diagnosis and treatment and promotes human flourishing. In order to meaningfully apply the knowledge she learned at Duke, she interned at the National Human Genome Research Institute's Policy and Program Analysis Branch through DukeEngage DC in the summer of 2021, where she was able to grow and reflect upon important questions about her experience— Who does policy really serve? How can we meaningfully integrate and communicate policy and science to the public? She is thus thrilled to continue her journey of growth through the Margolis Scholars program with its unique programming that integrates critical reflection, research, and community-building. Rose also interned at the National Institute on Aging in the summer of 2022 and is currently researching faith-based needs of patients with head and neck cancer through Bass Connections. Ultimately, she hopes to pursue an MD/MPH to help build a more supportive paradigm of care for patients throughout their entire journey by integrating both broad-scale change with policy and individual-level change with medicine.



## Sai Rachakonda, 1st-year Scholar

Sai is a junior at Duke Trinity College of Arts & Sciences pursuing a degree in Program II focused on personalized healthcare innovation and policy. He is interested in studying emerging care models, novel health technologies, and health system reform. At Duke, Sai is involved in biochemistry work at the Lefkowitz Lab researching the downstream pathways of B-Arrestins, patient education projects as an intern at the Center for Personalized Healthcare, and geriatric oncology care through Bass Connections. Additionally, Sai is the Co-Chair of Career and Professional Development in the Student Collaborative on Health Policy (SCOHP) and a board member of Duke Undergraduates for Bipartisan Solutions (DUBS). As a Margolis Scholar, Sai hopes to expand his knowledge base on American health care and work with other scholars and faculty to navigate the policy landscape of implementing novel care model changes to improve patient outcomes. Ultimately, Sai hopes to earn a MD/MHA and work at the intersection of medicine, health policy, and health systems administration to help the widespread implementation of personalized healthcare techniques. He is looking forward to his Margolis Scholar experience and connecting with experts in the field.



## Samantha Smith, 2nd-year Scholar

Samantha is a Master of Public Policy student at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy, concentrating in health policy. Prior to Duke, Samantha worked on Capitol Hill as a legislative aide and scheduler in the U.S. House of Representatives. Samantha previously worked in the government affairs division of a health IT company, where she consulted healthcare practices on federal and state regulations. Samantha also has health policy experience at a private health insurer, a state Medicaid agency, and non-profit advocacy organizations. Samantha's health policy interests include value-based payment transformation, health equity, and long-term services and supports. Samantha received a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management and Policy with a concentration in Policy Analysis and a minor in Public Health from Georgetown University.



## Shewit Jaynes, 1st-year Scholar

Shewit is a PhD nursing student at Duke University. She graduated with a BS in nursing from East Carolina University in 2016, where she also ran cross country and track. Shewit has worked as both a medical-surgical nurse and a postpartum nurse. Her work with new mothers and families inspired her interest in maternal health equity and health policy. In 2021, Shewit graduated with a Master of Science in public health from the Department of Health Policy and Management at UNC Chapel Hill. She is a firm believer that comprehensive policies are needed to address social and structural determinants of maternal health disparities. As a nurse scientist she plans to integrate her clinical experience and passion for advocacy to generate the evidence needed to propel systemic change through policy.



## Shreyas Hallur, 2nd-year Scholar

Born and raised in Phoenix, Shreyas is a proud Arizonan majoring in public policy and statistics. He seeks to develop innovative policies to help people with long term care needs lead an independent life. At the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center, Shreyas initiated a program to create inclusive science learning opportunities for children with autism. He also advocates for greater accessibility on campus through Duke Disability Alliance, Duke Student Government, and Neurodiversity Connections. In the future, Shreyas will continue this work by reforming healthcare delivery for populations with long term care needs. He has pursued this career with internships at state and federal governments. During the pandemic, Shreyas interned with Arizona Medicaid where he informed the rollout of telehealth and helped protect members with developmental disabilities from exposure to COVID-19. After graduation, he plans to work at the intersection of long-term care, patient advocacy, and data-informed policymaking.





## Stephanie Stan, 2nd-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 Project Manager for the 2022-2023 Bass Connections project team: Improving Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services for Latinx Children in North Carolina. During her time at Duke, Stephanie has been conducting her thesis research through the Duke Global Health Innovation Center, working on the Center's COVID Speedometer and COVID GAP projects. 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.



## Winifred Edom, 1st-year Scholar

Winifred is an international student from Nigeria and a first-year student in the Masters of Science in Global Health program. Winifred earned her BSc in psychology and a minor in health advocacy at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. During her undergraduate career, Winifred volunteered with the ONE organization as they campaigned for COVID-19 vaccine equity across African nations. Winifred's academic and professional interests center on creating equitable health systems and strengthening existing health systems to address the health disparities affecting African countries. As Winifred transitions from a background in psychology to one in global health, she is excited to immerse herself in the field, learn, and leverage all the opportunities the Margolis Center has to offer. She hopes to make a change and create health systems where everyone has a chance to live full lives.

## Meet the Margolis Scholars Program Team



Kate Bundorff, Ph.D, M.B.A.  
Faculty Director

M. Kate Bundorff is the J. Alexander McMahon Distinguished Professor of Health Policy and Management in the Sanford School of Public Policy and a core faculty member at Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy. Professor Bundorff's research focuses on health policy and the economics of health care systems. She has studied public and private health insurance markets, the organization of health care providers, and consumer decision making in health care. Prior to joining the faculty at Duke, Professor Bundorff was an associate professor of health research and policy at the Stanford University School of Medicine. She is also a faculty research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Bundorff received her MBA and MPH from The University of California at Berkeley and her PhD from The Wharton School. She was a Fulbright Lecturer at Fudan School of Public Health in Shanghai, China during 2009 and 2010. Her research has been published in leading economic and health policy journals and has received funding from the U.S. National Institutes of Health, the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She received the 13th Annual Health Care Research Award from The National Institute for Health Care Management in 2007. She is currently an editor of the Journal of Health Economics and the President of the American Society of Health Economists.



Melynn Glusman, J.D., M.A.  
Program Coordinator

Melynn Glusman comes to Duke-Margolis from Duke Law, where she served as the Program Coordinator for the Environmental Law and Policy Clinic and the First Amendment Clinic, helping students build an experiential bridge between the classroom and legal practice. While there, she also supported the clinics' litigation efforts on behalf of clients throughout North Carolina and beyond. Melynn received her JD from UNC-Chapel Hill, her Master's degree in U.S. History from UNC-Chapel Hill, and her Bachelors in History from Duke.