



Duke  
MARGOLIS CENTER  
*for Health Policy*



Duke- Margolis Summer Experience  
May - July 2023



## Program Overview

The mission of Duke University's Robert J. Margolis, MD, Center for Health Policy is to improve health, health equity, 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 Summer Experience Program

- 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 2023 Interns

Students are working closely with their mentors on research projects focusing on aspects of Health Care Transformation, Biomedical Innovation, Global Health, and Education.

Through the remote internship program, interns are gaining experience in qualitative and quantitative research; receiving 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.



## Alexa Fahrer

Alexa Fahrer is a rising sophomore from Phoenix, Arizona. She plans on majoring in Public Policy and Statistics with a Certificate in Child Policy Research. At Duke University, Alexa is a Tour Guide, Senator of Campus Life in the Duke Student Government, committee executive in the Waste Audit, ambassador for Sustainable Duke, member of Club Tennis, and a member of the Statistical Science Majors Union. Outside of academics, Alexa loves to watch football and Duke basketball, play tennis and pickleball, read, watch movies, and spend time outside. This summer and next academic year, Alexa will be a team member of the Bass Connections project Policy Strategies for Child Maltreatment Prevention with Dr. Beth Gifford.



## Andrew Owens

Andrew Owens is a rising senior at Duke University majoring in Public Policy with a minor in Global Health. His academic studies have been focused on global health policy & ethics, business management, foreign policy, and environmental health policy. Recently, he has picked up Swahili as a new language. On campus, Andrew spends his time organizing meetings for Dating Devils, a non-profit he helped kickstart on campus, along with freelance debate coaching and tutoring. He is thrilled to be join the team at the Duke Margolis Center summer cohort. This summer, he will be working with Osondu Ogbuoji.



## Anna Tharakan

Anna is an undergraduate planning on studying Biology and Global Health, with a Chemistry Minor and a Health Policy Certificate. At Duke, Anna is the lead project coordinator for the Bass Connections "Closing the Gap on Hypertension" team and the Health Policy Week Director for the Student Collaborative on Health Policy. Anna works closely with the Duke Community Affairs office to inventory North Carolina food insecurity resources for low-income individuals and create a program to decrease food insecurity in the state. Anna volunteers at the Duke Hospital and is the Co-President of the Healthy Hands Initiative. Through Margolis, Anna hopes to develop a more extensive understanding of insurance coverage policy and telehealth support and its downstream impacts on hypertension and diabetes health in low-income patients. In the future, Anna plans to pursue an MD/MPH and hope to combine clinical practice with policymaking. This summer, Anna plans to continue working on her Bass Connections project with Dr. Granger and contribute towards Policy Implementation work with Dr. Spratt.





## Aubteen Pour-Biazar

Aubteen is a rising sophomore studying Public Policy Analysis at Duke University. Originally from Madison, Alabama, Aubteen is passionate about the intersection of science and policy, and committed to using evidence-based research to inform public policy decisions. On campus, Aubteen actively promoted public awareness and grassroots advocacy through his involvement as a campus ambassador for Free the Facts (a policy education non-profit), Freshman Class Vice-President, and the Youth Outreach Coordinator for The Alabama Channel, a tool that archives meetings of the Alabama State Legislature to promote transparency and accountability in state government. As a Margolis Intern, Aubteen has the unique opportunity to explore his interests in public health and health policy. He is eager to learn more about how policy can be used to address health disparities and promote health equity. This summer, through the Huang Fellows program, Aubteen will be working with Dr. Kate Bundorf.



## Audrey Landstreet

Audrey is a rising senior at Georgetown University majoring in healthcare management and policy and minoring in theology. She is interested in the process of crafting policy and has interned for a Federal government affairs firm as well as with the Cato Institute's Health Policy team and Center for Educational Freedom. At Georgetown, she is a consultant with DCivitas, a pro bono nonprofit consulting club that works with nonprofits and charity organizations in D.C., and the marketing director for Georgetown Women in Leadership. Outside of school, Audrey enjoys playing the piano, running, and listening to folk music. This summer, Audrey will be working on timely topics within the Health Care Transformation work stream with Frank McStay and Mark Japinga.



## Claire Hollowell

Claire Hollowell is a current junior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she studies Health Policy and Management in the Gillings School of Global Public Health, as well as Public Policy. Claire is particularly interested in exploring the ways in which policy can be used to address health disparities, including health outcomes and social determinants of health. Outside of the classroom, Claire serves as an advisor for the SHAC clinic, working to provide free health care to underserved populations in the community. Claire hopes to contribute to the conversation promoting value-based care and payment transformation while working on timely topics in North Carolina Medicaid transformation within the Health Care Transformation work stream with Dr. Rebecca Whitaker and Brianna Van Stekelenburg.



## Emily Zhen

Emily Zhen is a rising junior at Duke University majoring in Biology with minors in Economics and Global Health. She is interested in the intersection of healthcare and business, particularly how to achieve greater global health equity. At Duke, she is involved in research in the Medical Cognition Lab, Business Oriented Women's External Initiatives Committee, Duke's chapter of Camp Kesem, and the Student Dining Advisory Committee. In addition to her extracurricular commitments, Emily loves to dance, cook, and bake. This summer, she looks forward to working with the Center for Policy Impact in Global Health team to conduct research on rethinking global health multilateralism with Dr. Gavin Yamey.



## Evon Thompson

Evon Thompson is a rising senior at Harvard University studying Neuroscience with a secondary in Global Health and Health Policy. Motivated by his interests in the social determinants of health and passion for community-engaged research, Evon plans to pursue a career at the intersection of medicine and health policy. He is interested in multidisciplinary approaches for reforming health systems to be more accessible for underserved and vulnerable communities. At Harvard, Evon has contributed to several global health projects including socio-behavioral research on migrant-men HIV care engagement in South Africa, and pursued health policy fieldwork in Chile. This summer, Evon will explore community engagement and develop evidence-based recommendations for centering equity in North Carolina Medicaid's value-based payment design with Dr. Rebecca Whitaker and Yolande Pokam Tchuisseu.



## Gracie Blackburn

Gracie is rising senior at Duke University studying European history, creative writing, and child policy research. Gracie writes for a campus publication called "Crux" and is a leader in her campus ministry. Gracie is passionate about issues that affect children and families. Last semester, Gracie had the opportunity to work on a project to reduce barriers in the Durham Pre-K application process for families experiencing homelessness. Gracie is very excited to join the Policy Interventions in Child Maltreatment Prevention team with Dr. Beth Gifford.





## Jieyu Zhang

Jieyu Zhang is a graduate student in economics at Duke University. She is interested in health economics and policy, especially topics concerning medical reforms and healthcare transformation. During her undergraduate career, she was involved in a series of projects and research emphasizing policy analysis of medical reforms and evaluating the importance of health from a human capital stock perspective. Jieyu also gained exposure to real-world business cases within the private healthcare sector through her internship at a global pharmaceutical company. She is looking forward to continuing research in the field of health policy or seeking a position in policy analysis and market access in the private sector. This summer, Jieyu will be working on several projects with Dr. Rachele Hendricks-Sturup in the Real-World Evidence/Biomedical Innovation Work Stream.



## Matthew Nuzzolo

Matthew Nuzzolo is a rising junior studying at Duke University from Yardley, Pennsylvania. He is majoring in Biology with a concentration in Cell and Molecular Biology and minoring in Global Health and Chemistry. At Duke University, Matthew is involved in the Student Collaborative on Health Policy (SCOHP) where he served as the Sponsorship Chair on the planning committee for the 2023 Duke-Margolis Health Policy Case Competition. He is also the Treasurer of the Duke Journal for Health Equity and an incoming Bass Connections Fellow working on developing a roadmap for goals of care conversations at Duke Health. This summer, Matthew will be working this summer with Dr. Susan Spratt to assess how the Duke ACO oversees quality metrics and implements change at the patient, provider, and informatics level to improve health related social needs.



## Neha Shaw

Neha is an rising junior at Duke University from Houston, TX, majoring in biology and global health. She finds herself gravitating toward understanding how social sciences, humanities and STEM connect within medicine and public health, particularly regarding epidemiological and cancer trends across the globe, and her academic interests focus on pathogenicity at the molecular level, the influence of human behavior on transmission, and broader structural causes of disease spread. Outside of academics, she loves writing (for publications on campus and at leisure), hiking, all things Duke basketball, and playing her cello. This summer, Neha's focus is on use of real-world evidence and data in application to biomedical innovation policy with Dr. Hendricks Sturup.



## Pearl Teiko

Pearl Teiko is an incoming MPP student at the Duke Sanford School of Public Policy. Pearl graduated from UNC Chapel Hill in May 2023 with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy with a Health and Society minor. In her time at UNC, Pearl developed her analytical skills as a research assistant for Dr. Tonia Poteat on the LITE Plus project, an NIH-funded study that observes the effects of minority stress on transgender women of color. She also became active in politics as a Senate Intern in the office of Senator Jay Chaudhuri (NC-15), where she connected with state legislators to gain a working knowledge of the policymaking process. In the future, she hopes to work alongside lawmakers and policy practitioners to improve public health through innovative policy analysis and implementation. During her internship at Duke-Margolis, she will be working on the North Carolina Integrated Care for Kids Project under the direction of Dr. Rushina Cholera and Sarah Allin to strengthen integrated care models and holistically address health disparities for children and families across the state.



## Remi Shendell

Remi is a rising senior at Emory University double-majoring in Biology and Political Science. As an Undergraduate Research Fellow for the Emory Center for Law and Social Sciences, Remi works on research assessing how MPH programs teach political concepts related to public health. She previously interned in the Care Coordination unit of a non-profit health system, and is passionate about how policy can improve health care affordability and quality. Remi hopes to attend law school and combine her passion for public health, science, and law to improve health care access and health justice for communities and individuals. This summer, Remi is working with the Dure Kim, PharmD and the Biomedical Innovation group in Washington, DC on drug development, surveillance, and regulation.



## Sai Harshith Rachakonda

Sai is a rising Senior 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 personalized care models, implementation of novel health technologies, and health system reform strategies. Sai is involved patient education and clinical research projects as an intern at the Center for Personalized Healthcare, primary care policy review research through Margolis, and a palliative care project through Bass Connections. Additionally, Sai is the Co-Chair of Community-facing committee of the Student Collaborative on Health Policy (SCOHP) helping to facilitate programs to tie local policy-based and public health based organizations to a Duke student workforce to propel impact. Outside of Duke, he works as a Medical Scribe at the NC Heart and Vascular Hospital in Raleigh. In his free time, Sai loves going to the gym, kicking back with friends, and enjoying music production. This summer, Sai will be working with Dr. Anna Hung on her *Decision Aid* research project.





## Talia West

Talia West is from Agoura Hills, California. At Duke University, Talia plans to major in Public Policy, minor in Education, and pursue a certificate in Child Policy. Talia is involved in Jewish Life at Duke, America Reads America Counts (a program through which she teaches in Durham public schools), and club soccer. A long time teaching assistant, Talia spent hundreds of hours in classrooms across the country, an experience that has informed her education policy career aspirations. In her free time, Talia loves listening to The Daily and reading post-apocalyptic fiction. This summer, Talia will be working on a new Bass Connections team, Policy Strategies in Child Maltreatment with Dr. Beth Gifford.



## Oluwatumilara (Tumi) Akeke

Tumi is a Master of Public Health in Health Policy student at the Gillings School of Global Public Health. She graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 2022 with a BSc (Hons.) in Biochemistry. As a cancer control, health policy, and health equity advocate, Tumi is interested in ways we can use policy creation, analysis, and reform to improve access to, and outcomes from, cancer care for underserved populations in her home country, Nigeria. Tumi currently works as a graduate research assistant at the Lineberger Cancer Center, conducting research on two different projects. One which is focused on ways to improve the representation of black cancer patients in clinical trials, and another focused on how we can improve shared decision making between cancer patients and their providers. This summer, Tumi will be working with Dr. Deepshikha Ashana to identify barriers to shared decision making between clinicians and the families of black critically ill patients.



## Velda Wang

Velda Wang is a rising third-year student majoring in public policy and neuroscience. She is interested in health policy and health economics, specifically in the fields of health inequities and creating more affordable, equitable access to care. This summer, Velda will be working with Dr. Kate Bundorf, Margolis Core Faculty, and from Sanford School of Public Policy.





## Vibhav Nandagiri

Vibhav Nandagiri is an undergraduate Margolis Scholar majoring in Biology and International Comparative Studies with a Health Policy certificate at Duke University. Through a Bass Connections team at the Margolis Center, he researches barriers and facilitators to improve access to mental and behavioral health care for Spanish-speaking youth in North Carolina. He also serves as a research intern at NC Integrated Care for Kids analyzing food insecurity screening practices and payment incentivization at pediatric clinics. Outside of his health policy work, Vibhav spends his time travelling and competing for Duke Club Tennis and writing for local news organizations. In the future, Vibhav plans to pursue an MD/MPH and hopes to combine future clinical practice with policymaking. This summer, Vibhav will contribute towards timely topics within the Health Care Transformation work stream with Dr. Will Bleser.



## You (Lucine) Wu

You Wu is a rising senior at Duke Kunshan University who majors in Global Health with a track in Public Policy. Her research interest includes health policy, social drivers of health, and universal health coverage. In China, she works with Dr. Lijing Yan and conducts in-field research to assess community efficacy for non-communicable disease management. At Duke University, she works with the "Policy Surveillance of Universal Health Coverage Financing in Developing Countries" Bass Connection Team and monitors the progress in universal health coverage. She is now conducting a systematic review to identify factors for agenda-setting and political prioritization for child health in low- and middle-income countries. This summer, You Wu will work with Dr. Mina Silberberg to examine the social drivers of health in a community setting.





## Duke-Margolis Summer Experience Program Team

### Dr. Dev Sangvai

#### Faculty Director

Devdutta Sangvai, MD, MBA is President, Duke Regional Hospital, and Vice President for Duke Population Health Management, Duke University Health System. Dr. Sangvai is also professor of family medicine, pediatrics, and psychiatry at the Duke University School of Medicine and professor in the Program in Education at Duke University.

In addition to his work at Duke, Dr. Sangvai is significantly involved in leadership and organized medicine both locally and nationally. He has served as president of the North Carolina Medical Society (NCMS), and served as the chair of the young physician's section of the American Medical Association (AMA). Dr. Sangvai has also served in national roles with the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). He has been a member of the North Carolina Medical Care Commission and currently serves on the North Carolina Medical Board.

Dr. Sangvai graduated from the Ohio State University and received his M.D. from the Medical College of Ohio, where he also completed his family medicine and chief residencies. He earned his M.B.A. from the Duke University Fuqua School of Business. Dr. Sangvai is a certified physician executive with the American College of Physician Executives (ACPE) and fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). He has received national recognition as Presidential Leadership Scholar by Library/Foundation of Presidents George W. Bush and William J. Clinton for potential to have impact on community and society.

### Tiffany Chan

#### Program Coordinator

Tiffany Chan, MS, is the Program Coordinator, where she works to support and advance the educational experience across the Center and for undergraduate students, in particular. Tiffany oversees day-to-day operations of the Duke Margolis Summer Experience Program and administrative functions for Duke Bass Connections teams sponsored by Duke-Margolis. For the majority of her professional career, Tiffany worked primarily with traditional undergraduate within Student Affairs. Prior coming to Duke-Margolis, Tiffany worked in the Orientation and Student Conduct Offices at Brandeis University and then worked at NC State University where she was the primary lead for all programmatic efforts of two Living Learning Communities for University Housing. Outside of Duke, Tiffany serves as the Chapter President for UNCW Triangle Alumni Chapter and a member of the Junior League of Raleigh. She enjoys spending time with her husband, watching college sports and seeks out the best coffee spots in the Triangle area.





## Summer 2023 Mentors

Anna Hung

Beth Gifford

Beth Shaz

Bradi Granger

Brianna Van Stekelenburg

Carmen Alban

Deepshikha Ashana

Dure Kim

Frank McStay

Gavin Yamey

Kate Bundorf

Mark Japinga

Megan Golonka

Mina Silberberg

Rachele Hendricks Sturup

Rebecca Whitaker

Rob Saunders

Rushina Cholera

Sarah Allin

Susan Spratt

Will Bleser

Yolande Pokam Tchuisseu

## Mentor Acknowledgment

Mentors, thank you for taking the time this summer to support the 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.