



**Doctor of Public Health
Student Biographies
2015-2016**



The Doctor of Public Health degree is for exceptional individuals with exceptional knowledge and skills to drive change and make a difference on the front lines of health, anywhere in the world.

We are pleased to introduce our second class of 27 DrPH candidates, known as the Cohort 2, who boast a broad range of accomplishments but a single goal: to lead organizations that will help people live longer, healthier lives. Cohort 2 is made up of an extraordinary group of talented and diverse candidates from across the United States and around the world.



Lead.

Change.

DrPH



Emily Veysey Abraham

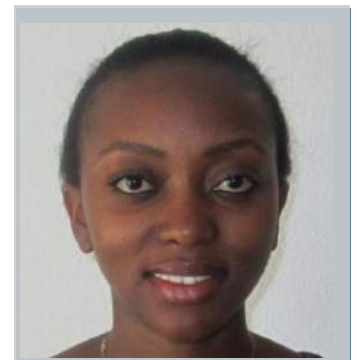
BS in Human
Development, Cornell
University

Emily Veysey Abraham is a Doctor of Public Health candidate at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Previously, she was Associate Project Director at Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), where she managed the instructional design and development of a portfolio of substance abuse prevention products—including self-paced online courses, interactive online toolkits, evidence-based decision-support tools, and training and technical assistance briefs—for a national, SAMHSA-funded substance abuse prevention project. In her substance abuse work, she focused on the non-medical use of prescription drugs, opioid overdose prevention, underage drinking, youth marijuana use, data-driven strategic planning, and culturally based prevention programming.

In her eight years at EDC, Emily served as product manager, project manager, and researcher for a variety of grants and contracts—funded by SAMHSA, CDC, DOJ, WHO, and Hewlett Packard—on such topics as HIV/AIDS prevention, mental health promotion, youth violence prevention, community-based rehabilitation for people with disabilities, delinquency prevention, and entrepreneurship education. She is committed to underserved populations, with specific expertise working with the homeless population in Cambridge, MA; American Indian and Alaska Native youth; low-income Latino youth; and low-income Thai youth. Prior to working for EDC, Emily worked for NGOs specializing in HIV/AIDS prevention and diabetes prevention. She has worked in the Boston area, New York City, Bangkok, and Washington, DC. Emily received a Bachelor of Science degree in human development from Cornell University.

Dr. Mamka Anyona is a registered dental surgeon in Kenya with a Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Nairobi with 3 years of experience working in hospitals within the public health sector. Dr. Anyona also obtained a Master of International Health degree from the University of Copenhagen in 2013 within which she focused on non-communicable diseases prevention and control policy. She has interned at the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe in the Division for Non-communicable Diseases and Life Course after which she has been involved in the establishment of the Non-communicable Diseases Research to Policy Unit for the Aga Khan University, East Africa.

Dr. Anyona's career interests are in health policy and politics with a focus on health system reform and global health governance. She hopes to acquire and improve her skills and knowledge in health policy and economics, health systems financing, and decision and implementation science.



Mamka Anyona

Master of
International Health,
University of
Copenhagen

BS Dental Surgery,
University of Nairobi,
Kenya



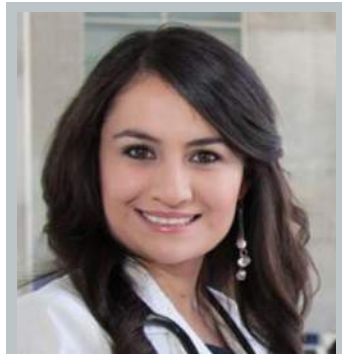
Seciah Aquino

MS in Global Medicine,
University of Southern
California

BS in Health Promotion
and Disease Prevention,
University of Southern
California

Seciah Aquino was born in Guatemala City and immigrated to the United States at the age of ten. She grew up in Los Angeles, California alongside her beautiful family. Seciah's training in public health began when she was only five years old, as she was exposed to medical missions and the amazing impact they had in rural Guatemalan pueblos. Thereafter, the trials of life as an immigrant refined and shaped her leadership abilities. Through life experience, she has been blessed to learn firsthand how to stand up for the voiceless, how to provide for the needy, and how to speak up for the rights of the destitute. Seciah graduated from the University of Southern California in 2013 with a B.S in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and a M.S in Global Medicine. After graduation she joined the USC Division of Dental Public Health and Community Health Programs and served as a promoter and program assistant for the Children's Health and Maintenance Program. During her time there she provided encompassing oral health education for community members and leaders, health professionals, teachers, families and children. In addition, she was instrumental in communicating and establishing partnerships with school districts, early childcare centers and other head start programs, by setting up Memorandums of Understanding. In a single sitting she was blessed to set up the provision of preventative oral health services for more than a thousand kids. Seciah is determined to successfully revolutionize healthcare in the United States and ultimately the world. In her free time Seciah loves sailing, hiking, watching musicals, attending opera and classical music performances, exploring museums, reading, attending church and volunteering her time to help the needy.

Jafet Arrieta currently serves as Faculty for the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), and as Project Manager for the Latin American Consortium for Innovation, Quality and Safety in Health Care's leading the implementation of multi-country quality improvement collaborative aimed at reducing the incidence of healthcare-associated infections in Latin American. She is a founding member of the CLICSS. She also serves as Health and Policy Advisor for Partners Health's Mental Health Department. Jafet is a prospective student in the Harvard Chan School of Public Health Doctor of Public Health program. She is interested in the study, design and implementation of systematic and evidence-based approaches to strengthen healthcare systems to improve the access, coverage and quality of care in resource-limited settings. Jafet previously served as Director of Operations for Compañeros en Salud (CES), Partners In Health sister organization in Mexico. Jafet holds a medical degree from Tecnologico de Monterrey School of Medicine, a Master of Medical Sciences in Global Health Delivery degree from Harvard Medical School and certificates inequality improvement and leadership from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. She has given several lectures on quality improvement and global health in the United States and Latin America.



Jafet Arrieta

MD, Tecnologico
School of
Medicine

MS, Harvard
Medical School



Nazmim Bhuiya

MPH, Columbia

BS Biology,
Brandeis University

BA Economics,
Brandeis University

Nazmim Bhuiya has worked as a Research and Evaluation Project Manager for the past 5 years at the Institute for Community Health, a non-profit research and consulting organization based in Cambridge, MA. There, she worked on projects that ranged in content areas including teen pregnancy prevention, mental health, regionalization of public health services, and emergency preparedness. Prior to her most recent position, she interned at the New York City Department of Health working on the Bronx-wide HIV Testing Initiative and also at the International Center for AIDS Care & Treatment Program (ICAP) evaluating CD4 testing programs in select HIV clinics in Kenya. She holds a MPH in Sociomedical Sciences from Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University and a BS in Biology and BA in Economic from Brandeis University. Nazmim is interested in adolescent health and would like to engage young people in participatory research and evaluation that is grounded in youth development principles to understand health issues through their lens. Her long-term goal is to develop policies reducing public health inequities and breaking the continuous generational cycle of poverty. Her long-term goal is to develop policies reducing public health inequities and breaking the continuous generational cycle of poverty.

Originally from Hann Münden, Germany, Christine graduated from Rice University in 2011 with a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology and minors in Global Health Technologies and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Christine completed fieldwork for her medical anthropology honors thesis on medical pluralism and eye care in India in 2010. Throughout her time at Rice she worked with refugee youth as president of the Partnership for the Advancement and Immersion of Refugees (PAIR). After graduation Christine moved to Burundi to work as a Princeton in Africa Fellow at the Lutheran World Federation – Department for World Service, monitoring and evaluating key indicators, conducting interviews for qualitative data reports, and developing logical frameworks and project proposals for refugee repatriation initiatives. She decided to stay in the region and started working for One Acre Fund, an agricultural microfinance organization, in Rwanda after completing the fellowship. Christine spent the last three years in Finance and Operations, managing the microcredit repayment processes for over 100,000 clients, totaling more than \$3 million in annual revenue. In the future Christine is interested in combining her interests in refugee health and agriculture/nutrition to improve the well being of refugees worldwide.



Christine Bohne

BA Cultural
Anthropology, Rice
University



Vanessa Brizuela

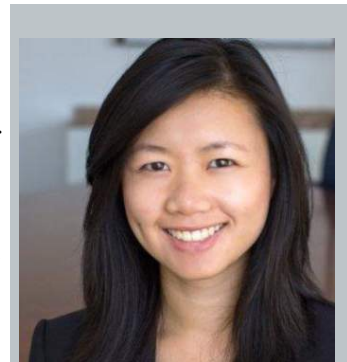
MA in Health
Education,
Columbia University

BS/MS Psychology,
Buenos Aires National
University, Argentina

Vanessa Brizuela is a Licensed Psychologist from Argentina (Licenciada en Psicología, Universidad de Buenos Aires, 2000), where she grew up, and holds an MA in Health Education from Teachers College/Columbia University (2005). She has been working in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) for the past 10 years in different cities and countries. She worked for Columbia University School of Public Health's School-based Health Center (SBHC) program coordinating health education programs and training city-wide providers in adolescent SRH. In 2008 she volunteered for a small NGO in Ghana developing educational SRH programs. In 2009 she moved to Jamaica where she developed training programs on HIV-related issues for a network of centers throughout the Caribbean. In 2010 she relocated to Buenos Aires where she worked as an independent consultant for schools, NGOs, and international organizations such as FEIM (Fundación para el Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer), UNICEF, Fundación Huésped and CEDES dealing with projects in SRH and maternal and child health. As a DrPH, Vanessa hopes to continue working in SRH leading global and/or regional initiatives aimed at reducing inequity, fostering women empowerment, and ensuring better reproductive health outcomes for women, men, and young people.

Tiffany joined the DrPH program after several years advising health systems and hospital-employed medical groups on strategy and management issues with a Washington DC-based health care technology and consulting firm. During this time, she developed expertise on topics including maximizing use of multidisciplinary care teams, improving ambulatory patient experience, and managing price-sensitive consumers. While gaining experience in the U.S. health care industry and regulations, she developed an interest in policy, especially health care financing, on health care access, quality, and costs.

Tiffany graduated cum laude from Wellesley College with degrees in Psychology and Economics. As an undergraduate, she developed an interest in public health from a social justice perspective, particularly equitable access to health services. These led her to internship experiences that included developing an Asian immigrant-focused mental health clinic in Oakland's Chinatown and laying the groundwork for an alternative therapy program at the Chinese Hospital in San Francisco. In addition, she gained field experience researching urban development in Mumbai, India.



Tiffany Chan

BA Psychology,
Wellesley College

BS Economics,
Wellesley College



Claire Chaumont

Master of Finance and Strategy, Sciences Po Paris, France

Double Masters in Health Policy Planning and Financing, London School of Economics and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Claire Chaumont was a researcher and manager in the Centre of Health Systems Research (CISS) at the National Institute of Public Health of Mexico (INSP) in Mexico from 2011 to 2015. In this position, she managed a multi-country study funded by the Gates Foundation on the costs and efficiency of HIV interventions in sub-Saharan Africa. In parallel, she also worked as an independent consultant, leading health-financing projects for UNFPA, ITPC and Futures group. Previous to this role, Claire worked as a management consultant and for NGOs and international organizations in Asia, Australia and Europe. Her previous projects mostly focused on hospital management, health systems strengthening and health financing. Claire has a joint MSc. degree in Health Policy Planning and Financing from the London School of Economics (LSE) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and a MSc. Degree in Finance and Strategy from the Paris Institute of Political Sciences (Sciences Po Paris). After the DrPH, Claire wishes to work on policy design and implementation, either for an international organization, a bilateral agency or a foundation. She would like to continue working on topics related health financing and health systems strengthening for low and middle-income countries. Claire is particularly interested in topics related to universal health coverage, health in all policies as well as implementation and management sciences.

Since 2007, Yang has been working for UNDP China Office responsible for the strategic planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation of UNDP's development program in China, with a focus on Disaster Risk Management Before joining the UN, she worked on HIV/AIDS prevention and control at China's national Center of Disease Control, with earlier experience working in private sector and the military. Yang holds a master degree in International Community Health from the University of Oslo in Norway. Through the DrPH program, Yang hopes to enhance her leadership skills, and pursuit approach of integrating knowledge, technology and innovations to improve global and national health governance, performance of health systems as well as health investment in developing countries. The learning experience would be a great asset for her future pursuit of career development in international/national organizations.



Yang Fang

MPhil International Community Health, University of Oslo, Norway

BA Literature and Culture, PLA Foreign Language University, Luoyang, China



Joseph Fitchett

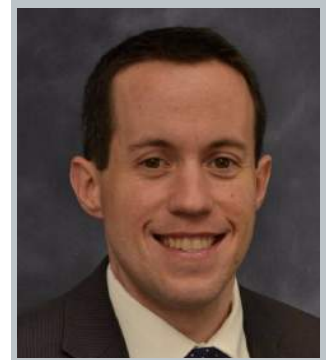
MBBS Medicine,
Imperial College School
of Medicine, London

MA BioethicsSt.
Mary's University
College, London

BSc Global Health,
Imperial College School
of Public Health,
London and Tropical
Medicine

Joseph is a clinical research fellow, working with Professor Liz Corbett to pilot community-led implementation of active TB case finding and HIV self-testing in urban Blantyre and Harare. Previously, he worked as coordinator of the TB Centre at LSHTM (2012-2013) and as a junior doctor at St Thomas' Hospital (2013-2015). His interests include infectious disease epidemiology, media and global health, and the impact of investments in health research. Joseph is co-founder of the Global Health Film, initiative (www.globalhealthfilm.org) and RESIN: Research Investments in Global Health (www.researchinvestments.org), both supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. These initiatives have established first Global Health Film Festival, the Global Health Film Lab, and Film Fellows programme.

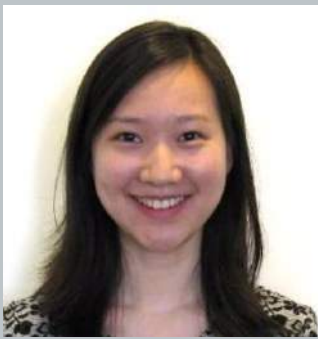
Jeff Glenn worked most recently as a Public Health Advisor in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office of International Cancer Control. After joining CDC as a Presidential Management Fellow, Jeff helped establish the agency's global cancer program by providing overall strategic leadership and by building partnerships with international organizations and ministries of health to implement projects related to cancer surveillance, cancer screening, and health systems strengthening. Jeff's main areas of interest are in the political and organizational dimensions of health systems in low-resource settings, and in enhancing connections between public health research, policy, and practice. He is also interested in innovative approaches to improving health for refugee and migrant populations. Jeff holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Southern California and a BA in International Relations from Brigham Young University. He is a native of Salt Lake City, UT and enjoys spending time outdoors and traveling with his wife, Kathryn, and their two children.



Jeff Glenn

MPA, University of
Southern
California

BA International
Relations,
Brigham Young
University



Jenny Hsi

BA Molecular Biology,
Princeton University

Jenny Hsi is interested in policy, advocacy, and public education for tobacco control and preventative health in China. She most recently worked for three years in Beijing, first at the China CDC on HIV/AIDS molecular epidemiology research, and then at the International Union Against TB and Lung Diseases on tobacco control research and policy. She believes that China's rising NCD epidemic requires proactive interventions by strengthening prevention-oriented health systems and changing public attitudes towards key issues such as smoking. She hopes to return to China following completion of the DrPH program and work to push for better health systems and tobacco control policies. Jenny grew up in Taiwan (ROC) and Vancouver, Canada. She is fully fluent in English and Mandarin Chinese.

A world traveler, Tyeisha Jackson has lived on three continents and visited over 20 nations. Through her experiences as founder of a student non-profit, healthcare administrator and teacher in inner-city Oakland, she has developed a fire for ending global health and educational inequity. Tyeisha dreams of one day leading emergency preparedness and response teams to aide governments, communities, and families in preventing and limiting the deleterious effects of epidemics, natural disasters, armed conflict, and exclusion from healthcare. Tyeisha graduated with high distinction from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with degrees in Biology & Biotechnology. She is a credentialed secondary science educator and trained First Responder and Basic Disaster Life Support provider. In her free time, Tyeisha enjoys reading, playing soccer, dancing and traveling. She loves exploring new cultures, particularly through cuisine. An active member of her community, Tyeisha coordinates an after-school tutoring/mentoring program at Roxbury Prep Charter School, and coordinates community engagement opportunities for local students through HSPH's Student-Community Action Partnership. She currently works as an interviewer for Teach for America and research assistant at Harvard Humanitarian Initiative



Tyeisha Jackson

BS Biology and
Biotechnology,
Worcester
Polytechnic
Institute



Jonathan Jay

JD, Georgetown University

MA Philosophy, Georgetown University

BA Ethics & Political Policy, Brown University

Jon studies innovative strategies in global health and development, including urban health initiatives, social/development impact bonds, and food systems interventions as a doctoral candidate at Harvard Chan. He is trained as a lawyer and bioethicist. Previously, Jon was Sr. Manager for Strategic Initiatives at Management Sciences for Health (MSH), where he helped launch new public-private partnerships in global health. Jon also spearheaded MSH's advocacy for health reforms in developing countries aimed at universal health coverage (UHC). He was Coordinator of Health for All Post-2015, a global civil society campaign for UHC in the post-MDG framework. Jon's written work has been published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, PLOS Medicine, the Lancet and other journals. Prior to joining MSH, Jon worked closely with Ambassador Mark Dybul as primary writer on a report on sustainable, high-value U.S. investments in global health. He also served as a staff bioethicist advising the Division of AIDS (National Institutes of Health) on HIV research ethics.

Jackie Kaslow most recently served as the Director of the Family and Community Health Services Department at the California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB). CRIHB is one of the oldest tribally sanctioned health agencies in California. Its primary function to act in the capacity of Indian Health Services headquarters for member tribes providing operational support to clinic systems including technical assistance, quality improvement and training. Additional functions included implementation and evaluation of public health programs and services in tribal communities. Ms. Kaslow was responsible for oversight of the day-to-day department operations, which administered and delivered approximately 6 million in annual budgeted services and programs. These included health service types ranging from education and social marketing to clinical intervention. In addition, she represented tribal interests to local, state and Federal governmental agencies and regulatory bodies. She received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of California at Los Angeles. She has a master's degree in Public Health and completed additional graduate level studies in Oral Biology & Medicine. Her specific research and programming interests are on the social determinants of health in Indigenous populations related and the potential impact of the emergence of tribal self-governance. Traditional community based health practices and is interested in the combined use of these with evidence-based methods to address disparities and sustain improved health outcomes.



Angela 'Jackie' Kaslow

MPH, University of California, Los Angeles

BA English & Geography, California, Los Angeles



Shoshanna Levine

MPH, Columbia
University

BA Psychology, George
Washington University

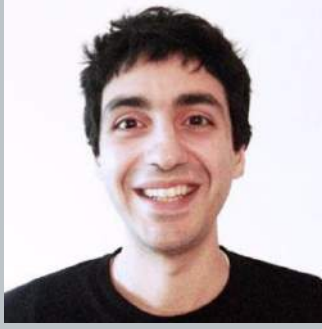
Shoshanna Levine joins the Harvard DrPH program from the Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS), the primary care association for the state of New York, where she was the Clinical Quality Improvement Program Manager. During her time at CHCANYS Shoshanna led the CDC funded New York State Cancer Screening Registry Learning Collaborative Project, aimed at increasing cancer screening in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) through a combination of broad systems changes and the use of tools built into a new statewide data warehouse. Before joining CHCANYS, Shoshanna received her MPH from Columbia University in the Health Promotion track, where her master's thesis focused on social support and quality of life for stroke survivors in a community support group. Working with this group for her thesis and as part of her practicum sparked her passion for working with vulnerable populations. Also during her master's program, Shoshanna interned at Komen Greater NYC, working with community programs providing education, screening, and support and treatment to women in the Greater New York City area. Prior to her time at Columbia, Shoshanna worked at the NIH as a research assistant working on stroke treatment and neuroimaging. Her interests include primary care and prevention, systems transformation and innovation, and community health centers.

Lavinia was born in Romania and grew up in the sunny Southern California town of Loma Linda, about an hour east of Los Angeles. As an undergraduate at Harvard College, she majored in the History of Science (specifically within the Medicine & Society track), with a minor in Global Health & Health Policy. Through her senior honors thesis tracing the history of institutionalized state care for orphaned and abandoned children in Romania, Lavinia combined her overlapping interests in the history of medicine, children's health and human rights, and quality of care analyses. Since college, Lavinia has worked with a department of public health in the largest U.S. County where she contributed to launching a novel collective impact initiative towards health improvement in a traditionally medically under-served region. She also served a year as an AmeriCorps member, assisting low-income LA-area residents in obtaining health coverage as part of the ACA's first open enrollment period. Prior to beginning the DrPH program at Harvard, Lavinia piloted a care coordination program for liver patients within the UCLA Health system, piquing her interest in quality improvement and healthcare management. In the future, Lavinia would like to work in extending access to quality healthcare for low-income children and youth, particularly children in the care of the state.



Lavinia Mitroi

BA History of
Science, Harvard
University



Sana Mostaghim

BA Business Administration, University of Western Ontario, Canada

Sana Mostaghim joins the DrPH program from the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), where he most recently served as the Associate Director of TB Access programs. In this role he led the design and implementation of CHAI's global Tuberculosis Access strategy, which involved managing a ~\$5 million USD programmatic budget, a team of 6 global staff and 8 country programs (in Ethiopia, India, Lesotho, Myanmar, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, and Vietnam) and senior partner relationships. The team implemented interventions that have strengthened supply chain systems for TB medicines in these countries, as well as facilitated price reductions of over 50% for key anti-TB medicines in the global donor-funded marketplace. Sana joined CHAI and lived in New Delhi from 2010 until 2013, when he moved to be based out of CHAI's headquarters in Boston. He currently lives in Brookline with his wife Jaleh. Before CHAI, Sana worked as a management consultant in Canada with a focus on the electricity distribution and retail industries. His role as a researcher for UNDP's "Growing Inclusive Business Models" initiative in 2007 fostered his overarching passion for the alignment of private sector and human development interests. Sana holds a BA with Distinction from the Richard Ivey School of Business in Canada.

Sadiya Muqueeth is a first-year DrPH student. She was a 2012 Public Health Prevention Service Fellow with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on a two-year field placement with the Baltimore City Health Department where she managed the Preventing Substance Exposed Pregnancies Coalition (PSEP). PSEP aims to reduce the impact of tobacco, alcohol, and drug use on maternal and infant health. Under Sadiya's leadership, PSEP membership, programmatic efforts, and financial support have grown substantially. Sadiya secured funds from CVS Health and worked with the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs develop a social marketing campaign to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke. She also completed a formative research study on reproductive health needs in substance use disorder treatment centers, which supported the launch of a pilot project integrating reproductive health services in three centers. During the first year of her fellowship at CDC, Sadiya focused on messaging and policy analysis for the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP), specifically the non-communicable disease program. She also evaluated products developed to improve healthy community design nationally. While earning her Masters of Public Health from University of North Carolina –Chapel Hill, Sadiya worked on community-based participatory research studies and a student consultant group focused on improving a sexual and reproductive health education program for Latino youth.



Sadiya Muqueeth

MPH, University of North Carolina

BA Public Health Studies, Johns Hopkins University



Sanam Roder-DeWan

Residency, Lawrence
Family Medicine

MD, University of
Pennsylvania

BA African Studies and
Nutrition, University of
Pennsylvania

Sanam is a family physician with a clinical and programmatic focus on the continuum of patient experiences surrounding birth - family planning, prenatal, perinatal, newborn, and early childhood care. She is interested in linking the integration of these services to better maternal, newborn, and child health outcomes especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Sanam is also interested in community participation in problem solving, program planning, program implementation, and evaluation. She has nearly two decades of experience applying a variety of participatory methodologies in impoverished communities in the U.S., sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and is now interested in learning how to scale participatory programs for the poor and improving morbidity and mortality by incorporating the voices of end-users. Sanam spent the last four years as the Medical Director of Maternal Child Health and Group Visits at Codman Square Health Center in Boston overseeing prenatal care, family planning, and a robust group medical visit program. During this time she created, piloted and tested a trauma-informed group visit curriculum for mothers and babies. She is committed to delivering high quality care at the community level and has spent nine years working in community health centers in Urban America with brief experiences in Botswana, Kenya, Nicaragua, Ghana, and Haiti. Her patients are primarily recent immigrants from the Caribbean and Latin America or minority Americans. She is a half-Iranian, half-Swiss immigrant to the United States and speaks Swiss-German, Farsi, and Spanish. She would like to return to East Africa after her graduate studies.

Naomi is currently an Engagement Manager in the Health and International Development teams at Strategy& (formerly Booz and Company and PwC). Over the last four years she has worked on a variety of projects, which focused around three key areas: (1) regulatory strategy for Moitor, the UK's sector regulator for healthcare; (2) provider strategy for healthcare providers; (3) and programme management for multi-country, multi-million pound development programmes. These have varied in scale, from working on a secondment model to managing large teams on a £341 million programme. Four projects have been particularly significant: ·Ebola response: advising with King's Health Partners (a partnership between King's College London 3 UK Foundation Trusts/healthcare providers) to support their response to the Ebola outbreak in Freetown, Sierra Leone. ·Social Health Insurance System Design: supporting the Supreme Council of Health in Qatar, to design a regulatory system to enable healthcare provision for migrant workers. DFID Private Sector Development: working on the UK Department for International Development's Business Innovation Facility, which aims to identify ways in which private sector organizations can be leveraged to support development outcomes.



Naomi Rupasinghe

MA Human Rights
and Public Health,
Columbia University

BA Modern History,
Oxford University



Meghan
Venable-Thomas

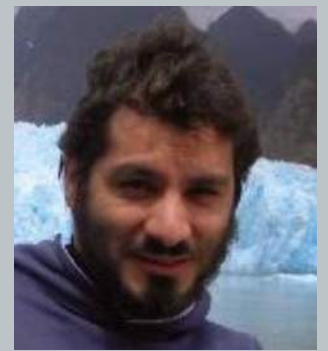
MPH, Columbia
University

MA Human Resource
Management, Webster
University

BS Chinese and
Spanish, United States
Military Academy at
West Point

Meghan Venable-Thomas is a May 2015, Masters of Public Health Management graduate from Columbia Mailman School of Public Health. Most recently she completed an internship as a social media marketing coordinator for the launch of Now Cure Me, a health tech startup at the Columbia startup lab. While pursuing her masters she also completed an internship with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center as a Strategy and Operations Consultant, managing marketing and operations for a premiere Complex and Advanced Skin Cancer Program. Additionally, Meghan serves as a Captain and Human Resource Director with the 369th Sustainment Brigade of the New York National Guard. Meghan previously served as a Diversity Admissions Officer for the West Point Directorate of Admissions. Additionally, she directed the Inside Out Mentorship Program, an initiative focused on developing at-risk students through mentorship by West Point cadets. Meghan attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chinese and Spanish, was awarded Female Athlete of the Class of 2007 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Adjutant General's Corps. She was assigned to the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas. There she served as the Brigade S-1, Brigade Strength Manager, and the 163d Military Intelligence Battalion S-1. Additionally, she deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 09-11. She was awarded the Adjutant General Officer of the Year for 2010-2011.

Pablo Villalobos Dintrans is a Chilean economist. He received his BA in economics and business, as well as a MA in economics and public policy from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, and MA in economics from Boston University. He has more than five years of working experience, mainly in public policy. He has worked in the public sector (Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Finance), as well as independent consultant and lecturer at several universities in Chile. Before starting the DrPH program, he worked at the Budget Office (Chilean Ministry of Finance) evaluating public programs and institutions. His research interests are focused on public policy issues, such as educational, labor market and health policies.



Pablo Villalobos

MA Economics,
Boston University MA
Public Policy,
Pontificia Universidad
Catolica, Chile

BA Business
Administration,
Universidad Católica
Chile



Mary Wesley

MPH, University of
Alabama at Birmingham

BS Biology, Prairie View
A&M University

Mary Wesley is an epidemiologist with experiences working in a state health department, at several universities—and also as a middle school science teacher. While at the Mississippi State Department of Health, she led a grant to enhance the state’s Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), a job that involved fieldwork in both urban and rural areas working with local community organizations to collect data about pregnancy from recent mothers who were primarily members of minority populations. Working on the ground in the community gave her an appreciation for the individuals who comprise the populations that are the focus of public health research and made her more invested in becoming a leader in the field. Mary has published or presented more than nine papers and 21 research abstracts on maternal health, gastrointestinal health, and health disparities and has taught or mentored students in high school as well as undergraduate and graduate students. With her combination of a rigorous research background and firsthand experience working with youth, she observed the need for intervention in young people’s lives and wants to address adolescent health issues to empower young people to take charge of their lives.

Chris was born in and calls New Orleans, Louisiana home. Aside from a brief sojourn to north Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina, he attended Benjamin Franklin High School and was an active member of the drama club and various other extra curricular activities. He attended Carnegie Mellon University for his Bachelor’s in Information Systems with a minor in History and a concentration in Health Information Systems, graduating in 2011. While at Carnegie Mellon, Chris continued his extracurricular interest in the theatre. He also was a teaching assistant for two classes and worked for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions for three years. In his time between semesters, Chris had internships with The National World War II Museum in New Orleans as an IT Intern, and with Johnson and Johnson in their IT Shared Services division.

Since graduating, Chris has worked at Deloitte Consulting in their Public Sector Technology practice. His interests in Public Health are primarily related to using information systems to enhance quality of care at a population level. Specifically, he is interested in technology innovation and “intrapreneurship” in Public Health and in health systems.



Chris Wheelahan

BS Information
Systems, Carnegie
Mellon University



Kuanysh Yergaliyev

MD, Kazakh National
Medical University,
Kazakhstan

MPH, Tulane University

BEd Karaganda
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