

## 2020-2021 Global Health Student Advisory Committee

### Committee Members

- Bill Effah, Brown School – Chair
- Rama Balasubramaniam, McKelvey School of Engineering – Vice Chair
- Ananya Benegal, McKelvey School of Engineering
- Blake Sells, School of Medicine
- Hailey Spaeth, Arts & Sciences
- Kayla Wallace, Arts & Sciences
- Nina Crosby Walton, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts

### Bios

**Rama Balasubramaniam** is a senior studying biomedical engineering and anthropology. She is passionate about applying her engineering background to solve global health challenges and promoting campus-wide engagement with global health. At WashU, Rama is involved in the student-run nonprofit GlobeMed, through which she organized a conference on immigrant and refugee healthcare. After graduation, Rama hopes to attend medical school and continue to advocate for health equity.

**Ananya Benegal** is a third year PhD student in Mechanical Engineering and studies influenza and SARS-CoV-2 from a biophysical perspective. She has had experience with maternal and infant nutrition in Uganda through GlobeMed and with medical equipment in Roosevelt Hospital in Guatemala City through Engineers Without Borders. She hopes to apply her background in infectious diseases to health policy research. She is also interested in technology as a tool to expand access to healthcare.

**William (Bill) Effah** is an MPH student specializing in Global Health. He is a general practice physician-administrator with experience in patient care and leading healthcare teams in West Africa. He has broad interests in areas such as dissemination and implementation science as it relates to infectious diseases, leveraging technology and health outcomes research. He is currently interning with the City of St. Louis Department of Health, where he was retained after his practicum to help develop a foodborne illness surveillance system incorporating social media and revise the city's food code.

**Blake Sells** is a first year MD/PhD student at Washington University School of Medicine. As an undergraduate student at Duke, he worked in Shirati, Tanzania and Kampala, Uganda, with community organizations on projects related to treatment and education about schistosomiasis and assessing how nutritional status impacts pediatric cancer treatment outcomes, respectively. He is particularly interested in how specific metabolic interventions may improve treatment outcomes for patients with cancer.

**Hailey Spaeth** is a senior in Arts & Sciences double majoring in Economics and Anthropology: Global Health and Environment. She is passionate about improving women's health equity through reproductive justice and violence prevention work, using data analysis and economics as tools to do so. In her junior year, she utilized her coursework in economics to complete an econometric analysis of the factors influencing abortion rates. She is interested in learning about strategic global health interventions to improve community-based data collection and dissemination for underserved communities.

**Kayla Wallace** is a junior studying Environmental Biology and Global Health. She is interested in exploring intersections between human, animal, and environmental health in the face of emerging diseases exacerbated by climate change. She has conducted zoonotic disease research and now works in the Queller-Strassman lab studying altruistic behavior in social amoeba. Her involvement in the Living Earth Collaborative and extensive experience in environmental fieldwork have both shaped her systems-based way of thinking and philosophies surrounding our intertwined well-beings. She seeks to use these approaches to challenge and highlight health disparities and create programming that educates, engages, and activates with GHSAC.

**Nina Crosby Walton** is a junior majoring in Communication Design and minoring in Human-Computer Interaction and Architecture. Her interests lie in STEM centered Human-Computer Interaction, innovative user experience, and problem solving. After taking Interaction Design: Health and Well-being, she developed a niche interest in User Experience Design for Healthcare. She hopes to work on improving the user experience interactions between patients and practitioners in healthcare and also to enhance patient self-advocacy through technology.