

PUBLIC & GLOBAL HEALTH TRACK COHORT



Grace Duff (she/her)

Schilsky Family Summer Research Scholar

I am a third-year student in the University of Missouri-Kansas City's BA/MD program. I plan to pursue a master of public health or public policy in addition to a medical degree so I can use my knowledge to provide equitable care for patients and make changes to the broken policies underlying our medical systems. I have a particular interest in the maternal mortality crisis as well as the social determinants of health. I look forward to spending this summer with my mentors and peers, learning about public and global health, as well as exploring St. Louis!

Research Mentor: Jean Hunleth, PhD, MPH

Research Project: Examining local knowledge and experience on HPV vaccination in Zambia



Elijah Harris (he/him)

James A. Harding Scholar

Originally from West Hartford, CT, I am a rising junior at Brown University studying public health and Judaic studies. I also hope to pursue my master's in public health with a focus in global health or epidemiology. I am very passionate about healthcare access and fighting health disparities including environmental racism. I am extremely excited to explore these areas and beyond through the Institute for Public Health Summer Research Program!

Research Mentor: Timothy McBride, PhD, MS

Research Project: Analysis of Disparities in the Effects of Medicaid Expansion in Missouri



Albina Hashmi (she/her)

Mark and Cathleen Reifsteck Summer Research Scholar

I am a rising junior at the University of Texas at Austin majoring in public health. I am hoping to pursue a career in medicine and public health, specifically in pediatric global health and health care inequality. Ultimately, my goal is to make a tangible difference in the lives of children worldwide by improving access to quality health care and addressing the systemic factors that perpetuate health disparities. This invaluable opportunity will allow me to build upon my recent experience doing research in pediatric oncology treatments and working on a long-term project investigating various healthcare inequities. These include interventions available

for children with autism in MENA nations, educating pediatric primary care physicians on suicide prevention, and health care disparities within the American prison system. I am thrilled to be able to participate in the 2024 Institute for Public Health Summer Research Program and be able to broaden my horizons.

Research Mentor: Alex Ramsey, PhD

Research Project: Precision prevention strategy to increase uptake and engagement in lung cancer screening and smoking cessation treatment



Abigail Hii (she/her)

WashU-University College Dublin Summer Research Scholar

As a first year, graduate-entry medical student from University College Dublin, I am incredibly excited to be able to pursue research in public health here at Washington University. Coming from a political science/international relations background, I found this opportunity to be a perfect fit for my interests. I feel grateful that I can combine the two disciplines and gain experience in this field, while also learning how this research benefits population outcomes. In this uncertain time of climate change, population growth and geopolitical instabilities; public health research grows ever more important, in order to face future challenges through the implementation of evidence-based and efficient public policies. I look forward to work in such a diverse space, exploring St. Louis, and meeting like-minded friends.

Research Mentor: Christina Stallings, PhD

Research Project: Developing New Ways to Treat Mycobacterial Infections



Luna Jiang-Qin (she/her)

Cora Faith Walker Scholar

I am a rising senior at Bowdoin College in Maine, studying Government & Legal Studies and Biology. Living in Maine and in my hometown of San Francisco has made me especially interested in health care access for immigrant and rural communities, and I hope to pursue a career as a community-based clinician and health policy advocate. I am excited to work with Abigail Barker, PhD, and Timothy McBride, PhD, to develop a policy strategy addressing obstetric care deserts in rural Missouri, in addition to learning more about current public health research and St. Louis.

Research Mentor: Abigail Barker, PhD

Research Project: Development of an Evidence-Based Policy Strategy for Maternal/Infant Health in Missouri Medicaid



Kate Litton (she/her)

Colonel Carroll A. Ockert Scholar

Originally from Houston, Texas, I am a rising junior at Tulane University studying public health and political economy. In the future, I plan to combine these interests in a career focused on promoting health care accessibility and equity with a specific concentration on the disparate burden of disease among marginalized groups and the study of various social determinants of health. By developing a solid foundation in both policymaking and evidence-based public health research, I hope to play a role in ensuring that good health is recognized as a universal right and not a privilege. I am so excited to gain experience as a part of the Public and Global Health cohort and cannot wait to spend the summer in St. Louis!

Research Mentor: Kelly Harris, PhD, CCC-SLP

Research Project: Asthma Home Occupation-Based Modified Environmental (HOME) Assessment



Michael Poirier (he/him)

Gold Family Summer Research Scholar

I am a rising senior at Saint Louis University (SLU) studying public health and psychology. My primary interests are health education and promotion, behavioral sciences, the pathogenesis of infectious diseases, and vaccination. Pursuing a career in public health, I look to connect intent with positive and sustainable action. I work with the Department of Health and Clinical Outcomes Research in SLU's School of Medicine, researching vaccine hesitancy, palliative care, and outcomes associated with health conditions and substance use. I am very excited to have this opportunity to work with industry professionals and researchers. I look forward to sharpening my skills and building connections with the cohort and program mentors!

Research Mentor: Peter Fischer, PhD, MS

Research Project: Comparison of the prevalence of helminth infections in selected areas in Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire



Cathal Rafferty (he/him)

WashU-University College Dublin Summer Research Scholar

I am a third-year, undergraduate medical student at University College Dublin (UCD). This summer, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to learn more about public health under the mentorship of one of the faculty members at Washington University. My previous research with UCD covered the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health in youth populations, so I am especially excited about the pediatric topics covered in this program. Coming from Ireland, I look forward to exploring the City of St Louis and encountering a new network of colleagues at Washington University. Through this program, I hope to learn more about the American health care system and to develop an understanding of public health policy around the world.

Research Mentor: Sara Malone, PhD, LCSW

Research Project: Evaluating adaptation of guideline-based oncology care in global settings