

## RADIANCE TRACK COHORT



### **Sherifat (Sheri) Adekanbi** (she/her)

#### **RADIANCE Scholar**

I am a first-year medical student at the Ponce Health Sciences University in St. Louis, MO, and I earned a Master of Sciences degree in medical sciences at the Ponce Health Sciences University as well. I served as a community advocator for the health and well-being of individuals living in underserved communities, and I worked with the New York Department of Health to help close the health disparities in underserved neighborhoods, when making sure people are getting the proper nutritional foods in their local grocery stores. I am excited to be embarking on this journey into research at the Washington University Institute for Public health, where I can further enhance my research skills and have the opportunity to study cardiovascular and hematology diseases that impact the overall health and well-being of the public.

*Research Mentor: Jing Li, MD, DrPH, MS*

*Research Project: The NutriConnect Study*



### **Manuela Asamoah** (she/her)

#### **RADIANCE Scholar**

I am a rising senior at Howard University majoring in health science, while double minoring in biology and chemistry. I am of Ghanaian descent and originate from Columbus, Ohio. I am elated to be participating in the Institute for Public Health Summer Research Program as their commitment to advancing global health initiatives, contributing to dynamic research and projects, and addressing health disparities and challenges on a global scale are all aligned with my personal, academic, and professional interests. This will facilitate in understanding the tension that exists between marginalized communities and the healthcare system and readily equipping myself to address that tension. I eagerly welcome the opportunity to further diversify my perspective and gain a greater understanding of public health as a participant of the Summer Research Program.

*Research Mentor: Karen Joynt Maddox, MD, MPH*

*Research Project: The Spillover Effect of COVID on Cardiovascular Care*



## **Wacim Benyoucef** (he/him)

### **RADIANCE Scholar**

Originally from Denver, Colorado, I am a first-year medical student at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. I received my B.A. in integrative physiology with a minor in ethnic studies from the University of Colorado, Boulder. My interests include public health, global surgery, and medical education. I am excited to participate in the RADIANCE track of the Summer Research Program to gain a deeper understanding of public health and further develop my skills as a researcher and advocate.

*Research Mentor: Gmerice Hammond, MD, MPH*

*Research Project: The Impact of the Accountable Care Organization Realizing Equity, Access and Community Health (ACO REACH) program on Racial Inequities in Heart Failure Outcomes*



## **Sophie Cantu** (she/her)

### **RADIANCE Scholar**

I am a rising junior at Washington University in St. Louis, with a major in biology and a minor in anthropology on the global health and environment track. I currently work with Dr. Karen Joynt Maddox at the Center for Advancing Health Services, Policy and Health Economics Research at Washington University's Institute for Public Health, and most recently helped with the organization of a public health conference on the intersection of mental health crisis and homelessness. Having grown up in the suburbs of Philadelphia, where social determinants of health impacted people in my daily life, I have always had a passion for public health and the push for health equity. I plan on pursuing a medical degree, with my ultimate goal of becoming a doctor working within public health research. I look forward to RADIANCE and the valuable skills and experience it will give me, as well as further interaction within my school community and the community of St. Louis.

*Research Mentor: Karen Joynt Maddox, MD, MPH*

*Research Project: The Spillover Effect of COVID on Cardiovascular Care*



## **Rhys Coleman** (she/her)

### **RADIANCE Scholar**

Originally from Detroit, Michigan, I am a rising junior at Howard University majoring in human performance with a concentration in sports medicine and minoring in chemistry. In my future, I hope to be a physician that contributes to ending health disparities, specifically for African-Americans. This summer, I am excited to learn more about cardiovascular diseases and hematology in regards to research.

*Research Mentor: Allison King, MD, MPH, PhD*

*Research Project: Understanding the Impact of Stroke in Children with SCD and Their Families in Nigeria*



## **Cheryl Crentsil** (she/her)

### **RADIANCE Scholar**

Originally from Newark, New Jersey, I am a rising junior at Gettysburg College studying Health Sciences with a plan to attend medical school to become a cardiologist. My passion for adequate healthcare access, community service, and personal interest in the blood and heart have led me to this path. In the future, I plan on opening cardiovascular clinics in America and Ghana to help people who are in desperate need of healthcare.

*Research Mentor: Jesus Jimenez, MD, PhD*

*Research Project: Dynamic immune cell changes in mouse hearts receiving cancer immunotherapies*



## **Steven Daley** (he/him)

### **RADIANCE Scholar**

I am a medical student at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. After finishing my bachelor's degree at Arizona State University, I completed an MBA at Texas Tech and worked as a cardiovascular clinical research coordinator. I'm thrilled to be a part of this program to further my knowledge and contribute to medical research. I hope to make research an everyday part of my future career as an aspiring physician.

*Research Mentor: Hrishikesh S. Kulkarni, MD, MSCI*

*Research Project: Role of locally derived complement proteins in the lung in the modulation of acute lung injury*



## **Maame Dei** (she/her)

### **RADIANCE Scholar**

Originally from Ghana, I am a first-year medical student at University of Kentucky College of Medicine. I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Bellarmine University. I am excited to participate in the RADIANCE track this summer. I hope to expand my knowledge and understanding in the field and research of hematology and cardiovascular disease. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be part of this research program, and I am excited to meet and work with everyone over the summer.

*Research Mentor: Kristen Sanfilippo, MD, MPHS*

*Research Project: Anticoagulant-related bleeding in cancer*



## **Eghonghon Eromosele** (she/her)

### **RADIANCE Scholar**

I am a rising senior at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign studying community health with a concentration in health education and promotion. My freshman research experience in a chronic kidney disease lab introduced me to lifestyle medicine and greatly influenced my current interests in health equity. My interests include genetics, social determinants of health, and lifestyle interventions for physical and mental wellness. After college, I plan to attend medical school and earn a master's in public health. In my free time, I enjoy singing, volunteering, and doing yoga. I am extremely honored to participate in the Institute for Public Health Summer Research Program.

*Research Mentor: Jing Li, MD, DrPH, MS*

*Research Project: The NutriConnect Study*



## **Andrew Hong** (he/him)

### **RADIANCE Scholar**

I am a rising junior at Colorado School of Mines majoring in quantitative biosciences and engineering. This summer, I am excited for the opportunity to have new experiences during the RADIANCE Program at Washington University. When I graduate, I want to advocate for under-represented groups and make an impact in the biological field using the skills and knowledge I obtain during the summer program. I also plan to use the skills I learn to help mentor incoming first-years at Mines.

*Research Mentor: Brian Finck, PhD*

*Research Project: Branched chain amino acid metabolism in the heart*



**Edita Karasalihovic** (she/her)

**RADIANCE Scholar**

Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, I am a junior premed at University of Missouri - St. Louis. I am pursuing a bachelor's in biology, minor in chemistry, and working on an honors certificate. After experiencing unfortunate circumstances when I was 11 and 12 years old involving both of my parents being hospitalized for cardiovascular-related conditions, I knew health care was the right path for me. In high school, I took all of the medical classes provided via Project Lead The Way and found my passion for cardiology in my Principles of Biomedical Sciences course. Growing up in poverty, I have seen first-hand how it is to choose between buying medication for a chronic condition and purchasing dinner for the entire family. Experiencing what I did at such a young age is something I would like to prevent for others as much as possible, by providing the proper care and prevention in the future. I am excited to participate in the RADIANCE program and further my knowledge in cardiology and hematology.

*Research Mentor: Jennifer N. Avari Silva, MD, FHRS*

*Research Project: Translational and clinical applications of cardiac electrophysiology and engineering*



**Chloe Meyer** (she/her)

**RADIANCE Scholar**

I am a rising sophomore at Case Western Reserve University majoring in biophysics and minoring in computer science. I am passionate about increasing access to care, research, and advocacy for those with rare illnesses and invisible disabilities. I plan on pursuing a career focusing on the research and treatment connective tissue disorders in cardiology and surgery. I look forward to working on cardiovascular and hematological research through the RADIANCE track this summer. I am excited to meet the students in our cohort and to learn from them and our mentors!

*Research Mentor: Rajan Sah, MD, PhD*

*Research Project: LRR8 complex regulation of cardiometabolic function*



## **Gladys (Michelle) Rios** (she/her)

### **RADIANCE Scholar**

Currently, I am a first-year medical student at Ponce Health Sciences University, where I also pursued my master's degree in medical sciences, with a double major in biomedical sciences and biotechnology from the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico. During my high school and college career, I embraced my passion for research, biotechnology and anatomy, in particular, the cardiovascular system and diseases, and my desire to impact disadvantaged communities in Puerto Rico. A couple years ago, I participated and studied topics related to plantain fungus after the impact of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and recently, the use of nitroglycerine in interventional procedures during COVID-19 pandemic. This summer, I am honored to participate in the Cardiovascular Disease & Hematology Track (RADIANCE) at the Institute for Public Health. I am so excited to learn, meet new people, and gain new experiences that will help me grow in the professional field.

*Research Mentors: Abhinav Diwan, MD, FACC, FAHA and Xiucui Ma, PhD*

*Research Project: Obesity Cardiomyopathy*



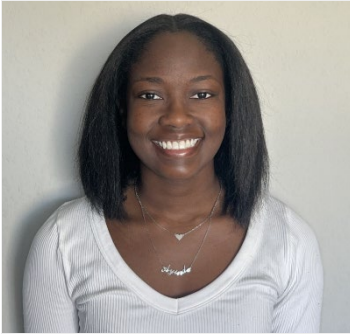
## **Ty Skyles** (he/him)

### **RADIANCE Scholar**

Originally from Arizona, I am currently a rising senior at Brigham Young University majoring in microbiology and minoring in Scandinavian studies. I have been involved in research focusing on vaccine hesitancy and barriers to vaccine uptake in rural and minority populations. I have also been involved in research on the HPV virus. Outside of work and school, I enjoy rock climbing, hiking, and cross-country skiing. I am excited to be part of the RADIANCE program this summer, and I hope to sharpen my research skills and learn more about cardiology and hematology.

*Research Mentors: Adam Wilcox, PhD*

*Research Project: Advancing Clinical Data Science by Evaluating the Predictive Value of Clinical Data Types*



## **Mya Washington** (she/her)

### **RADIANCE Scholar**

I am in my third year of college. I am currently taking classes at the University of Missouri-St. Louis before I start my degree program at Saint Louis University in the fall of 2024 where I am going to be majoring in medical laboratory science. I am excited to be participating in the RADIANCE track of the Summer Research Program. I've always had an interest in determining what makes people sick and finding ways to cure or prevent that illness. This program will be a great step forward toward getting more experience in a research lab.

*Research Mentors: Thomas J. Brett, PhD*

*Research Project: Structural and functional basis of TREM2-ligand interactions in Alzheimer's disease*