



GPHAP News - November 28, 2023

In this issue:

- [Student Spotlight: Felix German Contreras-Castro](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Previously Listed Events](#)
- [News You Can Use](#)
- [Recorded Events](#)

Student Spotlight: Felix German Contreras-Castro



Felix German Contreras-Castro, Booth first-year student, has a dual background in humanities and premed from Amherst College. Dedicated to aiding underserved communities, his journey took a profound turn in 2012 when he joined the Summer Health Professional Education Program at Yale University's School of Medicine, where he explored how societal factors impact health outcomes. There, he personally connected with the health challenges faced by his own family and the loss of a close friend to drug abuse. This experience underscored the need for diversity in medical research and propelled him to improve health outcomes, particularly for transgender and non-binary patients (TGNB).

Contreras-Castro wore many hats at the Center of Transgender Medicine and Surgery at Mount Sinai Health System in New York City, serving as Lead Clinical Research Coordinator. He led an extensive project which brought him together with finance, technology, and research teams to work with a massive database of 12 million patient records. This comprehensive effort did not just result in several healthcare publications, but also enriched Contreras-Castro's skills in managing data, improving patient services and leading teams.

GPHAP Co-curricular Write-ups Due - Dec 15

Your three co-curricular write-ups for the Autumn Quarter are due one week after the Quarter ends, which this quarter is Friday, Dec 15. Upload your write-ups as Assignments on the GPHAP Canvas site. It is OK to do more than three in a quarter if you want to get ahead and do fewer in subsequent quarters.

Winter Quarter GPHAP Health Electives

Information on the courses that count as GPHAP Health Electives for Winter Quarter have been sent via email.

Past Davis Lecture Recordings

See the last section of the newsletter for the link to past Davis Lectures. Catch up on your GPHAP co-curriculars or get ahead by listening to past lectures and writing the 250-word reflection.

As the Reaching Out MBA Fellow at Booth, Contreras-Castro diligently hones his business acumen. His concentration spans across project management, innovation, while gleaned valuable insights from fellow peers. Felix believes that the Graduate Program in Health Administration and Policy (GPHAP) will enrich his knowledge of healthcare policy, regulation, and leadership. He feels that this program is crucial for combining his love for healthcare with sound business strategies which he views as vital for his aim of contributing valuable advancements in healthcare using technology. This is particularly true for those in urgent need.

[Return to top](#)

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, November 28 | 5 PM CST | Biological Sciences Learning Center (Room TBD likely 109/115), 924 E 57th St

Civil Discourse: Reproductive Health in the Current Medical-Legal Climate (in-person event): Join the Civil Discourse event exploring the history and impact of abortion law and medical practice. Engage in an open dialogue on topics such as current policy effects on practitioners, varied interpretations of the law, and perspectives from regions with different legal landscapes. Audience participation is encouraged to discuss implications for reproductive health and other aspects of healthcare. This event aims to foster respectful discourse, providing room for diverse perspectives and understanding without the need for consensus. It kicks off with historical, political, and legal insights, with active audience participation welcomed approximately 1/3 into the event. Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your understanding of a critical issue affecting our educational community and patient care responsibilities. No registration required.

Speakers: Julie Chor, MD, MPH, and Lee Hasselbacher, JD.

[Return to top](#)

Previously Listed Events

Wednesday, November 29 & December 6 | 12 - 1:30 PM CST | MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics, Room P117, 5841 South Maryland Ave | [Register Here](#) |

This year, the information on upcoming lectures has been difficult to find. It appears that the link above will get you to a lecture, but we can't find info on the topic or the speaker. HOWEVER, past lectures are posted on YouTube and there are many good ones! You can catch up on your co-curriculars by checking out past links. Past recordings be found on the following [link](#).

Thursday, November 30 | 5 - 7 PM CST | American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP) | [Register Here](#) |

Webinar - Healthcare and Public Health Crisis Advocacy: At AMHP, our mission is to bring together and strengthen the impact of Muslim health professionals to improve the health and wellness of all Americans. Join us for a unique opportunity to learn from AMHP's **Health Policy and Advocacy Manager, Ashila Jiwani MBA, MS, RN-CNL**. All sessions will be held virtually on zoom. Please register using the form below to access the webinar. Thank you!

Session Dates:

November 20: Introduction to policy and advocacy

November 30: Second training focused specifically on healthcare legislation

[Return to top](#)

News You Can Use

Complexity in the US Health Care System Is the Enemy of Access and Affordability

October 26: This [article](#) discusses a KFF survey in which 6 out of 10 insured Americans face health plan issues, causing delays and financial strain. The system's complexity adds confusion about coverage and costs, impacting both public and private programs. While simplification is crucial, profit-driven motives hinder progress. Existing protections lack oversight, and many are unaware of appeal rights. Addressing these complexities is vital for better accessibility and affordability in health care.

[Return to top](#)

Recorded Events

Healthcare Partnerships: Considering ROI in the Context of Value on Investment

With the support of the [Commonwealth Fund](#) and [The SCAN Foundation](#), [HealthBegins](#) has created a new Return-on-Investment (ROI) Calculator with a reduced barrier to entry that allows organizations to calculate ROI based on national averages and benchmarks. Watch this [one-hour webinar](#) to learn how to use the new tool and how to leverage its results to develop sustainable cross-sector partnerships.

While calculating ROI is an important tool to leverage as an organization pursuing partnerships, it does not capture value beyond financial returns. Webinar participants learned about the limitations of ROI and why we should be shifting the conversation towards value of investment (VOI) in order to expand the scope of what is considered “valuable” and worthy of investment. And participants saw how to use the new ROI Quick Calculator as an entry point to engaging with and implementing a VOI framework.

[Return to top](#)

Recorded Lectures

Many of the lectures listed in the GPHAP Weekly Digest are recorded and archived for later listening. You can look back to see if there are recent lectures that interest you, and they can count as GPHAP co-curriculars. Here are links to archived lectures.

CHAS Michael Davis Lectures

<https://chas.uchicago.edu/events/mdl/>

MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics lectures

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MacLeanCenter>

Harvard School of Public Health Forum lectures

<https://theforum.sph.harvard.edu/events/>

Bowman Society Lectures

<https://pritzker.uchicago.edu/resources/bowman-society>

MATTER Health Events

<https://matter.health/events>

Health Affairs Podcasts - an hour's worth of content

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/podcasts>

KHN's 'What the Health?' - an hour's worth of content

<https://play.acast.com/s/khns-what-the-health>

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health: The Forums and Voices in Leadership

<https://theforum.sph.harvard.edu/events/covid-19-women-and-health/>

GPHAP Social Media

GPHAP has a [Facebook Group](#) for Current Students and Alumni. Go to Facebook and search for The UChicago Graduate Program in Health Administration & Policy or click on: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gphap/>

There is a [LinkedIn Group](#) for GPHAP Alumni, and **current students are welcome to join**. Click on this [link](#) or go to LinkedIn and search for “GPHAP” and Request to Join. The site is a great source for updates on GPHAP Alumni. **Job Opportunities** also are posted there by the GPHAP Office and by GPHAP Alumni.

GPHAP has a **Twitter** feed @UCgphap.

GPHAP's **Website** is: <https://gphap.uchicago.edu>

Join the **WhatsApp GPHAP Social Group**. Students can reach out to see who is going to GPHAP events or to provide info about other activities.

WhatsApp Social Group: Contact Laura Botwinick for the link to join.

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