# HILLMAN SCHOLARS
## IN NURSING INNOVATION

# SCHOLAR DIRECTORY

# 2019

**Kathryn Abramoski, BSN, RN**
**University of Michigan | PhD Candidate**
kabramos@umich.edu

**Kathryn Abramoski** will graduate with her PhD in May of 2019 from the University of Michigan. Her dissertation examines the role interpersonal problems have between childhood trauma and PTSD symptom severity in trauma-exposed adolescents. She is also involved in projects aimed at improving trauma-informed care and works as a psychiatric-mental health nurse on an inpatient child and adolescent psychiatry unit. Kathryn is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International, Midwest Nursing Research Society, and Academy Health.

**Research interests:** adolescent mental health, childhood trauma
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Mental Health, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s):** Sarah Stoddard, PhD, RN, CNP, FSAHM
**Date of PhD Completion:** May 2019
**LinkedIn:** linkedin.com/in/kathryn-abramoski

**Gillian Adynski**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
litynski@email.unc.edu

**Gillian Adynski** of Niskayuna, New York, has fused together her interests in travel and global health with her work and research studying health care workers around the globe. She has worked on the Middle East Project for HIV/AIDS patients, taught English to Sudanese refugees in Israel, and interned for IntraHealth International in Windhoek, Namibia. Her dissertation topic will explore the health workforce of middle and low-income countries. She is also a competitive fencer and former Captain of UNC's fencing team. She currently volunteers on UNC's Fencing Team as an Assistant Coach.

**Research Interests:** global public health
**HSNI Interest Groups:** International, health services and systems research, policy
**Mentor(s):** Cheryl Jones, PhD, RN, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2020

**Harry Adynski, BSN**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
hradams@live.unc.edu

**Harry Adynski** graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from UNC in May 2018 and has begun his clinical fellowship. He plans to investigate a biopsychosocial approach towards exploring the mechanisms of depression, including the use of biomarkers to develop evidence-based nursing interventions.

**Research Interests:** the impact of chronic stress on psychiatric mental health outcomes and nursing care related to depression symptom management, treatments and recovery patterns
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Mental Health, Disparities, Practice Change, Policy
**Mentor(s):** Hudson Santos, PhD, RN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2022

**Charisse Ahmed, ABSN**
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
[cahmed@nursing.upenn.edu](mailto:cahmed@nursing.upenn.edu)

**Charisse Ahmed** is a first-year PhD student. She is interested in studying interventions to improve treatment uptake and retention among adolescents living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa. Charisse previously conducted formative research among adolescents with HIV in Eswatini as a Fulbright student grantee. Charisse is interested in working clinically with adolescents with chronic conditions and psychiatric disorders at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

**Research Interests:** health disparities, HIV/AIDS, adolescent health, implementation science
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, Mental Health, Disparities, Chronic Disease, International, Health services and systems research, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Bridgette M. Brawner, PhD, MDiv, APRN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** May 2022
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/charisse-ahmed-2b341866/

**Elizabeth Allen, BSN**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
[eptallen@email.unc.edu](mailto:eptallen@email.unc.edu)

**Elizabeth Allen** of Raleigh, North Carolina, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2015. She is passionate about improving the quality of care provided to long-term care residents. She is the recipient of a T32 Pre-Doctoral Trainee Award, NR007091-22: Interventions for Preventing & Managing Chronic Illness (2017-2018) and completed her clinical fellowship at UNC Hospitals on an Acute Care for the Elderly Unit. Her dissertation addresses the relationship between pain and mobility/function in cognitively impaired nursing home residents. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International and the NC Nurses Association and enjoys playing piano and spending time with her dogs, Camden and Gracie.

**Research Interests:** Reducing rising incidence of health concerns associated with aging through improved care
**Mentor(s)**: Anna Beeber, PhD, RN, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2020

**Sallie Allgood, BSN, BS, MS, PhD**
**University of North Carolina | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2019**
[sallgood@email.unc.edu](mailto:sallgood@email.unc.edu)

**Sallie Diane Allgood**, of Durham, North Carolina, earned a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Campbell University in 2000 and a Master of Science in Biology from Wake Forest University in 2005. Sallie joined the second cohort of Hillman Scholars at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in May of 2015, and earned her Ph.D. in Nursing in May of 2019. Sallie is active in the statewide conversation in North Carolina to both recognize and professionalize the community health worker (CHW) workforce. She is a recipient of the T32 Pre-Doctoral Traineeship Award, Interventions for the Prevention and Management of Chronic Illness, School of

Nursing (2017-2018) and her dissertation explores outcomes from the delivery of an individualized lifestyle intervention aimed to reduce cardiovascular disease risks. She is a member of American Public Health Association, Academy Health, Sigma Theta Tau Alpha, and the NC CHW Workgroup. Sallie enjoys gardening and spending time with her family.

**Research Interests:** health care related decision making in chronic diseases
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Disparities, Chronic Disease, Health services and systems research, Policy, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Jennifer Leeman, DrPH, MDiv

**Jessie Axsom, ABSN**
**University of Pensylvania | PhD Candidate**
**axsomje@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Jessie Axsom** is a second-year Accelerated BSN-PhD student. Her research interests are the transgenerational effects of exercise and how this impacts cardiovascular disease risk and development. She is clinically interested in community health and works with Heart Health Bridge to Care and the Longitudinal Experience to Appreciate Patient Perspectives.

**Research Interests:** exercise, epigenetics, cardiovascular disease
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Maternal Health, Disparities, Chronic Disease, Aging, Practice Change, Policy, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Joseph Libonati, PhD, FAHA, Bridgette Brawner, PhD, APRN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** May 2023
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jessie_Axsom

**Sydney A. Axson, BSN**
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
**sydaxson@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Sydney A. Axson** is a third year PhD student at the University of Pennsylvania. Her dissertation will explore patient and clinical factors associated with opioid prescribing in adolescents. She completed the Leadership Education in Adolescent Health Program at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and obtained her MPH from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Mentor(s)**: Dr. Jennifer Pinto Martin, Dr. Catherine McDonald, Dr. Peggy Compton, Dr. Connie Ulrich
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** May 2020
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/sydneyaxson/

**Amy Elizabeth Barrera-Cancedda, ABSN**
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
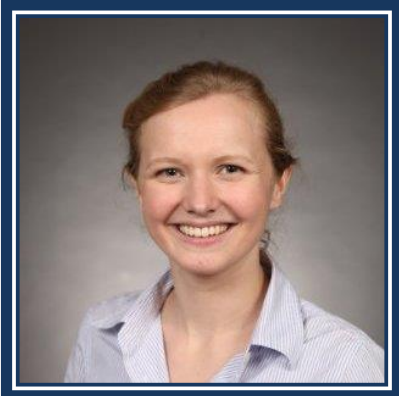**amyeb@upenn.edu**

**Amy Elizabeth** is interested in how implementation science can be best used for nurse preparedness for hemorrhagic fever epidemics in Sierra Leone

**Research Interests:** global health, infectious diseases, Sub-Saharan Africa, implementation strategies
**Mentor(s)**: Dr. Alison M. Buttenheim (Chair), Dr. Justin Clapp, Dr. Rinad Beidas, and Dr. Michael-Strasser (Columbia School of Public Health)
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2020

**Kaitlin Best, PhD, RN**
**T32 Post-doctoral Fellow, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia**
**University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2015**
**bestk1@email.chop.edu**

**Kaitlin Best** is a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Akiva Cohen at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. There, she studies alterations in circadian rhythm after traumatic brain injury (TBI). She has worked as a Clinical Nurse in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and an Instructor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. Her dissertation work examined sedation management and iatrogenic withdrawal syndrome in critically ill children.

**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, Disparities, Practice Change, Policy, Implementation and Translation
**LinkedIn:** https://www.linkedin.com/in/kaitlin-m-best-rn-phd-ccrn-571bb7a7/

**Stephanie Betancur Grondona, BSN**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
**stephbg@email.unc.edu**

**Stephanie Betancur Grondona** was born in Medellin, Colombia and moved to North Carolina at the age of 12. She earned her BSN from UNC in May 2019, and is a member of the 6th cohort of Hillman Scholars. Her primary research interest is in health disparities in oncology care. Her hobbies include salsa dancing, rock climbing, swimming and travel.

**Research Interests:** health disparities in oncology care
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Disparities, Cancer, Practice Change
**Mentor(s)**: Ashely Bryant, PhD, RN, OCN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2023

**Stacey Bevan, ABSN**
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
**stbevan@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Stacey Bevan** is a first year PhD student at Penn Nursing and plans to earn a dual degree in Statistics from the Wharton School. Her research focuses on the early identification of neurodevelopmental disorders in childhood and the longitudinal health outcomes of children at risk of Autism Spectrum Disorder. She integrates research approaches from public health, nursing and biology to study young children over time in the Dominican Republic, China and America. Stacey is a research collaborator at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where she works with the Global Health Center and PolicyLab to better understand pediatric development and health disparities. Stacey is a Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics Associate Fellow, Hillman Scholar of Nursing Innovation and member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. PhD Candidate: School of Nursing; MA in Statistics Candidate: The Wharton School

**Research Interests:** pediatric neurodevelopment, global health, Autism Spectrum Disorder
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, Mental Health, Disparities, International, Health services and systems research, Policy
**Mentor(s)**: Jianghong Liu, PhD, RN, FAAN; Jennifer Pinto-Martin, PhD, MPH; Margaret Souders, PhD, CRNP
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** May 2022
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/stacey-bevan-82a67793/

**Katelyn Blanchard**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
katelyn.blanchard@unc.edu

**Katelyn Blanchard**, now hailing from Chapel Hill, originally called Hobbsville, North Carolina home. She is enrolled in UNC's ABSN program and is a member of the 7th cohort of Hillman Scholars; her current research interests include pediatric oncology, looking into how pediatric patients are able to make strides to understand their own diagnosis and how best to provide parents and caregivers with the support they need throughout their child's cancer treatment. Prior to getting her second degree, she was a senior data technician at the Duke Clinical Research Institute, and served as an RA in Public Policy at UNC. She has a BA in Environmental Studies from UNC, and was a Buckley Public Service Scholar.

**Research Interests**: Pediatric Oncology
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, Cancer, Policy, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor**: Sheila Santacroce, PhD, RN, APRN, CPNP
**Expected date of PhD Completion**: 2024
**LinkedIn**: https://www.linkedin.com/in/katelyn-blanchard-292a2a76/

**Emily Boltey, BSN, RN**
**University of Michigan | PhD Candidate**
bolteyem@umich.edu

**Emily Boltey** is a third-year PhD student who will complete her studies in August of 2019. Her dissertation aims to test the feasibility of using time-motion methods to quantify the process of interprofessional collaboration in the care of critically ill adults. Emily is committed to working in interdisciplinary teams to study complex problems in healthcare delivery. She partnered with students from the Center for Healthcare Engineering and Patient Safety (CHEPS) at the University of Michigan to develop an iOS-based app to use as the data collection tool for her dissertation project. In the summer of 2019, Emily is participating in the Health Services Research (HSR) Fellowship at the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation (IHPI) at the University in Michigan. During this Fellowship, Emily will continue to collaborate with CHEPS on projects applying systems engineering methods in critical care delivery.

**Research interests:** critical care, interprofessional collaboration, systems engineering
**HSNI Interest Groups:** End of Life and Palliative Care, Aging, Health Services and Systems Research
**Mentor(s)**: Deena Costa, PhD, RN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** August 2019
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/emily-boltey-a25188123

**Stephen Bonett, ABSN**
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
stepdo@nursing.upenn.edu

**Stephen Bonett's** research explores the role that social and sexual networks play in HIV risk among young men who have sex with men. His clinical interests include public health nursing and adolescent health.

**Research Interests:** HIV, sexual and gender minorities, health equity, public health, networks, adolescent health
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Disparities, Health services and systems research
**Mentor(s)**: Drs. José Bauermeister and Robin Stevens
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** December 2020
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/stephen-bonett-1a128267/

**Lilian Guadalupe Bravo, BSN**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
liliangb@email.unc.edu

**Lilian Guadalupe Bravo** is a 2018 graduate of UNC's BSN program and is participating in the Clinical Fellowship this past year. She aspires to improve mental health care outcomes in the Latinx community through culturally competent interventions. Her current research examines culture's role in the perceptions of mental wellness in HIV-positive Latino men. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International and likes keeping up with new music releases, tutoring, and spending time with family and friends.

**Research Interests:** improving mental health outcomes in the Latinx community through culturally competent interventions
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, Mental Health, Disparities, Practice Change, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Cheryl Giscombe, PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2022

**Laura Britton, BSN, BA, PhD**
**T32 Postdoctoral Fellow, Columbia University**
**University of North Carolina | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2018**
lbritton@email.unc.edu

**Laura Elizabeth Britton** of New York City, New York earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences from Wellesley College in 2005 and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of North Carolina in 2014. She is a member of UNC-CH's first cohort of Hillman Scholars and earned her Ph.D in Nursing in December 2018. She has a long-term goal to improve reproductive health outcomes for women with chronic illnesses, especially those who are underserved. She is the recipient of a Pre-Doctoral F31 Traineeship Award, "Sociodemographic, Cognitive, and Affective Antecedents to Pregnancy Planning among Women with Diabetes" and began a Post-Doctoral T32 Traineeship at Columbia University in summer 2019. She is a member of the Society of Family Planning, the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, and Sigma Theta Tau, has a green thumb and a passion for social justice.

**Research Interests:** health policy, health disparities, and reproductive health in the context of chronic illness management
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Practice Change, Health services and systems research, Policy, Implementation & Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Diane Berry, PhD, RN, FAAN

**Elizabeth Broden, BSN**
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
**ebro@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Elizabeth Broden's** research focuses on nurse-family engagement and relationship-centered care during end-of-life (EOL) care in the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU). Her dissertation will utilize mixed methods to generate a comprehensive picture of dying children's clinical presentation and their parents' perceived needs during EOL care. My long term goal is to conduct clinically-grounded research and develop interventions that are flexible and adaptable for PICU nurses to use in their moment-to-moment care of critically ill children and their families.

**Research Interests:** PICU, EOL care, relationship-centered care
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, End of Life and Palliative Care, Practice Change, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Dr. Martha A.Q. Curley and Dr. Pamela Hinds
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** May 2020
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/elizabeth-broden-46b97aa9/

**Jason Brown, ABSN**
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
**jasbro@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Jason Brown**, originally from San Diego, CA obtained a BS in Biology with a minor in chemistry at San Diego State University. After graduating from SDSU, he worked for 7 years as a Senior Molecular Research Assistant for the U.S. Navy at the Naval Health Research Center Operational Infectious Disease Laboratory. His research interests seek to better understand the patient, social, and environmental factors related to the decision to seek non-urgent care at emergency departments and how behavioral economic biases may influence that decision.

**Research Interests:** Non-urgent, emergency department, utilization, behavioral economics, data science, clinical informatics
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Disparities, Chronic Disease, Health services & systems research, Implementation & Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Sarah H Kagan, PhD, RN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** August 2019
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/jason-brown-00b23a17a

**Marta Bruce, ABSN**
**University of Pennsylvania**
**brucemar@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Marta Bruce** is interested in disparities in recovery from injury, PTSD, and the geography of health. Her recent work uses geographic information systems to examine how the social environment impacts trauma care needs and recovery after injury. Marta works as a registered nurse at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania's step-down neuroscience unit.

**Research Interests:** health disparities, trauma injury, PTSD, geographic methods
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Mental Health, Disparities, Policy
**Mentor(s)**: Dr. Therese S. Richmond and Dr. Connie Ulrich
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2019
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/feed/

**Andrea Cazales, BSN**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
andreaan@email.unc.edu

**Andrea Cazales** is a member of the 6th cohort of Hillman Scholars and earned her BSN in May 2019. She is interested in examining culturally tailored diabetes self-management education interventions in the Latino/Hispanic Population. She is known for always having a bottle of Franks Red Hot Sauce on her and she enjoys paddle boarding.

**Research Interests:** examining culturally tailored diabetes self-management education interventions in the Latino/Hispanic Population
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Disparities, End of Life and Palliative Care, Chronic Disease, Policy, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Diane Berry, PhD, RN, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2023

**Kristen R. Choi, PhD, RN**
**National Clinician Scholars Program, University of California Los Angeles**
**University of Michigan | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2017**
krchoi@ucla.edu

**Kristen Choi**, PhD, MS, RN, is a child/adolescent psychiatric nurse and health services researcher. Currently, she is a Postdoctoral Fellow with the National Clinician Scholars Program at UCLA and will begin a position as an Assistant Professor in the UCLA School of Nursing in July 2019. She completed her BSN and PhD at the University of Michigan School of Nursing in Ann Arbor and her MS in Health Policy and Management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. Dr. Choi studies health services and policy approaches to trauma, violence, and behavioral health among children. The goal of her research is to transform health systems to be more responsive to trauma and violence in communities and to change trajectories of childhood adversity from risk to resilience. Her research portfolio include studies on posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among children, adverse childhood experiences, community violence, the impact of mass shootings on healthcare providers, firearm-related deaths, and treatment for youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder. As a both a clinician and a scientist, Dr. Choi maintain a clinical practice as a registered nurse (RN) at a community psychiatric hospital in Downtown Los Angeles. She addresses trauma and violence from individual, family, system, and policy levels in her research and is committed to a creative, action-oriented program of research led by nursing that will reverse the harm of trauma and violence in the lives of children and lead to policy change.

**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, Mental Health, Health services and systems research, Policy

**Martha Grace Cromeens, BSN, BA, MA, JD**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
cromeens@email.unc.edu

**Martha Grace Cromeens** of Bryan, Texas, earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of St. Thomas in 2002, a Master of Arts in History from Baylor University in 2007 and a Juris Doctorate from the South Texas College of Law in 2008. Martha Grace was admitted into the first cohort of Hillman Scholars in the spring of 2013, and graduated with her BSN from UNC School of Nursing in May 2014. She works as a nurse on a step-down burn unit at UNC Hospital. Her research interests include legal and health care systems, with an emphasis on issues in delayed diagnosis of endometriosis. She is a member of Academy

Health, American Nurse Association, North Carolina Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing--Alpha Alpha Chapter.

**Mentor(s)**: Suzanne Thoyre, PhD, RN, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2020

**Megan Czerwinski, BA, BSN, RN**
**University of Michigan | PhD Candidate**
**maczerwi@umich.edu**

**Meg Czerwinski** is a fourth-year PhD student. Her dissertation explores the development of sustainability competencies among nursing students. On the Michigan Sustainability Cases team, she contributes to the development of open source, multimedia sustainability education tools. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, she organized a community-sustainability-solutions exchange at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné, Gabon. She is trained in art & design and environmental education; a member of the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, the North American Association for Environmental Education, and Academy Health.

**Research interests:** environmental justice, sustainability education, community health promotion
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Maternal Health, Mental Health, Disparities, International, Policy
**Mentor(s)**: Olga Yakusheva, PhD and Yasamin Kusunoki, PhD, MPH
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** May 2020
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/megan-czerwinski-a50b8068

**Marguerite Daus, BSN**
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
**mdaus@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Marguerite Daus** is a first year PhD student. Her research interests include the optimization of healthcare transitions, specifically from hospital to home, in patients with disparities. She looks to study transitional episodes from both the ambulatory and hospital settings to see what changes in the workforce could promote smoother, more efficient transitions for patients with disparities.

**Research Interests:** Disparities, health services research, transitions, health equity
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Disparities, Health services and systems research
**Mentor(s)**: Dr. Margo Brooks Carthon & Dr. Matthew McHugh
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** May 2021
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/marguerite-daus-95450575/

**Cindy del Rosario, BSN, PhD, RN, AM**
**Registered Nurse Case Manager at The Denver Hospice**
**University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2018**

**Cindy del Rosario** completed a bachelor's degree in mathematics at UC Berkeley and served as Peace Corps Volunteer teaching math and physics in Tanzania. Her dissertation examined the impact of rurality and distance to facility of death on quality of care at the end of life for Veterans dying in inpatient VA facilities.

**Cassandra Dictus, BSN**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
**cdictus@email.unc.edu**

**Cassandra Dictus** earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from UNC in 2018. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International and enjoys spending time with her dogs, cooking, reading, being outdoors and working on the construction of her tiny house.

**Research Interests:** improving the health and well-being of those served by and working in long-term services and supports
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Disparities, End of Life and Palliative Care, Chronic Disease, Aging, Health services and systems research, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Anna Beeber, PhD, RN, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2021

**Andrew Dierkes, PhD, RN**
**T32 Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania**
**University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2018**
**adierkes@upenn.edu**

**Andrew Dierkes** is a nurse, researcher, and entrepreneur. He works at the bedside of medical-surgical inpatients at Pennsylvania Hospital, which grounds his academic work as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. Together, his experience at the nation's first hospital and top-ranked school of nursing have exposed the need for improved nurse staffing and assignment-making processes, as well as the potential for an evidence-generating approach to help hospital administrators save money, charge nurses save time, and bedside nurses save lives. The resulting startup has received over $50,000 from the National Science Foundation and is seeking additional funding to take it from a side project to a primary effort. Aside from his professional pursuits, Andrew enjoys volunteering as a member of the finance council for a not-for-profit organization in West Philadelphia, playing music (often the pipe organ), traveling, and working on DIY home renovations.

**HSNI Interest Groups**: Chronic Disease, Aging, International, Health services & systems research, Implementation and Translation

**Clare Donohoe, BSN, RN**
**University of Michigan | PhD Pre-Candidate**
**claremd@umich.edu**

**Clare Donohoe** is a second-year PhD student. Her dissertation will comprehensively evaluate predictors of pain and opioid consumption in adolescents and young adults with sickle cell disease. She was engaged in the Pediatric Oncology Education Program at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and is a T32 pre-doctoral Trainee on the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) grant entitled "Complexity: Innovations in Promoting Health & Safety Training" (NR016914-01). She is also a member of the Oncology Nursing Society, the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses, the American Pain Society, and Academy Health.

**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, Chronic Disease, Cancer, Policy, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Ellen Lavoie Smith, PhD, APRN, AOCN®, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** May 2020
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/clare-donohoe-9217268a

**Crisma Emmanuel, BSN, BS**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
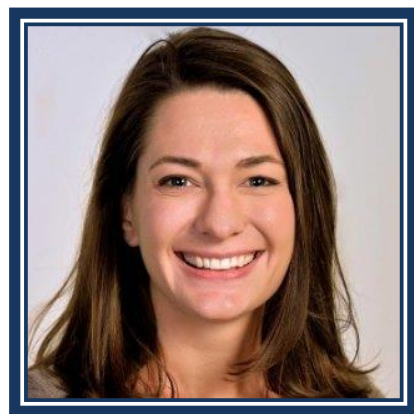**emmanc@email.unc.edu**

**Crisma Emmanuel** of Cary, North Carolina, earned her Bachelor of Science in Social Work and Psychology from East Carolina University in 2011. She graduated from UNC's BSN program in 2016. She has a background helping people with mental health disorders. She has previously interned at a private mental health clinical and a Federal Prison's Step-Down program for inmates diagnosed with Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder. Her research interests include health equity and disparities among individuals with disabilities, particularly those diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. During her free time, she enjoys travel and reading. Crisma is a member of UNC's third cohort of Hillman Scholars (2015).

**Research Interests:** how neurological disorders are viewed and defined by various cultures
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, Mental Health, Disparities, Chronic Disease, International, Practice Change, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Cecelia Roscigno, PhD, RN, CNRN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2020



**Whitney Eriksen, PhD, RN**
**Senior Research Analyst, Mixed Methods Research Lab, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania**
**University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2016**
**wteriksen@gmail.com**

**Whitney Eriksen** is the Senior Research Analyst at the Mixed Methods Research Lab in the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. Her dissertation examined the onset and experience of puberty for girls with Autism Spectrum Disorder compared to typically developing peers. At the MMRL, she continues her mixed-methods approach to research by contracting with investigators across the University to help them integrate qualitative and mixed methods into their research programs.

**Mentor(s):** Dr. Fran Barg, Dr. Jennifer Pinto-Martin, Dr. Margaret Souders
**LinkedIn:** https://www.linkedin.com/in/whitneyteriksen/



**Jane Evered, ABSN**
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
**jevered@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Jane Evered** is a second-year PhD student. Her dissertation will be a qualitative descriptive secondary analysis exploring the friendships of adolescents and young adults with experiences of brain tumors. She is interested in working clinically in oncology or mental health.

**Research Interests:** cancer, end of life care, social relationships
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, End of Life and Palliative Care, Cancer, Practice Change, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Dr. Sarah Kagan, PhD, RN, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** May 2020
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/jane-evered-bsn-rn-97032b69/

**Alex J. Fauer, BSN, RN**
**University of Michigan | PhD Candidate**
ajfau@umich.edu

**Alex Fauer** is a second-year student in the PhD program at the University of Michigan. His dissertation focuses on examining the clinical and behavioral factors that impact care experiences and health service use among older adults with hematologic cancers. He works clinically on the University of Michigan Adult Bone Marrow Transplant unit. He is a recipient of the American Cancer Society Doctoral Scholarship in Cancer Nursing; trained in administrative health data and mixed methods research; and a member of Academy Health and the Oncology Nursing Society.

**Research interests:** Cancer care delivery, health service utilization, observational research, mixed methods research
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Cancer, Health Services and Systems Research
**Mentor(s)**: Christopher R. Friese, PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** May 2020
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/alex-fauer-bsn-rn-520757b5

**Becky Fitzula, BSN**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
rebec1@email.unc.edu

**Becky Fitzula** of Morehead City, North Carolina, earned her BSN from UNC in May 2019 and is a member of the 6th cohort of Hillman Scholars. She has a strong background in science and plans to fuse that background with an interest in implementation science to explore HPV and the cervical cancer vaccine. When she has free time, she like to exercise and spend time with her kids and family. Fun fact: She has a special gift for finding four leaf clovers!

**Research Interests:** HPV and the cervical cancer vaccine
**Mentor(s)**: Deborah Mayer, PhD, RN, AOCN, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2023

**Kierra Foley**
**University of Pennsylvania | ABSN Candidate**
kierraf@nursing.upenn.edu

**Kierra Foley** is currently taking coursework for her accelerated BSN program. Her current research interests are in mental health disparities among LGBTQ+ elders. She currently works as a research coordinator in the Perelman School of Medicine and oversees several studies focused on the care of older adults in nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities.

**Research Interests:** geriatric mental health, LGBTQ+ mental health, health disparities, LGBTQ+ elders
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Mental Health, Disparities, Chronic Disease, Aging, Policy
**Mentor(s)**: Dr. Sarah Kagan, PhD, RN, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** May 2023
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/kierra-foley-07aa6362/

**Sandra Garcia, BSN**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
sandra97@email.unc.edu

**Sandra Garcia** of Ash, North Carolina, is a member the 6th cohort of Hillman Scholars and earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in May 2019. She is interested in researching health disparities and increasing health access to migrant farm workers, specifically Latino field workers. She enjoys being outdoors and spending time with her family.

**Research Interests:** health disparities and increasing health access to migrant farm workers, specifically Latino field workers
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, Disparities, Cancer, Practice Change, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Jada Brooks, PhD, MSPH, RN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2023

**Emma Garrett, BSN, BA**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
eagarret@live.unc.edu

**Emma Garrett** is a member of the 6th cohort of Hillman Scholars and earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in May 2019. She has a B.A. in Spanish Literature and Cultures from UNC and was a cheerleader for the men's basketball and football teams. After graduation, Emma spent a year in Madrid teaching English. Her research interests include female health disparities in the Latino population. She enjoys travel, reading, learning new languages, a good crossword puzzle and cooking for friends and family.

**Research Interests:** female health disparities in the Latino population
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Mental Health, Disparities, Chronic Disease, Practice Change, Health services and systems research
**Mentor(s)**: Cheryl Jones, PhD, RN, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2023

**Hayley D. Germack, PhD, MHS, RN**
**Assistant Professor, Department of Acute & Tertiary Care, University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing**
**University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2015**
HG8@pitt.edu

**Hayley Germack** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Acute & Tertiary Care at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. After finishing her PhD and a post-doc in the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research, where she studied under Dr. Linda Aiken, she went on to receive advanced health services research and leadership training in the interdisciplinary National Clinician Scholars Program (NCSP) at Yale University. Hayley is a mental health services and workforce researcher. She is passionate about reducing disparities in health outcomes for people with serious mental illness. She teaches health care finance and policy to accelerated BSN and DNP students. She is an active member of the AcademyHealth Interdisciplinary Research Group on Nursing Issues (IRGNI). Hayley is also a competitive distance runner.

**Mentor(s)**: Linda H. Aiken; Matthew D. McHugh; Grant R. Martsolf
**LinkedIn**: https://www.linkedin.com/in/germackrn/
**Twitter**: @hgermack

**Nicholas Giordano, PhD, RN**
**Postdoctoral Researcher, The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the**
**Advancement of Military Medicine**
**University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2018**

**Nicholas Giordano**'s research addresses a key question: in an era of unprecedented survival after complex and life-threatening combat-related injuries, what are the short and long-term symptom trajectories of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and pain, after exposure to early pain management interventions, specifically regional anesthesia? Nicholas received his BSN from the Penn Nursing in 2015, an AM in Statistics from the Wharton School in 2018, and a PhD from Penn Nursing in 2018.
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Mental Health, Practice Change

**Madelyne Greene, PhD, RN**
**Postdoctoral Trainee, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Wisconsin**
**University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2017**
**mgreene8@wisc.edu**

**Madelyne Greene's** work is influenced by clinical experience as an RN in surgical gynecology and women's health. Mady's research is grounded in sociocultural theories that explain reproductive health outcomes in structural and sociopolitical contexts. Her research aims to address reproductive health disparities by investigating the role of health systems and health care encounters in driving disease prevention and health maintenance among marginalized groups of women.
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Maternal Health, Disparities, Practice Change, Implementation and Translation

**Prashamsha Haridass**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
**prasee@email.unc.edu**

**Prashamsha Haridass** earned her M.S. in Zoology from the University of Madras, Chennai, India. In 2007, she moved to the United States of America. She returned to school after nine years of research experience in various laboratories with the goal of advancing my research career in clinical based research. Currently, Prashamsha is enrolled in UNC's accelerated BSN program (class of 2020) and is a member of the 7th cohort of Hillman Scholars. Her research interest include pediatrics and understanding their feeding problem.

**Research Interests**: Pediatrics
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, Maternal Health, Chronic Disease, Cancer, International, Practice Change, Policy, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor**: Suzanne Thoyre, PhD, RN, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD completion**: 2024
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Prashamsha_Haridass

**Jordan Harrison, PhD, RN**
**Associate Policy Researcher, RAND Corporation**
**University of Michigan | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2017**
**joharr@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Jordan Harrison** is a health services researcher whose work focuses on the impact of the nursing workforce and health workforce policies on health care quality and value. After completing her doctoral training at the University of Michigan, she obtained a T32 postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research in the School of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania. She received additional training in health policy research as a clinical scholar in the Penn National Clinician Scholars Program. She has conducted independent and team-based research studies to examine the impact of hospital nursing quality on patient outcomes, both nationally and internationally. Her current interests lie at the intersection of the advanced practice workforce, specialty practice, and team-based models of care.
**LinkedIn:** https://www.linkedin.com/in/jordan-harrison-1b87a8ab/
**Twitter:** https://twitter.com/JordanMHarri

**Ebahi Ikharo, BSN, BA**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
**ebahi96@email.unc.edu**

Before moving to Raleigh, NC, **Ebahi Ikharo** lived in Senegal, The Gambia and Nigeria. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from UNC in May 2019. She is a member of UNC's 6th cohort of Hillman Scholars. Her primary research interests include global health policy and the cardiovascular health of West African women and the metabolic factors, social determinants that contributes to their state of health. She is a McNair scholar, member of Mentors[2], and past co-president of the Minority Nursing Student Association. She likes to cook, read, sing, dance and has a special interest in home décor.

**Research Interests:** global health policy and chronic illnesses in minority communities
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Maternal Health, Disparities, International, Practice Change, Policy, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Cheryl Giscombe, PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2023

**Joshua Jayasinghe, MS, BSN, RN**
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
**joshuaja@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Josh Jayasinghe**, originally from England, completed his traditional BSN at the University of Pennsylvania in 2016. His research interest in the use of sexual health services by urban young adults in Nepal.

**Mentor(s)**: Drs. Anne Teitelman and Connie Ulrich
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** May 2021
**LinkedIn**: https://www.linkedin.com/in/joshua-jayasinghe-720a2b60/

**Lauren Johnson, PhD, RN**
**Postdoctoral Fellow, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University**
**University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2017**
**lj2450@cumc.columbia.edu**

**Lauren Johnson** focused on innovative alternatives for cervical cancer screening in low resource settings including Botswana during her pre-doctoral work at Penn. She is expanding her expertise by collaborating on HPV studies conducted in Botswana and South Africa. She also continues to practice clinically as a registered nurse on a women's health unit.

**Nina Juntereal, BSN**
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
**jnina@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Nina Juntereal** is a native Philadelphian and is in the midst of finishing her BSN at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research interests involve the child bearing family and lactation care for diverse family structures. She aspires to increase awareness and education on practices such as induced lactation and co-nursing, eventually standardizing these practices in prenatal education.
Research interests: breastfeeding, lactation, health disparities, diverse family structures.

**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, Maternal Health, Disparities, International, Practice Change, Policy, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor**: Dr. Diane Spatz
**Expected PhD Completion**: May 2023

**Alicia Kachmar, ABSN**
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
**akachmar@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Alicia Kachmar** is interested in pediatric critical and chronic care, narrative medicine, PTSD, and the emotional experience of chronic illness. Her dissertation work specifically focuses on area-based measures of socioeconomic status and pediatric critical care outcomes.
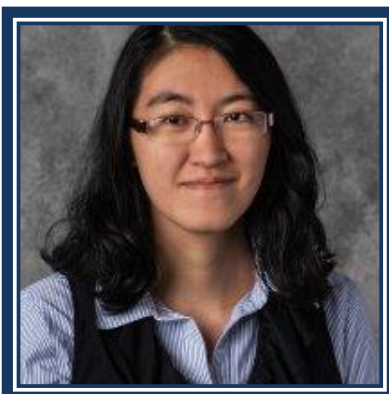
**Research Interests:** pediatric critical care, socioeconomic status, pediatrics, pediatric nursing, health disparities,
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, Health services and systems research
**Mentor(s)**: Martha A.Q. Curley, Cynthia A. Connolly
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** June 2019
**ResearchGate**: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Alicia_Kachmar2

**(Xiao) Linda Kang, PhD**
**University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2017**
**lindaxiaokang@alumni.upenn.edu**

**Linda Kang** resides in Taiwan. She currently works as a consultant for an innovative health care technology start-up company. Previously she was an Assistant Professor and Coordinator for Interprofessional Education at South Dakota State University. Linda graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with her Ph.D. dissertation focused on interprofessional teamwork and patient outcomes.
**LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/xiao-kang-6a786524/**

**Grace Kanzawa-Lee, BSN, RN**
**University of Michigan | PhD Candidate**
gracekan@umich.edu

**Grace Kanzawa-Lee** is a fifth-year PhD student. Her dissertation is testing a home- and motivational enhancement therapy-based aerobic walking intervention for CIPN in GI cancer survivors. She works clinically on the University of Michigan Adult Bone Marrow Transplant unit. She is a recipient of the American Cancer Society Doctoral Scholarship in Cancer Nursing; trained in motivational interviewing; and a member of the Oncology Nursing Society, the American College of Sports Medicine, and Academy Health.

**Research interests:** chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN), chronic pain, behavioral/non-pharmacological interventions
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Cancer, Policy, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Ellen Lavoie Smith, PhD, APRN, AOCN®, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** December 2019
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/grace-kanzawa-lee

**Erin Kennedy**, BSN
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
erinken@upenn.edu

**Erin Kennedy** is a first year PhD student. Her dissertation will explore the effects of clinical decision support for discharge planning on post-acute care outcomes for older adults. She currently assists the Nursing Informatics team at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and has experience as a research assistant for clinical decision support and child passenger safety studies at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Erin was the recipient of the Mary Naylor Award for Undergraduate Research in 2019.

**Research Interests:** Nursing Informatics, Clinical Decision Support
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Chronic Disease, Aging, Implementation and Translation
        **Mentor(s)**: Dr.Kathryn Bowles, Dr.Catherine McDonald
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** May 2022
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/erin--kennedy/

**Mary Killela, BSN, BA**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
mkillela@email.unc.edu

**Mary Killela** of Raleigh, North Carolina earned her bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 2015 and was admitted to UNC's fourth cohort of Hillman Scholars in January 2016. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2017. She is a dog lover who is passionate about fostering trusting, supportive relationships between providers and pediatric patients and their families. Her dissertation topic, Facility dog influence on social interaction in a pediatric oncology clinic, examines how interactions with a facility dog can facilitate social interaction and minimize emotional distress in children with cancer and their caregivers. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International and enjoys going on walks with her dog.

**Research Interests:** Pediatric oncology, with a particular emphasis on how recreational therapy can improve the work environment for nurses and benefit patients
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, Mental Health, End of Life & Palliative Care, Cancer, Implementation & Translation
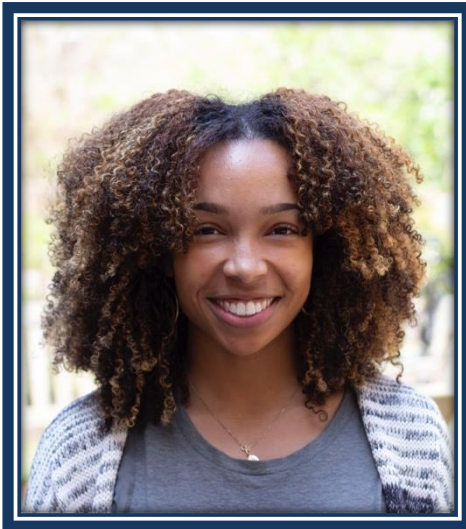**Mentor(s)**: Sheila Santacroce, PhD, RN, APRN, CPNP
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2020

**Robert Knoerl, PhD, RN**
**Research Associate in Medicine at Harvard Medical School**
**Research Fellow, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute**
**University of Michigan| Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2017**
**Robert_Knoerl@DFCI.HARVARD.EDU**

**Robert Knoerl** is currently a post-doctoral fellow at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. He graduated from the University of Michigan with a PhD in Nursing Science in 2017. His research focuses on the assessment, management, mechanisms, and measurement of chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy. His long-term career goal is to establish a program of research focused on developing and testing the efficacy of interventions to prevent or manage CIPN symptoms to improve quality of life in patients with cancer.

**HSNI Interest Groups:** Cancer, Practice Change
**Mentor(s**): Donna Berry, PhD, RN, AOCN, FAAN
**LinkedIn**: https://www.linkedin.com/in/robert-knoerl-09a93281/
**Twitter**: @robknoerl

**Charity Lackey, BSN**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
**lacklack@live.unc.edu**

**Charity Lackey** is a recent graduate of UNC's BSN program and is participating in the Clinical Fellowship in Maternal-Child Health. Her research interests include the prevalence of mental health disparities, especially among African American women, and her dissertation work will examine culturally relevant interventions to improve the psychological and physical wellbeing of African American women through measurable outcomes such as improved birth outcomes and stress management. In her free time, Charity enjoys running, reading and adding to her extensive meme/GIF repository.

**Research Interests:** mental health disparities, especially among African American women
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Maternal Health, Mental Health, Disparities, Policy, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Cheryl Giscombe, PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2022

**Alasia Ledford**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
**alasia@email.unc.edu**

**Alasia Ledford** of Durham, North Carolina, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Lee University in 2004. She earned a Master of Divinity from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in 2009, and currently serves as a Childbirth Education Coordinator with North Carolina Women's Hospital. Alasia previously held the position of Instructional Assistant-Dual Immersion Classroom (Spanish/English) with Durham Public Schools. Her community involvement includes working with UNC Hospitals as a Feria de Salud volunteer translator, Maternity tour guide with Women's Health Information Center, Ready Set Baby Instructor with Women's Health Information Center, and as a Doula and Mentor with UNC Birth Partners: Volunteer Doulas. Alasia's research focuses on addressing health disparities among American Indians and Alaskan Natives, particularly on issues related to maternal and child health, particularly perinatal

care and early post-natal care and the prevention of childhood obesity as it relates to early intervention methods. Alasia was admitted to UNC's Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program in January 2016, and into the fourth cohort of Hillman Scholars.

**Research Interests:** health disparities among American Indians and Alaskan Natives
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Maternal Health, Mental Health, Disparities, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Linda Beeber, PhD, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2022

**Matthew Lee**, ABSN
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
**lemat@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Matthew Lee** is a third-year PhD student. His dissertation will explore how participation and engagement with virtual communities impacts continued involvement with and degree of benefit from digital interventions. His research interest lies in patient work, an area he explores in collaboration with colleagues at the Australian Institute of Health Innovation. In addition, he serves as the Chair of Serious Games for the International Game Developers Association has been involved with the creation of several health training modules, including the PTSD Toolkit for Nurses, and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.
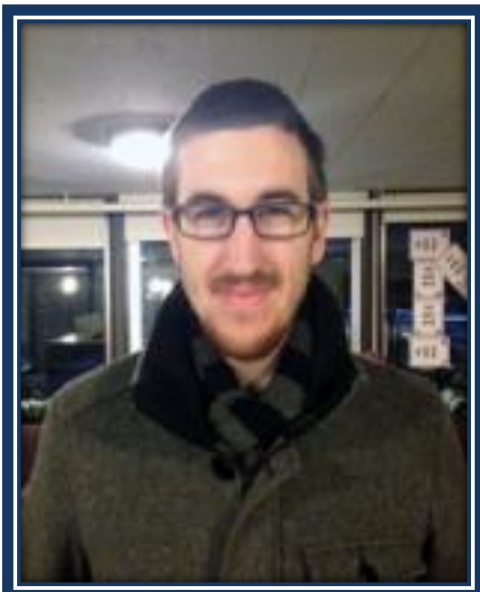
**Research Interests:** patient work, digital interventions, digital wellness, virtual communities
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Mental Health, Health services and systems research, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: George Demiris, PhD; Linda H. Aiken, PhD, RN, José Arturo Bauermeister, MPH, PhD
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** December 2019
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/seriousgamedev/

**Bradley Liestenfeltz, BSN, RN**
**University of Michigan | PhD Candidate**
**bliesten@umich.edu**

**Brad Liestenfeltz** is a third-year PhD student. His dissertation explores motivation-based messaging to increase enrollment in the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP). He is developing promotional materials for the national DPP targeted to increase individual motivation to pursue the program. He also works clinically on the University of Michigan Adult Bone Marrow Transplant unit. Brad is a recipient of a 2018 Hillman AERO grant; trained in qualitative interviewing; and is a member of the Society of Behavioral Medicine and Academy Health.

**Research interests:** patient engagement and uptake of behavioral interventions such as the diabetes prevention program, and nursing education
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Disparities, Chronic Disease, Policy, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Laura Saslow, PhD
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** December 2019
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/brad-liestenfeltz-21852630

**Jessica Marsack RN, BSN, PhD**
**Clinical nurse researcher role at the University of Michigan Hospital System**
**University of Michigan | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2018**
**marsjess@umich.edu**

**Jessica Marsack** is a clinical nurse in the general medicine and dialysis unit at the University of Michigan. Her dissertation work focused on the harmful effects of stigma and discrimination on various health outcomes for sexual and gender minority persons. She continues to work with the organization GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality and remains passionate about health outcomes for this underserved population.
**HSNI Interest Groups**: Disparities, End of Life and Palliative Care, Chronic Disease, Practice Change, Policy, Implementation and Translation

**Anna Rothfuss Matthews, BSN, BA**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
**aerothfu@email.unc.edu**

**Anna Rothfuss Matthews** of Carrboro, North Carolina, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from North Carolina State University in 2008, and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2018. She is a member of UNC's fifth cohort of Hillman Scholars and a practicing women's health nurse. She has a long-term goal of facilitating health equity by improving health outcomes in women during the perinatal period. She is currently investigating the role of lower social location in migraine and perinatal mood disorders. She is a member of the American Public Health Association and the Transcultural Nursing Society.

**Research Interests:** women's health equity, social determinants of health, maternal child health
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Maternal Health, Mental Health, Disparities, Practice Change, Policy, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Shawn Kneipp, PhD, RN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2021

**Katherine Finn Miller, PhD, BSN, RN**
**Assistant Professor in the Calvin College Department of Nursing**
**University of Michigan | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2018**
**kgfmiller18@gmail.com**

**Katie Miller** is an Assistant Professor in the Calvin College Department of Nursing in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She completed her BSN ('15) and PhD ('18) at the University of Michigan School of Nursing in Ann Arbor, Michigan. While in her doctoral program, she traveled to Uganda to work with a multidisciplinary team examining the effects of severe malaria on pediatric cognitive functioning. Katie's scholarly passions are in pursuing improved quality of life for children and vulnerable populations in low-resources settings through interdisciplinary and community-based partnerships. Additionally, she has also been involved in projects to improve the identification of victims of human trafficking in the health care setting, curriculum development through an appreciative inquiry approach, and minority student retention in BSN programs.

**Research interests**: Global Health, Public Health, Vulnerable Populations, Nursing Education
**HSNI Interest Groups**: Children, Disparities, International, Implementation and Translation
**LinkedIn**: https://www.linkedin.com/in/katherine-miller-162851165/

**Leah Morgan, BSN**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
leahlind@email.unc.edu

**Leah Morgan** is originally from Charlotte, North Carolina, but moved to Chapel Hill at beginning of her undergraduate career. She received her BSN from UNC in May 2015 and is a member of the second cohort of Hillman Scholars. From the time she was admitted to the nursing school, Leah has been very involved in leadership at various levels, including the Undergraduate Student Governance Council and the Association of Nursing Students. She also served as a nursing school ambassador. Leah recently completed the Clinical Fellowship at UNC Hospitals, working in pediatrics. Her research interests focus on the nursing workforce, with a particular emphasis on the attributes of caring in nurses' work and nurse satisfaction.

**Research Interests:** the nursing workforce
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, Health services and systems research
**Mentor(s):** Cheryl B. Jones, PhD, RN, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2020

**Monique Pardo-Montez**
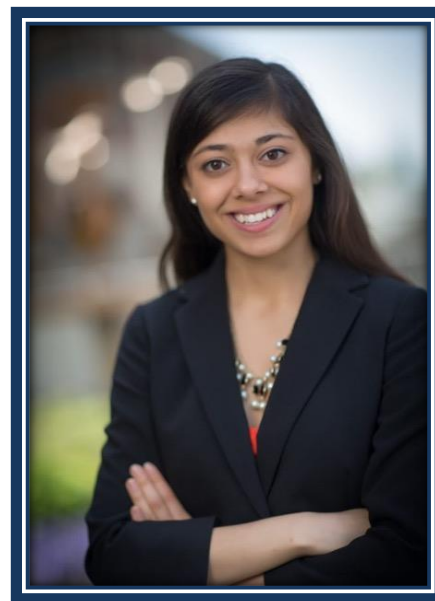**University of North Carolina | BSN Candidate**
mpard225@live.unc.edu

Ms. **Monique Pardo-Montez**'s research interests include gaining a better understanding of how the mother-infant-microbiome tirade impacts infant immunological and neurocognitive development. She has an eight-year-old daughter whose struggle with immunological issues has had a profound effect on Ms. Pardo-Montez's research interest and desire to help others struggling with similar issues. Her research is primarily funded through the Hillman, Mentors2, Johnston, and Covenant Scholarships is from Carrboro, North Carolina. She has been coding observational data for an interventional study examining dyadic communication related to infant and child feeding.

**Research Interests:** Infant Immunological and Neurocognitive Development
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, Maternal Health, Mental Health, Practice Change, Health services and systems research, Policy
**Mentor:** Eric Hodges, PhD, FNP-BC, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD completion:** 2024

**Esita Patel, BSN, BS, PhD**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
epatel@email.unc.edu

**Esita Patel** of Charlotte, North Carolina, earned a B.S. in Biology, with a minor in chemistry, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2013, earning highest honors on her thesis work on the tumorigenic effects of ASC on medulloblastoma. She is a member of the second cohort of Hillman Scholars and completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in May of 2015. She defended her dissertation on May 1st, and will graduate with her Ph.D. in August 2019. During her time at UNC, Esita was a microbiology intern, Carolina Research Scholar, HHMI-FSC fellow, member of Phi Sigma Pi and Tri-Beta National Honors Societies, and a volunteer doula. Prior to applying to the Hillman Scholars Program, she lived and worked alongside an indigenous midwife in Tecpan, Guatemala through funding earned from the CEES fellowship.

**Research Interests:** models of maternal care delivery in the US and impacts on health care costs and outcomes
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Maternal Health, Mental Health, Health services and systems research, Policy
**Mentor(s)**: Barbara Mark, PhD, RN, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** August 2019

**Kara Pavone, PhD, ABSN**
**University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2019**
**kpavone@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Kara Pavone** grew up in Averill Park, New York and graduated from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts in 2009 with a degree in Behavioral Neuroscience. Kara completed her BSN at the University of Pennsylvania in 2016. Kara completed her BSN in 2016. The primary focus of Kara's research is to understand the relationship between pain and the development of delirium following surgery.

**Mentors**: Dr. Peggy Compton, Dr. Rosemary Polomano

**Victoria Peterman, ABSN, BA**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
**vpeterma@email.unc.edu**

**Victoria Peterman** of Raleigh, North Carolina, earned her Bachelor of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 2015. Her professional experience includes working as a Moxie Scholar Intern in Project Development and Communications with NARAL Pro-Choice, Durham, North Carolina. She was nominated for the Mary Turner Lane Award and was the recipient of the Jon Curtis Student Enrichment Fund Award. Her community service work consists of working as a Volunteer Doula with UNC Hospitals Birth Partners, and serving as an Events and Action Coordinator with the UNC-Chapel Hill Sierra Student Coalition. Her research interests focus on leading in the creation of evidence based clinical practice to improve maternal and child health in rural areas, educating others on the importance and practice of providing quality care, and addressing issues of healthcare access and equity. Victoria was admitted into UNC's Accelerated Bachelor of Science program in January 2016, and is a member of UNC's fourth cohort of Hillman Scholars.

**Research Interests:** healthcare education, access and equity
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Disparities, Cancer, Health services and systems research
**Mentor(s)**: Jennifer Leeman, DrPH, MDIV
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2020

**Eileen Regan, ABSN**
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
**eileenr@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Eileen Regan** is passionate about supporting adolescent and young adult athletes through identifying risk factors for problem behaviors using secondary analyses of large databases. Hailing from the Chicagoland area, Eileen grew up playing sports and continues to be a life-long athlete participating in local, national and international Ultimate Frisbee competitions. Her education background includes degrees from Yale University (BA in History of Medicine) and University of Pennsylvania (BSN and MS). Eileen works clinically in the fields of Neurology and Neurosurgery as an adult inpatient RN.

**Research Interests**: Adolescents, Young Adults, Sports Injury, Substance Abuse, Mental Health
**HSNI Interest Groups**: Children, Mental Health, Practice Change, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor**: Dr Catherine McDonald and Dr. Alexandra Hanlon
**Expected PhD Completion:** Deecmber 2019
**LinkedIn**: https://www.linkedin.com/in/eileen-regan-rn-bsn-008b9121/



**Anthony Scarpone-Lambert**
**University of Pennsylvania | BSN Candidate**
**antsl@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Anthony Scarpone-Lambert** is an incoming junior at the University of Pennsylvania who will be joining the Hillman Scholars Program beginning Fall 2019. His prospective area of research involves working with the aging LGBTQ+ identifying population. Specifically, Anthony hopes to better understand the perspectives of this population regarding their health and healthcare experiences. This research can potentially uncover the impact that discrimination in the healthcare system has had on LGBTQ+ individuals, and educate healthcare professionals about ethical and equitable care for LGBTQ+ elders. Anthony is passionate about innovation in nursing and is truly exciting to be joining this community of scholars.

**Research Interests:** aging LGBTQ+ population, ursing entrepreneurship
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Mental Health, Disparities, Chronic Disease, Aging, Health services and systems research, Policy, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Dr. Jose Bauermeister and Dr. Therese Richmond
**Expected date of BSN Completion:** May 2021
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/anthony-scarpone-lambert-669052138/



**Latesha Sharpe**
**University of North Carolina | BSN Candidate**
**lkaa4eva@email.unc.edu**

**Latesha Sharpe** is a BSN student from Rocky Mount, NC and a member of the 7th cohort of Hillman Scholars. She is a member of Mentors2 and the Minority Nursing Student Association. Her research interests are intergenerational cardiometabolic disease and disparities in African American communities. She enjoys spending time with her family, cooking , writing poetry, reading and traveling.

**Research Interests**: Intergenerational Cardiometabolic Disease and Disparities in African American Communities
**HSNI Interest Groups**: Maternal Health, Disparities, International, Practice Change, Health services & systems research, Policy, Implementation & Translation
**Mentor**: Diane Berry, PhD, RN, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD completion**: 2024
**LinkedIn**: https://www.linkedin.com/in/lateshasharpe/

**Laura Sinko, PhD, RN, CCTS-I**
**National Clinician Scholar, University of Pennsylvania**
**University of Michigan| Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2019**
**laurasin@umich.edu**

**Laura Sinko** is a May 2019 PhD graduate of University of Michigan School of Nursing. She is a child and adolescent psychiatric/ mental health nurse by training as well as a crisis line advocate at University of Michigan's Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center. Her research focus is on gender-based violence healing and recovery. She is the project manager of a multinational gender-based violence consortium (MiStory) aiming to understand cultural nuances of healing and help-seeking. She has an expertise in narrative methods and trauma-informed care education and implementation. She will be completing a postdoctoral fellowship at University of Pennsylvania through the National Clinicians Scholars Program starting in the summer of 2019.

**Research interests:** trauma recovery, gender-based violence, trauma-informed care
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Mental Health, Policy, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Denise Saint Arnault PhD, RN
**Research Website:** https://www.findingthestrengthtoheal.com/  **LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/laura-sinko-118a41b4



**Asa Smith, BSN, RN**
**University of Michigan | PhD Candidate**
**smiasa@umich.edu**

**Asa Smith** is a third-year PhD student. His dissertation explores the predictors of sexual function and satisfaction in a cohort of men and women after a myocardial infarction. He is also conducting phenomenological work with prostate cancer patients post-surgical intervention.  He is receiving training in sexual counseling and is a member of the International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health, the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation and Academy Health. He works clinically on a University of Michigan acute care adult internal medicine unit.

**Research interests:** sexual health in patients post myocardial infarction
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Chronic Disease, Aging, Health Services and Systems Research
**Mentor(s)**: Debra L. Barton, RN, PhD, AOCN, FAAN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** May 2020
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/asa-smith-50177192

**Shelby Smith**
**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | BSN Candidate**
**ssmith82@live.unc.edu**

**Shelby Smith** of La Plata, MD is a member of the 7th cohort of Hillman Scholars at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Before attending nursing school, she utilized her Bachelor's Degree in Public Health to manage programs for infant mortality reduction at a local health department. Her primary research interests are in perinatal and women's mood disorders, health equity, and biological-behavioral connections. She enjoys kayaking on the Haw River, listening to podcasts, and spending time with friends and family.
**Research Interests:** Perinatal and Women's health equity, biological-behavioral connections
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Maternal Health, Mental Health, Disparities, Practice Change, Health services & systems res
**Expected date of PhD completion:** 2024
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Shelby_Smith34

**Lauren Starr, ABSN**
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
**ltsrarr@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Lauren Starr's** dissertation explores associations among palliative care consultations for end-of-life discussions, acute care costs, healthcare utilization, and race among persons with serious illness; and risk factors associated with the timing of end-of-life discussions before death. She is an Associate Fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute is Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania, a Jonas Scholar, a Luce Scholar, a member of Sigma Theta Tau, and a predoctoral fellow in the NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health under the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award training program in Individualized Care for At Risk Older Adults, National Institute of Nursing Research (T32NR009356).

**Research Interests:** end of life, palliative care, goals of care, communication, healthcare costs, healthcare utilization, hospice, racial disparities, death and dying

**HSNI Interest Groups:** End of Life and Palliative Care, Policy
**Mentor(s)**: Dr. Salimah Meghani and Dr. Connie Ulrich
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** May 2019

**Kelly Tan, BSN, BA**
**University of North Carolina | PhD Candidate**
**krtan@email.unc.edu**

**Kelly Tan** of Cary, North Carolina, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May 2016. She was admitted into UNC's third cohort of Hillman Scholars. Kelly brings to the program her experience working with under-served populations in North Carolina as an HIV/STD counselor at the UNC Student Health Action Coalition, and her experience working as a research assistant in the Vironomics Core at UNC Lineberger Cancer Research Center. Kelly's research focuses on local public health; specifically improving HIV prevention and increasing routine HIV testing. As part of her BSN program, Kelly completed an honors project by conducting an integrative literature review and interviews with nurses to examine stigma towards patients with HIV, and identify educational opportunities and the benefits of stigma reduction.

**Research Interests:** local public health; specifically improving HIV prevention and increasing routine HIV testing
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Cancer, Aging, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Che Sheila Santacroce, PhD, RN, APRN, CPNP
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** 2020

**Patrina Sexton Topper, ABSN**
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
sextonp@nursing.upenn.edu

**Patrina Sexton Topper** is a third-year PhD student.  Her dissertation will explore family planning among cisfemale sexual minority couples who utilize health care provider assistance in their fertility efforts.  She is interested in healthcare decision making at the beginning and end of life, particularly among historically marginalized populations and their families. She is a research assistant for the Program on Sexuality Technology and Action Research (PSTAR) and has served as a reviewer for the Journal of Nursing Doctoral Student Scholarship for the past two years.

**Research Interests:** sexual minority women, women's health, fertility, assisted reproductive technologies, health equity, partner interdependence, healthcare decision making, bioethics
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Maternal Health, Disparities, Policy
**Mentor(s)**: José A. Bauermeister, MPH, PhD; Dalmacio Dennis Flores, PhD, ACRN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** May 2020
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/patrinasexton/

**Guy Weissinger, ABSN**
**University of Pennsylvania| Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2019**
guyw@nursing.upenn.edu

**Guy Weissinger's** research focuses on the intersection of mental and physical health, especially around the delivery of non-psychiatric care for people with mental illness. His dissertation focused on hospital care of individuals with psychotic disorders hospitalized in non-psychiatric settings using a mixed methods approach. Clinical experience as a therapist, emergency room nurse and public health nurse inform his approach to understand, and eventually prevent, the stark health disparities of people living with serious mental illness.

**Research Interests:** Mental health, health services, health equity, health disparities, mixed methods
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Mental Health, Disparities, Health services and systems research
**Mentor(s)**: Dr. Bridgette M. Brawner, MDiv, PhD, APRN
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/guy-weissinger-94b730104

**Clare Whitney, BSN**
**University of Pennsylvania | PhD Candidate**
**whitc@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Clare Whitney** is a second-year PhD student. Her dissertation will explore the circumstances under which clinicians moralize substance use during pregnancy and lactation. She is an active member of the Advanced Qualitative Collective, a scholarly group focused on the philosophical underpinnings and application of qualitative methodologies. Clare is also pursing a Master in Bioethics and a certificate in Clinical Conflict Management.

**Research Interests:** bioethics, reproductive health, mental health, substance use
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Maternal Health, Disparities, Practice Change, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Sarah H Kagan, PhD, RN
**Expected date of PhD Completion:** May 2020

**Stefanie Zavodny Jackson, BSN, PhD**
**University of Pennsylvania | Hillman Scholar Alumni, 2019**
**zavodnys@nursing.upenn.edu**

**Stefanie Zavodny Jackson** graduated with her PhD in May 2019. Her dissertation was a mixed-methods study exploring depression in mothers of children with autism spectrum disorder using a family approach. She is trained in autism diagnosis and assists her advisor Dr. Margaret Souders in her clinical practice in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

**Research Interests:** mental health, maternal health, child development, family research
**HSNI Interest Groups:** Children, Maternal Health, Mental Health, Practice Change, Implementation and Translation
**Mentor(s)**: Dr. Jennifer Pinto-Martin and Dr. Margaret Souders
**LinkedIn**: linkedin.com/in/stefanie-zavodny-jackson